



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.111

June 2005

The Coo-ee March - 1915

In 1915 the tiny town of Gilgandra in the central west of NSW wrote itself into the pages of Australian history.

Following the disaster of Gallipoli and the heavy casualties in France in the latter half of 1915, recruiting figures for enlistment in World War I had dwindled. Numerous recruiting rallies became increasingly ineffective.

It was at this dark hour that Gilgandra's butcher, R.G. Hitchen and his brother Bill, the local plumber, had the idea of organising a route march of volunteers to Sydney, enlisting recruits as they marched.

It commenced in Gilgandra and over a period of 3 weeks they marched 320 miles (510 kilometres) through towns along the way - Dubbo - Orange - Bathurst - Lithgow - Penrith - Parramatta and many other smaller towns and villages, arriving in Martin Place, Sydney, with 263 men.

The idea caught the imagination of the public, and the Coo-ees (as the volunteers were known) became national heroes.

The action of "Hitchen's Own" and the subsequent marches which followed were responsible for a dramatic upturn in recruitment figures.

Twenty six men left the little Western town on the Castlereagh River. They were feted at each town on the route, and the stirring story of their march has become part of the official war history of Australia.

Recruitment meetings were held in each centre along the way and their number increased to 263 by the time they reached Sydney.

Conditions in the country in 1915 were vastly different from those today. The unsealed roads were made of dirt, or perhaps, in a town, of crushed stone or blue metal. In dry weather traffic was coincidental with clouds of dust; when it rained the roads became ribbons of mud. Considered against this background a march of 320 miles (510 kilometres) over those rough roads was a much greater undertaking than it would be under today's conditions.

The feats of cooking, transporting and serving the food provided for the Coo-ees at each camp place, and even assembling of

welcoming crowds were huge accomplishments.

Three weeks after the Coo-ees left Gilgandra there was an immense crowd, which stretched from Newtown to the Sydney Domain, to welcome them at the end of their historic march.

A plaque in Bridge Street, Gilgandra, commemorates the starting point of the famous Coo-ee recruiting march, the first of the recruiting marches.

This information is extracted from John Meredith's book *The Coo-ee March*, 1986, which can be purchased for \$15 (inc postage and handling) from the Gilgandra Visitor Centre.

Retracing steps of the Coo-ee March

Defence reservists are set to re-enact the famous World War I Coo-ee March next month. This 2005 parade will retrace the final steps the Coo-ees took along Macquarie Street to the Domain in 1915.

The parade will start from Sydney's Hyde Parks Barracks on July 3.

Reserve Forces Day is an opportunity to thank men and women who have set aside their civilian activities for service in the Australian Defence Force as well as their families and employers for their ongoing support.



Bulletin Board

13th July: Graeme Payne - Lane Cove Historical Society - "Australian Commercial Plane Crashes"

10th August: Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.

14th September: Andrew Monaghan, The Costume House, Gladesville - "Early Australian Fashions in Museum Collections"

12th October: Pam Liell, speaking on her recently released book, "Dressed in their Best: 100 Years of Family Photos"

9th November: John Walmeant - African Safari Photographs

Was Australia Named in 1545?!

A very rare and unusual mid-sixteenth century German astronomical work has recently been acquired by the Library, and raises an interesting question.

Titled *Astronomia-Teutsch Astronomei*, the work was published by Cyriaco Jacob zum Barth at Frankfurt-am-Main in 1545.

Written in Gothic German, the work is a detailed study of astronomy as it was known at that time and features 76 leaves with 97 or so small woodcut illustrations with text showing astrological symbols, horoscopes, armillary spheres, diagrams of the constellations, astronomical and planetary diagrams.

The book is bound in early vellum bindings with contemporary manuscript. Some repair and renewal of leaves and endpapers has been undertaken.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the work is a windhead world map, oriented to the south, and with the southern hemisphere landmass titled *Australia*—the proper noun form of the Latin word *Australis*.

Matthew Flinders, who is generally credited as being the first to circumnavigate the Australian continent in 1802, is also credited with assigning the name 'Australia' to this continent although it did not immediately receive universal approval. Therefore, until now, the first map known to bear the name 'Australia' was Flinders' own map: *General chart of Terra Australis or Australia: showing the parts explored between 1798 and 1803* by M. Flinders Commr of H.M.S. *Investigator* (London: Published as the Act directs by G. & W. Nicol, Pall Mall, 1814 Jan.). The German map uses the term 'Australia' 259 years earlier than Flinders' map.

Prior to this date, both Antarctica and Australia, usually regarded as one combined landmass, were variously known as *Terra Australis Incognita*, Latin for 'unknown southern continent', or *Terra Australis Magellanica*. Other terms also included *Antarcticus*.

The recently acquired map thus poses an intriguing question. Was Flinders aware of the 1545 work when he suggested the name 'Australia' in 1804, when compiling his manuscript chart of Australia for his own epic work? Or was it that both authors were simply using the noun form of the Latin *Australis* as a more suitable name for one of the large landmasses in the southern hemisphere, one of which now proudly bears the name?

—Maura O'Connor, Map Curator

For more information, contact maps@nla.gov.au

Reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Australia. Previously published in: *Gateways*, February 2004



Astronomia [cartographic material] : Teutsch astronomei/Getruckt zu Franckforth am Meyn : bei Cyriaco Jacob zum Barth, 1545Atlas ([76] p.) : ill. (woodcuts) ; 27.7 cmMaps Collection, [nla:map.ra290](https://nla.gov.au/nla:map.ra290)

Annual General Meeting - 10/8/05

This is the time to elect your officers and committee members for the ensuing year.

All positions will be declared vacant and will be up for nominations. Let's make it a proper election with lots of names being put forward.

There will be several vacancies and we urge you to consider putting your name forward for any of the positions. New blood is always welcome as you bring fresh thoughts and ideas.

If you feel you would like to be a part of the planning process please don't hesitate to put your own name forward - others may not know of your willingness to become part of the executive. If you're shy, just whisper in someone's ear and they will gladly nominate you.

A Mr. Toby Prentice from Mortlake recently deposited a bundle of newspapers covering the war year, 1942. Whilst most of the contents concern war news, and consequently, a lot of doom and gloom, there were some lighter moments. These included interesting advertisements, and a few incidents closer to home. They may well provide a laugh or two with some of our members who 'can remember'!

Girls Hunted From Shelters

Adelaide. Girls who go with soldiers into city air-raid pipe shelters are being hunted out each night by police.

Police say they are seeing disgusting conduct in these pipes, which are about 4ft. in diameter and are built in the city's parks and gardens. The whole of the plainclothes licensing squad and beat constables has been instructed to keep the shelters under surveillance.

As many as eight or ten couples have been turned out of these pipes in one night. Most couples move out when torches are flashed on them but some girls argue that they are entitled to stay there.

Police have found men and girls in the shelters in various stages of undress. Soldiers, partnered by girls, have been found asleep in taxicabs, motor cars and in doorways and other hide-outs.

(Daily Telegraph Saturday, July 4, 1942)

5 inch Baths for royalty

Baths at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle are to be limited to five inches in depth. Every bath will be painted with a black or red line to five inches in depth. Notices in the bathrooms will draw attention to the necessity for saving fuel.

This is part of a fuel economy scheme the King has ordered. Other economies include

- only one light in each bedroom;
- No central heating and no fires permitted in bedrooms, except on the doctor's orders;
- Hot water supply will be cut off on certain days from residential parts of Windsor Castle. Occupants will have to carry hot water for washing from the kitchen;
- All unessential lights in palace corridors to be cut out;
- Watchers to be organised to detect fuel waste.

The restrictions apply equally to the King's and Queen's private apartments as to other parts of the palace and castle.

(Daily Telegraph September 21, 1942)

Rouse Street, Tenterfield
28 - 6 - 68

Dear Thelma,

I was unlucky only being 2 off \$20 - but better luck next time, Anyway you can't have a win if you are not in it can you.

Re Banjo Paterson - yes he did marry Alice Walker of Tenterfield Station - I don't think they would like it say she was a grazier's daughter, he managed Tenterfield Station and when he was killed off a horse, his eldest son took on the management.

Eadith Walker of Yaralla Concord owned the station and once in a while she would come up to Tenterfield and she often came to see the wives. I can remember her coming to our home. Of course it was a red letter day when she came - she was very plain, had plenty of men wanting to marry her, but she is supposed to say she didn't know if it was her money they were after.

She took Alice for a world trip. Alice and all the Walker family were very handsome, like their mother (very first class folk). Dressed for dinner at night (not evening dress) but good clothes.

There was a house maid, parlour maid, cook and her assistant, washing woman, rouse about and his boy, two gardeners, your father was one (when he was young before he went to Sydney), a coachman and his boy help.

They used to ride side saddle - beautiful horses, no cars then. Sulky's, buggies, tandem - and the big bus, drawn by 2 horses, one no hood and the other with a hood, used to come to church in them, full. The coachman used to drive them, had their own padded seat, and on the floor too - used to rustle into church, when starched petticoats and more than one were worn. Also had a governess. Then off to college.

Their cousin, Nita Walker, married the governor's "aide de camp" - I think it was Sir Harry Rawson at the time (might be wrong).

She used to come to Tenterfield for holidays - and they used to love to come in the "pig cart" over to our side with all the scraps for the pigs. Used to sit on a bag and dangle their legs at the back. Of course we were all eyes when they were about and every Sunday a lot of them came over to the store (at Willow Bend) to get weighed. Dad used to go and open the store and weigh them.

Then another thing they did, the coachman used to drive a full bus (better than a bus, forget what we used to call them) down our back paddock to have a swim - fancy being waited on like that. Only one of the girls went out, and perhaps you might remember she used to teach out where you lived at Centennial Park High School - May Walker was her name, there was about 14 children.

Then once in a while all the children were invited up to the home to see "lantern slides". Owned their own golf course - also had a bookkeeper - and all the men working on our side, and another lot doing farm work. Mr. Wilkie was their overseer and dad was overseer on our side.

We certainly had a wonderful childhood and plenty of interesting things going on - I could write lots more.

I forgot to say the day Alice and Banjo were married all the kids (station) sat on the fence to see them go and come back. Were married in our little church, perhaps she was better bred than he was, it doesn't seem many years ago that she died, there is only one of them left, Pat Walker, a great sheep dog breeder - often comes to the show and brings his dogs for the sheep dog trials.

That hospital at Concord Miss Eadith owned, also old people's cottages and a convalescent home. Well, perhaps I have forgotten a lot (top hats and morning suits were the men's clothes at the wedding).

Love, Mill.

The writer of the letter, Thelma Woolnough, was the eldest daughter of Charles Woolnough, gardener at Tenterfield who later came to Sydney and worked for the Walkers until going on to Centennial Park. Mill (Mildred) Woolnough is the daughter of Richard Dundas Woolnough and the sister of Charles. This letter has been passed on to us by my member Lloyd Woolnough and is published with permission.

Reminder

to all committee chairmen . . .

This month sees the end of our financial year and we need your annual reports (in writing) for our Annual General Meeting on 10th August. If you can supply it on disc that would be even better - ready to print in our newsletter.

YOU'RE INVITED! to the

Hand Weavers & Spinners Guild NSW Open Day 2005 on Saturday, 9th July from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in St. Paul's Church Hall, 205 Burwood Road, Burwood.

- Handspun Designer Yarn of the Year Award. A competition to spin a designer yarn where a minimum of 80% of the components in the yarn are handspun. Colourful, chunky, fine, playful, lofty, loopy or just exotic! Judging will be by popular choice.
- Members unique handmade work for sale. Items such as handspun yarn, handwoven, handknitted and handfelted wearables.
- Traders selling books, spinning and weaving supplies and equipment, yarns and other fibre related supplies.
- Demonstration of Spinning and Weaving
- Refreshments.

The Guild's aim is to bring together people who share a passion for weaving, spinning and associated fibre crafts. For more information call or fax the guild on any Thursday on 9745-1603 or by email nsweave@spin.net.au or check out their web site, www.spin.net.au/nsweave/

For your Diary

Wed. 6th July - Walker Estates
Wed. 13th July - General Meeting
Wed. 27th July - Executive Meeting

We still need guides and Devonshire Tea helpers for the following events



Wed. 3rd August - Group to Yaralla, 9:30 am - 1 or 2 guides, ? Devonshire Teas

Tuesday, 9th August - Group to Yaralla, 2:50 pm - 2 or 3 guides - Devonshire Teas

Sunday, 21st August - *Our own OPEN DAY AT RIVENDELL - ALL HANDS ON DECK*

Sunday, 18th September - Friends of Rookwood have asked for assistance with their open day - can you spare half a day?

Wednesday, 12th October - Group to Yaralla, 10:30 am - 2 or 3 guides needed, ? Devonshire Teas.

Sunday, 23rd October - *our OPEN DAY AT YARALLA - ALL HANDS ON DECK.*

Please put these dates in your diary NOW and if you know you will be free and able to assist please call the secretary as soon as possible. These days take some organising and it is nice to know in advance what help will be available.

Translations

In a Tokyo hotel: It is forbidden to steal hotels towels please. If you are not a person to do such a thing is please not read this notice.

In a Bucharest hotel lobby: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

In a Leipzig elevator: Do not enter lift backwards, and only when lit up.

In a Belgrade hotel elevator: To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of the wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.

In a Paris hotel elevator: Please leave your values at the front desk.

In a hotel in Athens: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 am daily.

From the Secretary's Desk

Auditor Needed: Do you know anyone who would be willing to audit our books at the end of this financial year? Our current auditor has been doing the job for several years and would now like a break.

A note for tour guides: To all tour guides and intending tour guides . . . we have updated our Tour Guide Books. Some of our guides have received these. If you haven't, please contact the secretary to get yours.

Photographs: We still need some help to do a rough sort of our photographs so they can be identified and indexed for reference.

Photocopying, Filing and Typing: Can you spare an hour or two, here and there, to help with this. It's mounting up.

Group Visits to Yaralla: These are becoming more popular and we need a roster of people who can help out with Devonshire Teas on week days and weekends. It only needs about an hour of your time. If you want to add your name please call the secretary.

PS. We can always use extra tour guides too, if you would care to give it a try.

In a Yugoslavian hotel: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

In a Japanese hotel: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from Russian Orthodox monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers: Not to perambulate the corridors during the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

On the menu of a Polish hotel: Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.