



# 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  
Phone: 8765-9155

### 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  
on 1st and 3rd  
Wednesdays & Saturdays

## No.107

February 2005

## Shopping in the Days Before Supermarkets

In the days before supermarkets, house-keeping had a pleasant leisurely and personal flavour.

The Sunday joint was delivered by the butcher, who usually had time for a chat, at the back door - he used the tradesman's entrance, of course.

The Chinese market gardener went from house to house, carrying his vegetables and fruit in two baskets suspended from a yoke over his shoulders.

The "Rabbito" cried "Rabeet" up and down the street, his rabbits strung in rows in his little horse-drawn cart. When he sold one he skinned it on the spot.

At the beginning of the century housewives - and not only those who were poor - made most of their own preserves. Delicatessens, then known as ham and beef shops, were few.

Sometimes on Sundays, to save firewood and the bother of cooking, the joint was sent, in a dish, to a nearby baker, who put it in his oven to be collected later nicely cooked, for threepence (5 cents).

And what about the grocer's shops. Any housewife shopping here would be treated like a lady. On arrival she would probably be met at the door and conducted to one of those mini-seated, maxi-legged Australian bent chairs, there to preside while the white-aproned assistant would scurry about in answer to her every whim.

A junior employee would very likely have been allotted to entertain her child, probably with the help of a paper cone of boiled lollies.

Tins of biscuits might be brought forth for her to examine, or even to sample, before the assistant weighed out her order.

Packaging was almost unknown. The grocer and his men had to weigh and wrap all the regular items in which they traded.

Even butter came in fifty-six pound (approximately 25 kilograms) boxes and had to be cut into one-pound (450g) and half-pound portions, which were patted into cubes or oblongs, then wrapped in greaseproof paper and stored in the ice-chest.

Chemist shops, which today sell everything from pantyhose to cameras, were much more austere in the 1900s. The chemists usually displayed in their windows, as curious symbols of their craft, two tall, bulbous bottles, one filled with red liquid, the other with green.

The shelves of the shop displayed an impressive array of jars, labelled with the names of the medial drugs and the chemicals listed in the British Pharmacopoeia; thus common salt bore the enigmatic label Sod.Chlor.

The chemist was a dispenser of medicines then, all made up on the premises as ordered, not a mere distributor of ready-made pills, cosmetics and fancy goods as, for the most part, he is today.

## Clean up Australia Day - Sunday, 6th March

We have again volunteered to support this cause and we will be working on the Yarralla 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. Meet at the stables complex to sign in and get your kit.

If you can spare some time on the day please **register with the secretary NOW** - there is information and packs to be distributed before the day.

This is not confined to members only - friends, neighbours, locals are all welcome.

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

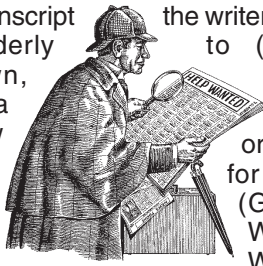


## Bulletin Board

**9th March:** Mrs. Barbara Earnshaw from the Kogarah Historical Society and author of "One Nation One Flag" talking about the sculptor who did work at Ashfield Infants' Home

## Who is she? Where did she live

We have been given the transcript of a 1935 diary of an elderly woman, name unknown, which had been found on a garbage tip in rural New South Wales, and have been asked if we could identify her or any of the people mentioned.



the writer's daughter. Paul is engaged to (and later marries) Jim McMahon

Jim McMahon – possibly he or his father had responsibility for managing a farm property, (Glen Hyla?), Hyland Road, Windermere, via Wentworthville which belongs

to the writer.  
The writer was an elderly woman who had her 74th birthday on 14th September, 1935. She had a brother, Bill, who turned 72 on 14th May, 1935.

The diary gives a glimpse of everyday life and the social structures of a period which, although not very remote, is vastly different in detail from the present. There is a suggestion that if the writer was not born in England, she had at least visited and there are a couple of allusions that she was familiar with Tasmania, or had at least visited there.

The writer lived in Concord or Cabarita. Her regular shopping was done mainly in Wellbank Street, Concord. (There also appears to be a small local shop nearer to her residence). Her local (Anglican) churches were St Luke's and St Mary's.

She owned a cat called "Felix".

She has a major health problem "orofacial pain" – pain on the surface of the face and in the mouth - which becomes more acute during the year. It is associated with uncontrollable spasms of the facial muscles and sometimes limits normal activities and occupations. She records the regular visits of her doctor and the variety of approaches they try to alleviate the condition, with only modest success.

Sufferers of orofacial pain often keep a diary of the day-to-day occurrence of the symptoms, with notes about their severity and treatment. However, this does not appear to be the main reason for this diary as the overall contents are a recital of the day-to-day routine of the household and happenings such as the weather, visitors (sometimes bearing gifts of flowers and food), shopping, meals, card games to pass the time and dealings with the Windermere property.

Some of the people mentioned regularly are:

Paul (short for Pauline) Hyland - seemed to live with the writer – relationship unknown but she is not

to the writer.

Miss Elsam - who is paid a small sum to help in the house and take care of the writer.

Woodrow – a casual gardener who cares for the lawns and gardens.

Mr. Wilson – who appears to be a tenant farmer on the property.

Miss Astle – dressmaker. She prepared frocks for the coming wedding of Paul and Jim as well as many other items of clothing.

Coates family – local grocers and neighbours (the writer uses their phone for any calls)

Rousill, George, Edith and Doris – numerous mentions so presumably very close friends.

Mr Hunt – minister (and Mrs Hunt) – (April 7 note – Mr. Hunt moving to Stockton)

Mr. Lofts – minister (and Mrs. Lofts) - possibly the replacement for Mr. Hunt. (On 18th April Mr Hunt told writer that Mrs. Peacock had given a new cabinet organ to the church, it cost £95 and was to be dedicated and used at Easter [?St Mary's]).

Dr Freeman (local doctor). Dr Lawson was his locum during September.

Mrs Flavelle (or Favelle) – regular visitor, bringing flowers

Others visitors are: Mrs Le Page, Mrs Chambers, Mr Stevenson (re Water, Sewerage & Drainage), Mrs Devitt (writer often brings her home from church), Mr Thompson (jeweller who called regularly to wind the clock), Clarke and Coote (neighbouring families), Booth, Elizabeth and Beatrice (neighbours), Ethel Wyatt (baked Paul's wedding cake), Simpson (chemist), Tom Brown (butcher), Mr & Mrs Chambers, Grandma (but no mention of whose), Saunders (appears to be the writer's solicitor),

Can you recognise any of these names? It would be nice if we could identify the writer and where she lived. Perhaps some of your elderly neighbours (particularly if they belonged to either St Luke's or Holy Trinity) might be able to recognise the names.

If you can offer any suggestions, please contact the secretary on 9744-8528.

## 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.



Get

Well

Soon

A little bird has told us that Fred Stansfield is still having problems with his back in spite of his operation and it's limiting his activities for the moment.

Also, Beryl Douglas is undergoing some rather unpleasant treatment which is putting her out of action.

These are two of our hardest workers and we wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see them back with us soon. We miss your happy smiles.

## Museum Rosters

Due to Fred's health problem he has reluctantly given up the work of opening and closing the museum.

Lorraine Holmes has volunteered to take on the job on Saturdays but we need someone to take over on the Wednesdays. This only involves opening up the museum at 2:00 and locking up at 4:00.

We also need more volunteers to do museum duty - particularly on Wednesdays. Can you help?

Please phone Lois as soon as possible so that the new roster can be prepared.

If you are already on the roster, please ring me anyhow to remind me as my list seems to be a little out of date.

## John Flavelle

The third and last Concord Council Chambers, at the corner of Wellbank and Flavelle Streets, stands on the site of the old two-storey home of John Flavelle. Wellbank Street is named after this home.

Mr. Flavelle was the Returning Officer for the first election of the new Concord Council in 1884; he was also an Alderman on the Council from 1886 to 1888. He died about 1918 (aged approximately 70 years) on the Isle of Guernsey.

The Flavelle property originally extended back to Correys Avenue. The auction of the blocks in the first subdivision of the estate was held on Saturday, 28th September, 1929 and comprised 72 building sites.

When the Housing Commission resumed part of the Flavelle estate they left "Wellbank" for the Misses Flavelle to continue in occupancy until their demise, when it was passed over to Concord Council to be used for local government purposes.

The old home was eventually demolished in 1961 and the new Council Chambers were opened in 1962. At the time of its opening the Concord Council Chambers was praised as a departure from the traditional two-storey monumental civic building. It was



designed to blend with the surrounding domestic architecture while still achieving a distinctive quality. The administration block is built around a central courtyard with an ornamental pool and fountain.

It is now used as the City of Canada Bay's Customer Service building.

Unfortunately we have no photographs of the old home but we do have, in our museum, a statue which came from the grounds of Wellbank.

## Calendar of Events

### City of Canada Bay Council - Seniors Week activities . . . .

**Creative Writer's event.** Subject: "Why I live where I live". Closing date 7th March. Contact Hazel Bittman on 9743-4171 for details.

**Thursday, 10th March - Physical Activity Day** - Concord Community Centre. This is to be an expo of what is available to residents.

**Monday, 14th March - Morning of Music,** 10-12:30 pm - Greenlees Bowling Club. Bookings essential by 7th March to Helen at Council

**Wednesday, 16th March - Cruise on Parramatta River.** Places limited - bookings essential. Details and cost from Council.

**Wednesday, 16th March - Seminar for Grandparents** - 10:00 to 12 noon - Drummoyne Community Centre. Contact Ros Lance on 9719-8102. Bookings required.

**Monday, 21st March - Seniors Week - Creative Expo Day** at the Concord Senior Citizens' Centre, Wellbank Street. This is an opportunity for seniors to search out different creative activities that they might wish to become involved in.

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**12/13th March - Concord Garden Club's Autumn Flower, Floral Art and Vegetable Show** - Concord Community Centre, Gipps Street, East Concord. Admission \$2, children free. Entries close Thursday, 10/3/05. Contact 9558-1209.

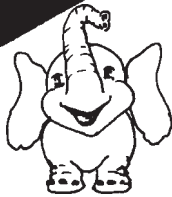
**27/28th May - Society of Australian Genealogists 10th Annual Showcase** - 10:00 to 4:00 - Kent Street, Sydney. Details: 9247-3953

**18th September - Friends of Rookwood will be holding a special Open Day** celebrating 150 years of NSW Railways. Friends of Rookwood also hold regular tours during the year, contact Lois for details.

### *How things have changed.*

In 1909 Annette Kellerman, the Australian swimming star, appeared on a Boston beach wearing a figure-fitting jersey bathing suit with sleeves shortened almost to her shoulders and trousers ending two inches above her knees. She was arrested for indecent exposure

### A friendly reminder



Lately we have been experiencing a problem with attendance at Executive Meetings. This makes it difficult to function properly when only a few members are present.

We realise that you can't always make it because things might crop up unexpectedly, but when you take on an executive position it does bring some responsibilities and we need you with us as often as possible.

If you have problems attending please let us know so we don't wait around for you. If you haven't reached someone at home before the meeting you can call us at the Citizens Centre on 8765-9155.

This number is also printed on the front of your newsletter

Would you please put a note in your calendar NOW to remind you that the 4th Wednesday of each month is set aside for the Executive Meeting.

### Some Wise Words

Growing older is not upsetting; being perceived as old is. (Kenny Rogers)

Life expectancy would grow by leaps and bounds if green vegetables smelled as good as bacon. (Anon)

Without libraries, what have we? We have no past and no future. (Anon)

### In case you were wondering!

» The Ice Cream Sundae got its name from a law in Illinois in the US in the 1800s, which ruled you couldn't buy fountain sodas on Sundays.

Ice cream parlours devised a way of getting around the law by inventing a soda syrup for ice cream, without soda water.

They sold it legally on Sundays and it became known as an ice cream sundae.

» The tasty snack of melted cheese on toast is sometimes called Welsh Rabbit. The name originated about 300 years ago as a joke.

Only the rich could afford game from the royal hunting reserves in Wales, so working people rarely had the chance to eat rabbit.

They began referring to melted cheese on toast - one of the few meals they could afford - as their Welsh Rabbit.

Later snobbish people - or perhaps menu writers - tried to make the meal sound fancier by calling it Welsh Rarebit.

## I can help with . . .

- Clean Up Australia day .....
- Yaralla Open Day
- Saturday Clean up .....
  - Sunday morning set up .....
  - House Tours .....
  - Grounds Tours .....
  - Devonshire Teas .....
  - Other .....

### Museum

- Open/Closing Wednesdays.
- Wednesday Roster .....
- Saturday Roster .....
- Sorting slides .....
- Sorting photographs .....
- Copying newspaper cuttings .....
- Filing newspaper cuttings .....
- General photocopying .....
- Typing .....
- Delivery pamphlets/posters .....

### Nurungi

- Photocopying .....
- Folding/Inserting/Stamping .

### Manning a table at the

- Physical Activity Day .....
- Creative Expo Day .....

Just tick any of these you can help with and post it back to P.O. Box 152, Concord, 2137 or just phone me on 9744-8528.

Don't forget to put your name on it.

*Perhaps you'd better phone if you are able to help with the Clean Up Australia Day as time is running out.*

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## Nostalgia

*I remember the cheese of my childhood  
And the bread that we cut with a knife.  
When children helped with the house-  
work*

*And the men went to work - not the wife.  
The cheese never needed an ice chest,  
And the bread was so crusty and hot.*

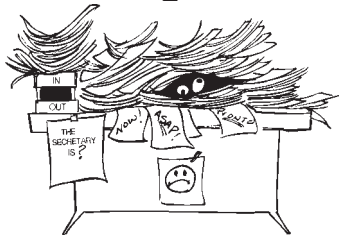
*I remember the milk from the billy,  
With the yummy rich cream on the top;  
Our dinner came hot from the oven  
And not from a fridge in a shop.*

*The kids were a lot more contented,  
They didn't need money for 'kicks',  
Just a game with their mates in a pad-  
dock*

*And sometime the Saturday flicks.  
I remember the shops on the corner,  
Where a pennorth of lollies was sold.  
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic,  
Or is it . . . I'm just getting old.*

(Anon)

# HELP!



There is much work to be done with our archives and I can't seem to get ahead of it.

There are a large number of photographic slides to be sorted and assembled in files for viewing and identifying.

There are a large number of photographs that also need sorting and assembling in some type of order for viewing and identifying.

These things need to be attended to shortly while there are still members around who can remember old Concord.

There is a large pile of newspaper clipping that need to be photocopied and then filed so they will be available for ready access.

There is work to be done preparing for the coming Open Day at Yaralla - photocopying, assembling the tour guide book, delivering advertising leaflets to various locations and posters around the district.

We have a Rotafridge at the museum which could do with a good clean up and possibly repaint.

Etc., etc., etc.

Can you help with any of this?

## From the Secretary's Desk

**Museum Cleanup:** Thanks to everyone who came along on the two days - a lot was accomplished and the place is now spic and span.

**Seniors Week Publicity:** We have the opportunity to have a stall at the Physical Activity Day and the Creative Expo Day. If you can help manning it, please let me know.

**Museum Opening Hours:** We have reduced the times we are open to the 1st and 3rd Wednesday and 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. This will make the load on volunteers a little easier. Come and volunteer to make the load even easier, particularly Wednesdays, as we only have a small number volunteering for this day.

**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, Filing and Typing:** 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.

**Sorry to keep nagging but help is needed.**

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## Early Amusements

The first gala day in Sydney was on February 7, 1788 when Governor Phillip's commission was publicly read. It was a holiday and the night was uproarious. Each man received a pint of rum - always rum in early times, never beer or whisky or brandy - and each woman half a pint. And there was a blaze of bonfires. Bonfires marked most of the jubilations in those days - bonfires and fireworks.

When New South Wales was established, gambling was very prevalent in the old country, and so it was in Sydney. The people bet on everything - boat races and every sort of sporting contest, including all the cricket matches between the British regiments stationed in Sydney.

Some of the amusements and pastimes were on the rowdy side. A marriage, particularly in such locations as The Rocks and Woolloomooloo, was always an excuse for hideous noises. People would rally about midnight with bells, tin cans and other clatter, to disturb the slumber of the newly weds.

(Presumably this came from a souvenir issue of The Sydney Morning Herald, 1931)

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## Dates for your Diary . . .

- Wed. 2nd March - Walker Estates/Yaralla Meeting
- Sun. 6th March - Clean up Australia Day
- Wed. 9th March - General Meeting - speaker to be advised
- Wed. 23rd March - Executive Meeting
- Sun. 3rd April - Yaralla Open Day