



Nurungi

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

www.concordheritage.asn.au

EDITOR
LOIS MICHEL
9744-8528

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

*

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

*

**CONCORD
HERITAGE MUSEUM**
5 Wellbank Street

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

No.106

January 2005

Calling all Volunteers . . .

It's been a couple of years since our last museum cleanup - so it's about time to tackle it again.

Saturday, 21st January - from 10:00 am - has been set . . . now all we need are volunteers (men and women).

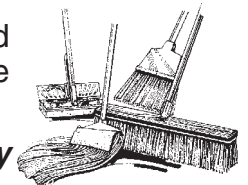
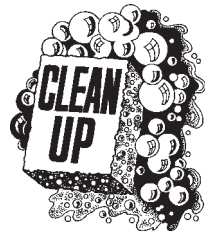


Helpers are needed on Saturday, 21st January to clean up the museum - clean floors and windows, showcases, dust, vacuum, etc. The place really needs a spruce up. Make sure you wear your old clothes!

Also, if there is time, there are still items in storage to be sorted and tidied.

If you can spare a little time on the day, from 10:00 a.m. we'd appreciate it - and if you have any old rags that we can use this too would be helpful.

See you at the Museum on Saturday, 21st January from 10:00 a.m.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RESPECTABLE AUSTRALIAN

Let us look at a typical Sydney white collar worker of 1900. He is an experienced, highly-paid chief clerk in an insurance company, earning £300 (\$600) a year. Junior Clerks are paid as little as £100 a year, less than a skilled artisan. But clerks consider themselves members of the middle-class, and emulate its ways of life.

Income tax in New South Wales is at the flat rate of 6d (5c) in the pound on incomes in excess of £200, so his tax bill is £7/10/0 (\$15)a year. In Victoria, where the rate is 4d in the pound on incomes up to £1000, he would pay only £5 a year.

There is no Federal income tax. Not until 1915 will the Federal Government dip into the taxpayer's pocket.

Our chief clerk lives in a new brick six-roomed Queen Anne villa, about five miles from his office in the city, to which he travels by train. The villa is roofed in red Marseilles tiles, with a terra-cotta griffin, also imported from Marseilles, perched incongruously on top of a tiled spire.

The walls above the floral leadlights in the casement windows are covered in rough-cast, and the interior is fussy with inglenooks, angle bays, window seats and

mirrored overmantels towering high above the tiled fireplaces. The metal ceilings are ornately embossed.

A well-clipped pittosporum hedge borders the wooden picket fence, and from the gate a gravel path winds across the buffalo grass lawn to the front door.

The bathroom has a heavy, roll-rimmed cast-iron bath standing on four claw feet, and a chip bath heater.

Waiting for the bath to fill, our chief clerk strops his hollow-ground "cut-throat" razor and dips his beaver-hair brush ("Guaranteed Free From Anthrax") into an embossed silver-plated mug.

His wife, meanwhile, is grilling his breakfast chops and sausages in the kitchen, a



Bulletin Board

9th February: Hazel Bittman, "An Ancient & Vanished Civilisation - Catal Hyuk"

9th March: to be advised

lean-to extension to the back of the house. The gas stove stands in the fireplace, as the old wood stove used to, and there is a zinc-lined oak ice-chest. Ice is delivered three times a week in 10 lb blocks costing 6d each.

Next to the kitchen is the wash-house, a separate structure housing a copper heated by wood fire, a cast-iron tub with only a cold water tap, and ponderous mangle. From the light fitting above the breakfast table hangs a fly-paper, a curling strip of paper impregnated with melted resin and golden syrup. It is studded with flies.

Our chief clerk deluges his chops, sausages and eggs in Worcestershire sauce and washes them down with two cups of strong, sugary tea.

Promising to ring his wife if he has to work late - he is one of the 10,119 Sydney citizens who enjoy the luxury of a telephone - he takes his round-crowned hard hat from the hallstand and sets out for the office. He is wearing a blue serge three-piece suit with tight narrow trousers, a shirt with detachable starched cuffs, a high, stiff, winged collar, and tight glaze-leather nine-button boots. A gold watch-chain known as an Albert spans his waistcoat; from one end hangs his gold watch. The waistcoat is an in-

dispensable badge of respectability. Even in the privacy of his office, on a sweltering summer day, when he might be tempted to shed his coat, his waistcoat must stay on.

If you moved several notches up the social scale to, say, the manager of the insurance company, you would probably have found a portly man who each Sunday unflinchingly led his family to its own pew in church, wearing a long black coat and silk top hat, and carrying gloves and a gold-mounted walking stick.

His two-storey house, set in spacious grounds, had a panelled billiard-room, a conservatory, and a coach-house for his sulky and dog-cart. His children, five or six, called him "Pater", and his staff and tradesmen, "Sir".

The household maintained two servants - a cook, earning 17s 6d (\$1.75) a week and a general servant, or "slavey", earning 6s (55c) a week.

His wife, "Mater" to the children, was a "lady", not a mere woman. One afternoon each month she was "at home". On that important day - the first Monday or the second Thursday, as announced on her engraved copperplate visiting card - she received in her immaculate but uncomfortable drawing-room, dispensing tea from a silver pot, cakes from a three-tier silver stand, and genteel conversation to her genteel callers - ladies, of course.

Calling was an essential and rigid social

ritual. The visitor seldom stayed more than an hour and on departing left her card, with its implied invitation, on the embossed silver salver in the hall. It was a sort of social chain-letter system.

Neither "Mater" nor her grown-up daughter used lipstick or face powder, except perhaps for a discreet application to a shiny nose. None of them smoked, though no doubt they knew that there were "fast girls" who did.

None ever used such words as "sex", "contraception" or "pregnancy", although they talked (in lowered voices) of "expecting", and being "confined". They knew more about the workings of a sewing machine than about their own bodies. The daughters, even in their twenties, were not allowed to go out at night without an escort.

Looking into his crystal ball, a versifier in the Melbourne "Argus" foresaw a greater freedom for the girl of the future:

*Oh, the twentieth century girl!
What a wonderful thing she will be.
She'll emerge from a mystical whirl,
A woman unfettered and free.
No corset to crampen her waist,
No crimps to encumber her brain,
Unafraid, bifurcated, unlaced,
Like a goddess of old she will reign.*

Reminders for members

Executive Meetings: First meeting for the year will be 26th January and then on the fourth Wednesday of the month. All members of Executive Committee are expected to be present.

Walker Estates Committee will meet for the first time this year on Wednesday, 2nd February. There will be much to be discussed and all members are urged to attend.

General Meetings: There is no meeting in January. First meeting for the year is on 9th February and then on the second Wednesday of the month

All meetings will be held in the Senior Citizens' Centre in Wellbank Street at the times noted on the front cover.

Please mark these dates - and dates of future meetings in your diary/calendar now so you won't forget.

Yaralla Open Day Sunday, 3rd April

Please let the secretary know as soon as possible if you will be able to assist on the day. It's important that we gather all this information well before the day so that we can be sure of having enough helpers.

If you have indicated previously that you wanted to become a tour guide and have done the tour with one of our regular guides, please let us know if you would be prepared to be a guide on this day or if you would prefer to accompany another guide to become more familiar with the job.

We will also need some help on the Saturday morning (2nd) to clean the flats and stables and get devonshire tea requirements set up.

Please contact the secretary as soon as possible and don't assume that we'll know you will be helping.

Clean up Australia Day - Sunday, 6th March

We have again volunteered to support this cause and we will be working on the Yaralla estate. As this is just four weeks prior to our open day it's a good opportunity to tidy the place up to show it in a better light.

We will start working between 10:30 am and 2:30 pm.

If you can lend a hand on the day please register with the secretary now - there is information to be distributed before the day. This is not confined to members only - friends, neighbours, locals are well welcome.

There is a large area to cover and the more help we have the better job we can do.



Thomas Obed Correy and Correys Gardens

From the 1880's until World War I, Correys Pleasure Gardens and Dance Pavilion was one of Sydney's leading recreation resorts. The gardens were established on 2.8 hectares of land adjacent to Cabarita Park fronting onto both Hen and Chicken Bay and Kendall Bay. Thomas Correy, the founder of the resort had previously established similar gardens at Botany in about 1874, but later moved to Cabarita.

The pleasure grounds catered for all the family. For children there were swings, merry-go-rounds and similar attractions, while a cricket field and running track provided entertainment for their parents, especially for members of the many social and sporting clubs who held annual picnics at Correys Gardens. The gardens themselves were expertly planned to display a wide range of trees, shrubs and flowers, and summer houses were scattered about for those who wished to relax and enjoy the country air. Waders were able to make use of a sheltered inlet of the river.

An elaborate dance pavilion had been erected by 1887 and the popularity of Correys Gardens boomed. Its tallowwood floor was a feature of special pride to the family, as was the fernery underneath the raised bandstand. The pavilion was lit, first by kerosene lamps, and later by gas lighting.

Daytime dances were popular, especially in the early years when the easiest access to Correys Gardens was by ferry. Families and social groups made the boat trip along the river from the city or Parramatta to Correys

where they either relaxed in the gardens with an open-air picnic or danced to a seven-piece string band in the pavilion. Later, when gas had replaced the kerosene lamps, evening dinners and dancing became increasingly popular and many of Sydney's clubs and organisations booked a year in advance to ensure their society's night out at Correys.

On public holidays and gala occasions, special ferries were arranged specifically to bring visitor to Correys Gardens. These ferries often had a band playing on board so that guests could get into the holiday spirit from the very beginning of the excursion. Sometimes, too, staff from Correys travelled on board the ferries and served afternoon tea to their guests. During the week ferry tours along the Parramatta River stopped at Correys to allow tourists to view the gardens and be served afternoon tea. Even in the winter months Correys remained active as a venue for weddings and private functions. Many of these were held in the family's dining room, enlarged by double doors which opened into the next room.

Thomas Correy's son, also named Thomas Obed Correy, took over his father's business in 1890. He was a well-known and highly respected member of the Concord community and served on the Concord Council for over twenty years. He was mayor of Concord three times: from 1892



Picnic given by the Metropolitan Brick Company Limited, to the Architects, Contractors and Builders of Sydney and suburbs, at Correy's Gardens, Cabarita. 29th April, 1893

until 1904, for part of 1917 and in 1921-22. Correy's wife, Lydia, was the daughter of Alderman Robert Josselyn of the Concord Council. They had seven children. Correys Avenue, Concord, was named in honour of Thomas Obed Correy the younger, as was the bandstand erected in Queen Elizabeth Park in 1932. This bandstand was demolished early in the 1970s.

By 1918 leisure patterns were very different from those of pre-war days. People preferred to venture further afield rather than spend a leisurely day or evening at Correys Gardens. In 1918 Correys Gardens was sold up. The property was purchased by BALM, who established a white lead factory on the site, which began production in 1921. BALM was later incorporated into the Dulux group and the Correy home still stands in the grounds.



Correys Gardens, Sydney



*Thomas Obed Correy the younger
proprietor of Correy's Gardens
and Mayor of Concord*

New Year

Did you make your New Year's resolutions?

Even more, have you kept them?

Here are some superstitions about this special day. Many of them bear the common theme that activities carried out on that day set the pattern for the year to come. Others have to do with warding off evil spirits or attracting luck.

Kissing at Midnight: We kiss those dearest to us at midnight not only to share a moment of celebration with others, but also to ensure that those affections and ties will continue throughout the next twelve months.

Stocking up: the new year must not be seen in with bare cupboards, lest that be the way of things for the year. Pantries and cupboards must be topped up and plenty of money must be placed in every wallet or purse in the place to guarantee a prosperous year.

Paying Off Bills: The new year should not be begun with the household in debt, so cheques should be written and mailed off prior to January 1. Likewise, personal debts should be settled before the new year arrives.

First Footing: The first person to enter your home after the stroke of midnight will influence the year you're about to have. Ideally, he should be dark-haired, tall and good-looking, and it would be even better if he came bearing certain small gifts such as a lump of coal, a silver coin, a bit of bread, a sprig of evergreen and some salt. Blonde and redhead first footers bring bad luck and female first footers should be shooed away before they bring disaster down on the household. The first footer should knock and be let in rather than using a key. After greeting those in the house and dropping off whatever small tokens of luck he has brought with him, he should make his way through the house and leave by a different door from the one he entered.

Work: Make sure you do - and be successful at - something related to your work on the first day of the year, even if you don't go near your place of employment that day. Limit your activity to a token amount, though, because to engage in a serious work project on that day is very unlucky.

New Clothes: Wear something new on January 1 to increase the likelihood of your receiving more new garments during the year to follow.

Money: Do not pay back loans or

lend money or other precious items on New Year's Day. To do so is to guarantee you'll be paying out all year.

Other superstitions attaching to the beginning of the new year are:

Letting the Old Year Out: At midnight all the doors of a house must be opened to let the old year escape unimpeded. He must leave before the new year can come in, says popular wisdom, so doors are flung open to assist him in finding his way out.

Loud Noise: Make as much noise as possible at midnight. You're not just celebrating, you're scaring away evil spirits, so do a darned good job of it!

The Weather: Examine the weather in the early hours of New Year's Day. If the wind blows from the south, there will be fine weather and prosperous times in the year ahead. If it comes from the north, it will be a year of bad weather. The wind blowing from the east brings famine and calamities. Strangest of all, if the wind blows from the west, the year will witness plentiful supplies of milk and fish, but will also see the death of a very important person. If there is no wind at all, a joyful and prosperous year may be expected by all.

Born on January 1: Babies born on this day will always have luck on their side.

(www.snopes.com/holidays/newyears/newyears.htm)

Wise Quotes

If you want a golden rule that will fit everybody, this is it: "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful. (William Morris)

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. (Cicero)

Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way. (Abraham Lincoln)

Knowledge is power, but enthusiasm pulls the switch. (unknown)

The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination. (Tommy Laborda)

From the Secretary's Desk

MUSEUM CLEANUP:

There will be a working bee on Saturday, 21st January from 10:00 am. If you can spare us some time we'd love to see you there.

Wear old clothes and if you have any rags for cleaning cloths that would be a help.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

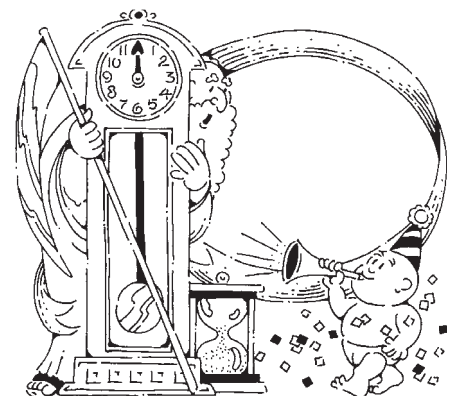
Yaralla Open Day: Our next function will be on **Sunday, 3rd April**. If you will be able to help on this day mark the date in your new diary now so you won't double book and let me know if you are helping.

Rivendell Open Day: We are also considering holding the next one on **7th August**. More details later.

Clean up Australia Day - Sunday, 6th March. Let me know if you can help on this day. I need to know beforehand as there are things you need to be made aware of before starting the 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.

Typing. There are always things that need to be put onto disc. This can be done at your home or here. Can you help?



Dates for your Diary . . .

Wed. 26th January - Executive Committee Meeting

Wed. 2nd February - Walker Estates Committee Meeting

Wed. 9th February - General Meeting

Sun. 6th March - Clean up Australia Day

Sun. 3rd April - Yaralla Open Day