



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
9 Wellbank Street, Concord

Executive Meetings

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

Walker Estates Committee

1st Wednesday of month
Concord Citizens' Centre
Graham Packett, 9743-3007

Other Committees

As arranged
Watch the newsletter

Museum

Fred Stansfield, 9743-1866

Archives/Local History

Kate Skillman, 9706-7479

Heritage

Bob Jones, 8765-9347

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. 104

November 2004

What a Day it Was!!

On Sunday 17th October it was our great pleasure to welcome the Australian Garden History Society to Yaralla.

One hundred and seventy delegates to be provided with Devonshire teas and a tour of the grounds - all in a two hour period. Congratulations to all of our helpers who did such a wonderful job in making this happen without a hitch.

Andrew Chippendall and his team had worked extremely hard to ensure that the grounds looked good, and the weather was kind to us.

Our guides: Trish Skehan, Errol Grace, Frances Davis, Lorraine Holmes, Graham Packett, Graham Ferguson, Bob Jones and Peter Jones each took a group for the full two hours, taking the opportunity to show the grounds, tell the Walker story, and educate our guests about the issues confronting the estate, now and in the future.

On their tour of the grounds, our guests admired the fountain, smelled the beautiful roses, lamented the state of some of the buildings and discovered some plants, whose existence excited them.

They partook of a sumptuous morning tea provided by our super volunteers: Julia Stewart, Jann and Brian Ogden, Lorraine Pendreigh, Lorna Wright, Len and June Kelsey and Jean Hartley.

Our thanks also go to Fred and Frank Stansfield for assisting with the coaches, and to our new trainees Anne and David Somers and Annette Le Mercier.

Our photo exhibition was very popular, and the demand for souvenirs was so strong, Alan Wright was overwhelmed.

We hope that our guests, having seen the estate at first hand, will be in a position to extol its virtues and uniqueness and spread the word amongst colleagues, friends and family.

Just to quote from some of the letters of thanks . . .

"Kind and hearty thanks for the sterling work to make the Australian Garden History Society's Conference visit such a success.

The delegates I spoke to were AMAZED -

even some Sydney people had NO IDEA of Yaralla - such a great eye-opener!

Such a wealth of information and displays, and handling our "bulk" of numbers so ably.

It really was a highlight for many of the delegates - and I managed to find three plants I'd not seen there before - one I've NEVER heard of. The plot thickens.

Please pass my thanks and congrats to all involved."

"We have received many compliments on our choice of gardens for that part of the Conference programme, but our visit to Yaralla was a very special treat.

Many asked to be included for just the visit to this garden but as we had limited our numbers to only four coaches we suggested to our local members they visit when you next have an Open Day.

Delegates were thrilled to visit this Estate garden and were truly amazed that so many features of a bygone era, including horse paddocks, still exist."

Naming Fairmile Cove

You might not think that there were many parts of Sydney Harbour still unnamed. But in August the Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, officially named Fairmile Cove in honour of World War II veterans and the ships they served on.

This newly named cove, on the Parramatta River (between Mortlake Point and Breakfast Point), recognised the courage and sacrifice of sailors who served on the Fairmile ships, used during WWII.

The Fairmile vessels and their crews of 17 fulfilled a range of roles, including sea patrols, convoy escort, submarine hunting and harbour defence.

The ships, which were retired from service soon after the war, served in northern Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

Twenty of the RAN's fleet of 35B class Fairmiles were built and outfitted at the Green Point Dockyard which was located within what is now known as Fairmile Cove.



Bulletin Board

**10th November: Don Whiteman,
Astronomers Society of NSW**

**8th December: Our Annual Christmas
Barbecue at Rhodes Rotary Park (full details inside)**

Special Walker Estates Committee Meeting

There will be a special meeting of this Committee in the Stables complex at Yaralla on **Saturday next, 13th November, at 2:00 p.m.**

All members, and would-be members, of this committee are invited to attend.

Just a reminder: This committee now meets in the Senior Citizens' Centre on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

Man and His Mark

Many years ago there was a TV show involving three husband and wife teams in a word association game designed to indicate the couples emotional compatibility. The compere would say a word then each contestant had to immediately write down the first word that came to mind.

Let's experiment! Following are two words and you say the first word that comes to mind. "Penguin", "Shell".

When the former was mentioned three of the six people wrote down "books". The second word brought five responses reading "petrol".

How did you go?

This result may not have proved anything about compatibility but it was irrevocable proof of the imprint that the trademarks can make on the public's subconscious. A trademark is a picture. It is a symbol, a sign, an emblem, an escutcheon, an image. It is not a sign of quality, it is a sign of THE quality.

Trademarks are animate, inanimate, organic, geometric. They are letters, ideograms, monograms, colours, things. Ideally they do not illustrate but indicate. They are not representative but suggestive.

A trademark is created by a designer but made by a corporation. It is an image, the image of that corporation.

Today we live in a world where images play a vital role. The right image will sell cigarettes, cars, cosmetics, even hamburgers.

It is generally accepted that it is easier to remember a person's face than his name. The same statement could be used in relation to the image-making value of a trademark to a company.

The history of the trademark has its origins in antiquity. Signs and symbols played an important role in primitive man's relationship with the world around him. Symbols were inseparable from religion and as

such were invested with magical powers which provided man with a spiritual armour against a hostile environment.

Even in the 21st century we are still symbol oriented. There are numbers of current signs that still draw on early traditional symbols, especially those associated with religion.

The caduceus symbol in medicine, a snake curled around a staff, is still used today in various forms in medical circles, yet it can be traced back to the Egyptians and the gods of Greek and Roman mythology.

Similar ancient symbolism saw the meeting of two lines as representing the reciprocation between God and the world. When the two lines passed through one another and formed a cross it was said that God and earth were in harmony. This is one of the earliest complete signs known to man and was in evidence long before Christianity.

Since early antiquity man has always felt the need to perpetuate his own memory. He has accomplished this in many ways, one of them being the creation of private signs or emblems with which to identify himself and to mark his products and property.

Over the centuries these marks have taken many forms, according to their owners' interests, status and the prevailing attitudes of the times.

Potters, stonemasons, noblemen, printers, silversmiths, peasants, painters, merchants, tradesmen and many others all had their special marks, ranging from the most elaborate and colourful ornamentation to the simplest of scratched symbols. All of them have had some bearing on the development and design of trademarks as we know them today.

A brief examination of the more influential of them gives us a broader platform from which we can form an appreciation of current marks.

The stonemasons of medieval Europe were renowned for the signs which they carved on their finished works. These signs can still be seen on many German cathedrals and buildings of the period. Masons, perhaps because of their specialised knowledge in an age of illiteracy, founded powerful guilds or lodges which developed secret and ritualistic styles of

communication to which their signs were allied.

It is interesting to note that in his "History of Aesthetics", Bosanquite says: "Symbols have for unlettered minds an extraordinary power of comfort and fascination".

Peasant proprietors often created private signs to identify their holdings and moveable property. They were painted on sacks and fleece of sheep, branded on animals and tools and embroidered on rugs and clothes.

The branding of slaves as household property was not an unknown practice, even in America in the 19th century.

These "house marks" were later used as personal signs by the peasant owners in much the same way as coats of arms were employed by noblemen. Often the original signs were slightly altered by members of the family in order to give them a personal touch, but still retained the basic shape of the original family sign.

As families broke up and various members undertook trades the signs reappeared as the marks of craftsmen and artists.

The use of seals dates back to Mesopotamia in 3000 BC. Apart from their function of actually sealing something, they were distinctive marks to authenticate ownership, agreements and documents.

Seals in England were first seen in the 9th century and have been in use ever since, especially in imperial and government circles.

In modern industry today trademarks are widely used by manufacturers or merchants to identify their articles and distinguish them from those of others.

Oral Histories

Do you know of anyone who worked with or served on the Fairmile ships?

Lola Sharp, our Oral Historical, would love to hear from them to record this part of our local history.

She'd also like to hear from anyone who'd like to be recorded.

From our Museum

The Vacuum Cleaner

In 1901 an English civil engineer, Hubert Booth, went to the Empire Music Hall in Leicester Square, London, to see a demonstration of an American railway carriage cleaner, which removed dust by blowing it into a container by compressed air. Booth was unimpressed as much of the dust missed the container, but a few days later he tried the reverse process - sucking the dust out.

Using a powerful electrically driven pump, he devised a system for sucking air along a hose and through a cloth filter. He patented it in August 1902 and developed a company which produced a vacuum-cleaning service, rather than selling the machines.

A petrol engine to power the pump motor was mounted on a horse-drawn cart, which travelled from house to house. Three or four suction hoses, each 100 feet (30 metres) long, were passed through the windows of the house to be cleaned. The work was done by uniformed employees of his Vacuum Cleaner Company.

Booth's business grew after he cleaned the Coronation Carpet in Westminster Abbey for the crowning of Edward VII in 1902. From 1906 Booth developed smaller domestic models, but at 88 lb (40 k) they were still very heavy.

In 1907 an American inventor, Murray Spangler, designed a lighter machine. He was working as a janitor in a local department store and his duties included cleaning the carpets. To make it easier he devised a machine with an electric fan to provide the vacuum, which sucked the dust right through the machine and then blew it into a bag.

Unable to market it himself, he sold the rights, in 1908, to a leather manufacturer called William Hoover, who began to make the model "O" that year. It ran on wheels and had a dust bag attached to the long handle. It achieved rapid success and, in 1919, the Hoover company first used their slogan: *"It beats as it sweeps as it cleans"*.

The horizontal canister-shaped vacuum cleaner, with the nozzle attached to a hose, was developed in Stockholm by Axel Wenner-Gren of the Aktiebolaget Electrolux in 1913.

Modern industrial vacuum cleaners are able to suck up rubbish including wood shavings, broken glass and even liquid.

(Have you visited yet to see our collections?)

The Washing Machine

For centuries all clothes were washed by hand, being scrubbed and beaten on river banks. Away from flowing streams, clothes were washed in tubs of wood, copper or cast iron, and stirred with a wooden paddle called a dolly. These methods remained in use well into the 20th century all over the world.

In 1782 Henry Sidgier, a London upholsterer, designed a cylindrical cage of wooden rods inside a hexagonal wooden tub. The cage was supported at each end and rotated by a crank handle. The tub was filled and emptied by hand and rinsing took a long time.

Wet clothes were passed between the two wooden rollers of a hand-turned wringer before they were put to dry on a clothes line. In large houses linen was then mangled, which was a form of ironing. Items were folded and wrapped round wooden rollers to be pressed by a 6 ft (2 metre) long wooden box filled with stones. This box mangle was moved over the rollers by turning a handle. A geared mechanism patented in England in 1709 by Ferguson Hardie meant that the handle was turned in one direction only, but the box moved backwards and forwards. Smaller items were smoothed with an iron. Washing, drying, mangling and ironing formed a never-ending process needing much physical effort.

An American manufacturer, Hamilton Smith of Pittsburgh, mechanised the washtub and dolly in 1858. His machine had a vertical wooden drum in which the wooden dolly was revolved by a hand crank. Five years later he added a reversing gear, which twisted the dolly backwards and forwards.

Washtubs with gas burners fitted under cast-iron "coppers" were introduced in England in the 1860s to heat the washing water, but the clothes had to be stirred with a dolly until 1884 when a horizontally rotating drum with a crank handle was fitted inside the tub. Filling and emptying were still done by hand.

America was the most receptive market for household inventions, due largely to the shortage of domestic staff.

In 1906 Alva Fisher of Chicago designed the first electric-powered washing machine; its motor revolved a horizontal drum. In 1924 an electric-powered combined washer and spin drier was made by the Savage Arms Corporation of New York. For washing, the tub was tilted at 45 degrees to engage a cog which rotated slowly. The drum then had to be lifted - full of wet clothes - and placed vertically on another drive shaft, which turned it faster to spin out the water.

In the late 1940s American manufacturers began to make automatic washing machines, with electric water heaters and pumps. Tumble driers were introduced in the early 1950s to flow hot air through a revolving drum. Now there are fully automatic machines which soak, wash, rinse, spin and dry.

Irons

Heated irons for pressing clothes were relatively rare until the 18th century, when the increasing amount of cotton clothing made them necessary. Charcoal-heated irons were used by the Chinese for ironing silk by the 8th century AD and resembled tiny saucepans with long handles.

From about AD 1600 Dutch tailors used large hollow box-irons which they heated by inserting a slug of red-hot iron through a lift-up door on the back. They were covered in a later patent of 1738 by Lancashire ironmaster Isaac Wilkinson. He described them as *"a new sort of cast metallic boxes for the smoothing of linen"*.

The most common irons of the 18th century were solid cast-iron "sad" irons ("sad" means heavy). They were used in pairs - one heating on the embers of the fire while the other was being used on the clothes.

Another type was the brass or iron box-iron, complete with chimney, heated from inside by red-hot charcoal. The charcoal iron was still being manufactured in Europe in large quantities in the 1960s for export to the vast areas of the populated world that were then still without electricity.

From then on the Americans seem to have dominated this field. Sad irons were greatly improved between 1867 and 1871 by Mary Florence Potts. She devised double-pointed irons in sets of three - with a clip-on walnut handle, which would be transferred from one iron to another.

Gas heated irons, known since the mid 1850s, gave way to electric irons from the 1890s. The first was invented in 1882 by Henry Seely - using a naked electric arc.

This was followed in 1889 by one using an electrically heated wire element or heated sole plate like that on the electric cooker, and invented by Charles Carpenter, a restaurant cashier.

A domestic steam iron - which wets and heats fabric prior to pressing - was made in 1926 by the Eldec Company, dry-cleaners, of New York City, who based their appliance on their industrial steam iron.

However, the first efficient household steam iron which incorporated an adjustable thermostat was invented in 1938 by Edmund Schreyer.

Celebrate the Spirit of Arts & Crafts

and enjoy a few hours in a beautiful and historic house and garden.

Sunday, 21st November, 2004
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

"Tulkiyan"

707 Pacific Highway, Gordon

Entrance: \$10.00

- * replanted front garden open for inspection
- * historic house open for inspection
- * rare plants for sale
- * gardening books
- * handmade Tulkiyan crafts and gift items
- * craft demonstrations
- * refreshments with a Christmas theme

A great opportunity to do your early Christmas shopping. Plant your garden with choice garden plants for a wonderful summer display.

Plenty of parking available. Easy walking distance from Gordon Railway Station.

Tulkiyan is a heritage house and garden owned by Ku-ring-gai Council and managed by the Friends of Tulkiyan in a voluntary and honorary capacity. Enquiries to Zeny Edwards, 9402-7919.

Christmas Barbecue 8th December

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

Wednesday, 8th December is the date - 6:00 to 8:00 pm is the time - Rhodes Rotary Park is the venue - cost is \$10.00 each, children free.

Make a note in your diary NOW, if you haven't already.

Visitors are welcome so bring your friends or neighbours.

So that we can arrange catering we need to have the names of those joining us no later than 1st December.

Please bring your own liquid refreshments.

This is our last meeting for the year and a wonderful chance to just relax and enjoy the company and the location.



Gardens of Memory

Do you have memories of a garden that has been a special place for you? Garden history is not necessarily confined to large, grand or famous gardens. It includes the history of front gardens and back yards of suburbs, towns and farms.

The *Gardens of Memory Project* is a response to the changing way we use gardens.

The Australian Garden History Society would like to find out what your garden, or a garden that was important to you, was like when you were growing up. In this way we will be able to capture a snapshot of gardens and how they were used and planted during much of the twentieth century.

Join members of the Sydney & Northern N.S.W. branch of the Australian Garden History Society for a fun and informative evening where we learn about the project and discover some of the gardens that matter to us. Come and hear members talk about the gardens which are important to them. These short illustrated talks will inspire you to look back and rediscover the gardens of your past.

This is a fun way to discover the rich garden heritage we have on our doorstep and meet with people who are interested in their preservation.

When: Wednesday, 15th December

Time: 6:00 for 6:30 pm start

Where: NSW National Trust Centre
Observatory Hill Sydney (Plenty of on site parking)

Cost: \$8.00 per person

RSVP (for catering numbers)
Jan Gluskie, 9428-5947 or
jangluskie@ihug.com.au
(Tickets include drinks & light refreshments)

Speakers: Colleen Morris (AGHS National Chairman and Holly Kerr (garden columnist for *The Australian*)

From the Secretary's Desk

Special thanks to all those members who visited, telephoned and sent cards during my recent sojourn(s) in hospital. They were all much appreciated.

Special thanks also to Trish Harrington and Trish Skehan, who had to take over the organising of the visit to Yaralla by the Australian Garden History Society and the organising of our recent Open Day at Yaralla. A magnificent job well done - everything ran without a hitch.

Annual Subscriptions: There are still a small number who had not paid their annual subscription. If you do not wish to rejoin would you please let us know.

Tour Guides for Yaralla and Rivendell: To ease the burden on our regular guides we desperately need guides for our open days at both these estates. It's not hard work and can be most rewarding. We supply you with a guide book which contains all the information you need. If you're not sure if you can do it, then come along and accompany one of our regulars.

Devonshire Teas: We also need regular helpers - weekdays and weekends as well as special open days - to help with this work. Surely we have many members who can spare a few hours now and then to help with this work.

Photocopying and Filing: I still have plenty of this work piling up. If you can spare an hour or two now and then it would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Barbecue: Don't forget to let me know if you are coming.

Dates for your Diary . . .

- ☛ **Wed. 10th November - General Meeting - speaker: Don Whiteman from the Astronomers Society of N.S.W.**
- ☛ **Sat. 13th November - Special Walker Estates Meeting (see note)**
- ☛ **Wed. 24th November - Executive Meeting (last for year)**
- ☛ **Wed. 1st December - Walker Estates (check if it's on)**
- ☛ **Wed. 8th December - Annual Christmas Barbecue (last for year)**

Next Executive Meeting will be in January 2005 and next General Meeting and Walker Estates Meeting will be in February.