



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.108

March 2005

ABOUT SAINT PATRICK

Saint Patrick is believed to have been born in the late fourth century, and is often confused with Palladius, a bishop who was sent by Pope Celestine in 431 to be the first bishop to the Irish believers in Christ.

Saint Patrick was the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland who is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works, the *Confessio*, a spiritual autobiography, and his *Epistola*, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians.

Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God."

Saint Patrick is most known for driving the snakes from Ireland. It is true there are no snakes in Ireland, but there probably never have been - the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice.

While not the first to bring Christianity to Ireland, it is Patrick who is said to have encountered the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the "Holy Wells" that still bear this name.

There are several accounts of Saint Patrick's death. One says that Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 460 A.D. His jawbone was preserved in a silver shrine and was often requested in times of childbirth, epileptic fits, and as a preservative against the "evil eye."

Another account says that St. Patrick ended his days at Glastonbury, England and was buried there. The Chapel of St. Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey.

Today, many Catholic places of worship all around the world are named after St. Patrick, including cathedrals in New York and Dublin city

Why Saint Patrick's Day?

Saint Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.

So, why is it celebrated on March 17th? One theory is that this was the day that St. Patrick died. Since the holiday began in Ireland, it is believed that as the Irish spread out around the world, they took with them their history and celebrations. The biggest observance of all is, of course, in Ireland. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17th. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend mass, where March 17th is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins.

In cities all around the world with a large Irish population, St. Patrick's Day is a very big deal. Big cities and small towns alike celebrate with parades, "wearing of the green," music and songs, Irish food and drink, and activities for kids such as crafts, colouring and games. Some communities even go so far as to dye rivers or streams green!

http://www.st-patricks-day.com/about_saintpatrick.asp



Bulletin Board

13th April: Dave Craddock from the Department of Defence speaking on "Early Aeronautics in Australia prior to 1904". He has also written books on Gliders and Glider designers.

Come, visit our Museum . . .

The Stereoscope

A physicist and Professor of Experimental Philosophy, Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) invented the predecessor to the 'modern' stereoscope in 1838, but the original stereoscope was a large table mounted item that required a relatively large amount of space as well as money.

At the time of this invention photography was not available and hand drawn pictures were used. However, with the advent of photography the popularity of the stereoscope increased

After Queen Victoria took a fancy to the stereoscope at the Crystal Palace Exposition in 1851, stereo viewing became all the rage in Britain. The United States trailed behind for a short time, but in the 1850s Oliver Wendell Holmes helped to popularise this brand new entertainment industry with his compact hand-held stereoscopic viewer which soon dominated the world market and became the standard stereoscopic device for decades.

By the 1850s the stereographs, a 3 x 6 inch card with two nearly identical photographic images mounted side by side (each recorded from slightly different perspective to create the illusion of three-dimensions) were being commercially produced and quickly became one of the most popular means of armchair travel. The production of these stereoscopes allowed people to sit in their own home and tour the world.

Photographers travelled the world taking stereoscopic photographs for a population who were unable to travel widely themselves

The most popular photographs, judging from the number that you still find around, were travelogue types that showed the world - from the abbeys and countrysides of Europe, to the pyramids and tombs of ancient Egypt, to the sights of New York, London and other major cities. In addition, the great events of the day found their way onto the stereo slides. The building of the Panama Canal, the terrors of war and the destruction of such natural disasters as the San Francisco

earthquake were brought to peoples homes in much the same way as television does today.

Children's stories and fairy tales were very popular and even such mundane things as shoe making and tobacco growing found their way onto these cards.

Humorous ones were also produced, usually entailing some form of pun and often of a mildly risqué nature.

One company, to promote the use of stereo viewing as a way to see the world, advertised their selection of pictures by using a quote by Carl Sandberg, "The best substitute for intelligent travel is intelligent use of stereographs".

In the early days of photography, such was the popularity of stereographs that in short order over half of the households in the UK and US owned a stereoscope and had a selection of views on hand for enjoyment of family and friends.

They provided an escape for people who never had a chance to see much of the world. Without access to long distance transport, television or movie theatres this was the only way for people to see the world first-hand. The stereoscopic pictures acted as Victorian travel guides, story tellers, educators and even pornography.

The stereoscopic photograph persisted for nearly a century, between 1850 and 1950, and was nearly as pervasive in its time as television has become in our time.

The stereoscope tradition continues even today in the form of Viewmaster viewers

and reels, though it's viewed now as merely a child's toy.

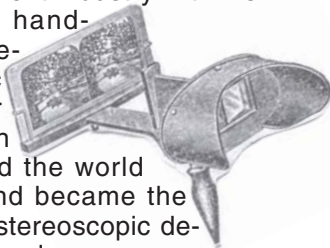
Being able to see in stereo was not seen as anything other than entertainment until vertical aerial photography came in after WWII.

How it works

Stereoscopic views are made with a special camera fitted with two lenses which takes two simultaneous pictures of the same subject side by side on the same plate.

Each picture is taken from a slightly different viewpoint that corresponds closely to the spacing of the eyes. The left picture represents what the left eye would see, and likewise for the right picture. When observing the picture through a special viewer, the pair of two-dimensional pictures merge together into single three-dimensional photograph.

We can see a 3D picture through a stereoscope for the same reason a building appears three-dimensional. The right and left eyes see a slightly different version of the same scene, and taken together, we get an illusion of depth.



An Evening at Home With the Little Ones.

Yaralla Open Day

Sunday, 3rd April

Have you called in yet to let the secretary know you will be helping?

Several of our regulars will be unable to help on the day due to other commitments so we are very short handed - particularly with the Devonshire teas (only 5 volunteers).

So far we only have four house tour guides and four grounds tour guides - this is only half the number we need. Where are all those who indicated they wanted to learn and did practice tours on the last open day?

Are there any members out there who think they would like to become guides? Come along and do a couple of tours with our regulars - you'll see how easy it is - and we supply all the documentation you need.

To our general members - this is your society and we need your help. We know that some of you are unable to tackle any of this physical work, but there must be many of you who can still give us an hour or two.

These days are our major fund-raising efforts to bring in money to help us with the restoration work at Yaralla. The secretary is waiting patiently by the phone.

Discovery After Dark

One night of the year
Saturday, 2nd April.

Stay out late with Sydney's Art, History and Heritage.

Sydney is an amazing city. From famous icons to little known treasures, the city hosts a feast of experience and cultural expressions of who we are. **Discovery After Dark** is a chance to explore all of that – in one glittering night.

April 2 is the one night of the year when Sydney's favourite cultural venues open their doors in unison, and invite you in.

Museums, galleries and heritage venues host a night of exhibitions, tours and glimpses behind-the-scenes, from 6pm 'til midnight. Travel between venues on the free bus, enjoy the live entertainment and sip your complimentary glass of wine while you soak in the festival atmosphere.

Mark it on the calendar. This is an event you will look forward to every year – an opportunity to get behind doors usually closed at dusk and celebrate all that your city has to offer after dark.

Who's involved?

More than 30 venues are participating including: Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Army Museum of Australia, Art Gallery of NSW, Aus-

tralian Centre of Photography, Australian Heritage Fleet – James Craig, Australian Museum, Australian National Maritime Museum, Government House, Hyde Park Barracks Museum, Justice & Police Museum, Museum of Australian Currency Notes – Reserve Bank of Australia, Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Freemasonry, Museum of Sydney, Powerhouse Museum, Red Box Gallery – Royal Botanic Gardens, S.H. Ervin Gallery, St Mary's Cathedral*, State Library of NSW, State Records Gallery, Susannah Place Museum, Sydney Jewish Museum**, Sydney Hospital & Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney Observatory, Sydney Town Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Museum, The Macleay Museum – The University of Sydney, The Nicholson Museum – The University of Sydney, UTS Gallery – The University of Technology Sydney, University Art Gallery & Great Hall – The University of Sydney.

*St Mary's Cathedral open from 7.30pm.

**Sydney Jewish Museum open from 7.00pm.

One prepaid ticket covers entry to all participating venues.

At \$29.50 that's exceptional value.

There are three fantastic ways to visit Discovery After Dark venues:

With over 30 venues to visit within six hours, it's a race against the clock to ensure you make it around to all your favourite places.

The Rocks, Circular Quay, The Domain & Macquarie Street

Wander down the cobblestone lane ways, catch the magical harbour views along the way and experience a precinct steeped in history. Visit nearly twenty venues along this path, which are home to most of the major museums and art galleries in Sydney.

Oxford Street, Paddington & Darlinghurst

Sydney's east boasts some of the city's most colourful and eclectic areas. Nestled amongst the beautiful tree-lined streets of Paddington you will discover intriguing places to visit where you can learn more about Australia's military, study the history of our Jewish citizens and the wonders of photographic art.

Pymont, Darling Harbour & Ultimo

Historic buildings next to modern architecture. Discovery After Dark buses will take you to some of Sydney's most loved venues for kids and grown ups. Don't miss this opportunity to go behind the scenes at a world famous movie exhibition or wander around one of Australia's well known broadcasting studios.

To read more and check out the venues go to www.discoveryafterdark.com.au

Yaralla Estate

At the last Walker Estates Committee meeting there was much discussion on how we can help to preserve this estate and big plans are in hand.

The first important item was to set up four "Work Groups" to assist with any work we undertake.

These are

- * **Garden & Landscape** - to be responsible for all work concerning the land area on the estate
- * **Buildings & Other Structures** - to be responsible for overseeing restoration/repair work on the estate
- * **Heritage Research & Compilation of Records** pertaining to all three Walker estates
- * **Public Relations/Media** to get as much publicity as possible for the estate and our efforts.

The people appointed to oversee

these works are: (a) Peter and Bob Jones; (b) Graham Packett; (c) Brian & Jann Ogden; and (d) Trish Skehan.

However, these people can't do all the work on their own. They will need lots of volunteers to assist with the work with whatever time they can spare. So, if you are a gardener, carpenter or even just keen to help, please contact the appropriate people and offer your services. The more helpers we have, the more we can accomplish.

Volunteers aren't restricted to our members, anyone who would like to help would be welcome.

We are contacting the Area Health Service seeking permission to carry out various jobs on the estate and as soon as we get the OK, we want to get right into it.

Yaralla is a jewel in Sydney's crown and we want to do all we can to make

sure it remains, and if we can do anything at all to restore the gardens and surroundings to their former glory it will be worthwhile.

Put your hands up now! We need you!

We are also looking for grants to help with our projects, so if you hear of anything, please let us know.



Thank You

to all who helped with the Clean Up Australia Day at Yaralla. We collected approximately 14 bags of rubbish - and that was only a small part of the estate. Please keep this project in mind for next year

Places to go - and thing to see . . .

Sunday, 10th April, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm - Friends of Linnwood. Open House at Historic Linnwood, 25 Byron Road, Guildford. \$2 admission. Sausage sizzle, refreshments and lots of other things to see.

Sunday, 17th April, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm - as part of Holroyd City Council's CityFest 2005, The friends of Linnwood invite you to "Pleasant Past Times at Linnwood". Sit and watch artists and craftspeople, lots to try, Bonsai Clinic and lots of other interests. This will be followed by "Rhymes, Rhythms, Writings and Refreshments (4 to 6 pm). Presentations by local artists. Sausage Sizzle, tea, coffee and cold drinks. Free Admission.

Panoramas, Plants & People - a fabulous exhibition of the changing history of the Royal Botanic Gardens as we move towards the 200th anniversary - photographs, etchings, watercolours, museum specimens, bits of statues - and a stuffed tortoise! In the Red Box Gallery, in the Brown Building, Mrs. Macquaries Road (entry is closed to the Woolloomooloo Gates, near the Art Gallery) 9:00am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. **The exhibition will be on until the 29th April.**

Saturday, 30th April - Strathfield District Historical Society - Tour of Churches of Strathfield. Two tours will be held: 10:am to 1:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. visiting a variety of churches of various religious denominations. Both tours meet at Strathfield Council Chambers, where participants will board a bus for the visits. Cost \$15, which includes morning or afternoon tea. Bookings essential. For

details call 9764-1174 or 9642-3145.

Saturday, 7th May, 1:00 to 3:00 pm - Strathfield District Historical Society - "Using the Internet for Historic Research". The presentation will demonstrate how to find information on the internet and where to start looking in a live and interactive presentation. A booklet will also be available. Afternoon tea served at 1 pm, prior to start of lecture.

Royal Australian Historical Society

Sunday, 17th April, 2:00 pm - The Green Square History Project - public and community history in an emerging global landscape.

Wednesday, 20th April, 10:00 am - Fairfield's Hidden Past.

Wednesday, 27th April, 10:30 to 12 noon. North Head Artillery Museum.

Wednesday, 4th May, 1:00 pm - Forecasting the Weather.

Tuesday, 17th May, 10:00 to 3:00 pm - Let's have a cup of tea (history and social customs of tea drinking)

Wednesday, 25th May, 5:30 pm - the 2005 Memorial Ferguson Lecture: Truth and Fiction: The Bequest of Scott Mitchell.

Saturday, 28th May, 11:00 am - Hyde Parks Barracks.

Wednesday, 1st June, 1:00 pm - Shipwrecks and Maritime Archaeology

There are small costs involved with these events and bookings are essential. For full details and venues contact the RAHS on 9247-8001 or history@rahs.org.au.



I've decided that instead of a banner heading I'll use a photographs of myself - hope you like it!!

Museum Roster: We still haven't heard from any volunteers - particularly for Wednesdays. This is only 2 hours every couple of weeks and doesn't need any physical exertion - just sitting at the desk to take the money and answer any questions or refer them back to the secretary.

You can do it - ring now!

Photographs: We have a large collection of photographs which need to be sorted (only basic into groups such as people, buildings, scenery, etc.) so that we can try to identify them and have them catalogued for future reference. Won't you spare an hour or two to help with this. You can even do this in your own home if you'd prefer to take the boxes there.

Photocopying, Filing and Typing: As you can see from my photographs, I only have six arms so I need some additional help. Please!

A special thank you to David Somers who kindly volunteered to become our resident handyman and has already managed to complete most of the tasks we had on the list. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Concord's Historic Plaques: Some years back the old Concord Council placed brass plaques around the area denoting historic sites. These are located at Longbottom Stockade, Lansdown House, Ardill House, St Luke's Church, Edith Walker's House, Thomas Walker Hospital, Concord Public School, Ashton's Baths, Old Council Chambers (Burton Street), Yaralla Cricket Club (Pavilion in Goddard Park), Queen Elizabeth Park Woodlands, Longbottom Cemetery and Concord Golf Club.

However, some time back the Longbottom Stockade plaque went missing. But . . . a short while ago a Peter Webster contacted me to say that he had purchased this plaque at an antiques fair and has kindly given it to us. Hopefully, the Council will restore it to its rightful place very soon.

Does anyone know the exact location for the Ashton's Baths plaque?

Who is she? Where did she live? Has anyone been able to come up with any information that might help us to identify this lady and where she lived? We want to hear from you. We now have a full transcript of this diary if any of our members would like to read it, just see the secretary.

A Happy St Patrick's Day to all our Irish friends.



For your Diary

Wed. 23rd March - Executive Meeting
Sun. 3rd April - Yaralla Open Day
Wed. 13th April - General Meeting
Wed. 27th April - Executive Meeting

Some wise words . . .

Don't tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results. (George Bernard Shaw).

ZEAL is like fire - it wants both feeding and watching (Anon).