



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

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www.concordheritage.asn.au

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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
August, October, January,
March, May and July
at 7:30 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre

Walker Estates Committee
4th Wednesday of
September, November,
February, April and June
at 7:30 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre
Bob Jones, 8765-9347

Other Committees
As arranged
Watch the newsletter

Museum
Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682

Archives/Local History
Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

Heritage
Bob Jones, 8765-9347

Oral/Family History
Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

**CONCORD
HERITAGE MUSEUM**
5 Wellbank Street
Open 2:00 - 4:00 pm
on 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays & Saturdays

No.129

February 2007

Brush Farm

Gregory Blaxland built his home, Brush Farm House, in 1819-1821 and today it is one of Australia's oldest houses. It is situated adjacent to Brush Farm Park, a part of the former estate, overlooking the Parramatta River.

The original house was a four room, two-storey dwelling, built on sandstone foundations with brick walls.

It was sold by Blaxland in 1831 and was then owned by the Forster family, which included Blaxland's grandson and one-time Premier of NSW (1856-1860), William Forster.

From 1881 the house was the residence of John Bennett, a theatrical entrepreneur

with an interest in horse racing, who founded and developed the Rosehill Racecourse.

In 1894 it became the Carpentarian Boys' Reformatory, then a home for single mothers and delinquent girls, and later still a home for handicapped children.

In 1988 the Brush Farm House and property was purchased by the Department of Corrective Services.

Finally, in 1990, Ryde Municipal Council purchased it and they began restoration of the building in 2006.

(Information from Australian Heritage, Summer 2006 edition)

Saving Amiens - April 1918

The centenary of World War I is fast approaching and with it will come a great surge of interest in this period.

A few months ago I found an old lithograph, "Saving Amiens", subtitled "A Brilliant Bayonet Charge by the Ninth Australian Brigade". It shows the flamboyance of a military charge, with an interesting background of place and action, in this case a small river running under a small stone bridge. Our soldiers are grappling with an enemy machine gun crew and back-up troops advance from behind their Australian officer.

When I studied my reference*, "The Australian Battlefields of the Western Front" I found that the 9th Brigade were raised in N.S.W. and comprised the 33rd, 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions. This puzzled me as my father came from Western Australia and served with the 11th Battalion. However, I found further details which explained why my father acquired this picture and brought it home with him on a hospital ship in 1919.

Laffin explains that the "Battle of Amiens" took place a long way from Amiens, actually south east of Villers-Bretonneux. Furthermore, from 31st May, 1918, all five A.I.F. Divisions came under the direct command of General John Monash. This would have included N.S.W. battalions as

well as the 11th Bn., W.A., to which my father belonged. An important aspect in the conduct of this action was that Australian troops were commanded by General Monash, who planned his actions in a meticulous manner and his troops trusted him.



Saving Amiens, by F. Matania.



Bulletin Board

February Wed 14: Greg Blaxel, "The Life of Gregory Blaxland" and "Brush Farm";

March Wed 14: Gareth Debney, "Yaralla's Wild Side". Gareth will be focusing mainly on the conservation value and significance of the remnant natural bushland on Yaralla and Rivendell.

John Laffin goes on to detail a number of engagements in this important battle, where many of the incidents were breathtaking in their daring". . . and many gallant actions took place along the advancing front line . . . "

One of these "gallant actions" involved Lt. Lawrence McCarthy, who "led a platoon and bombed his way . . . awarded the V.C."

My father had many friends and cousins in the 16th Bn. And also had family connections with York, W.A., where Lt. McCarthy lived. The connection with McCarthy probably explains why my father was interested in this particular picture, as I do not believe he brought much home on the hospital ship.

This war picture is probably a composite of several typical actions of this phase of confrontation, which sustained considerable losses despite Monash's meticulous planning.

As Laffin writes: "The triumph had left streaks of Australian blood across the southern Somme". Having seen the German military cemeteries of the area, with mass graves, their loss of blood was obviously immense.

This old picture is already eighty seven years old and nearing its century. It captures the action and savagery of the first World War in which we lost a huge proportion of our fit young men, gloriously, bravely, but often needlessly. The least we can do is to understand and remember their sacrifice.

It is possible that the Ninth Australian Brigade, whose deeds helped end the war in the "Battle of Amiens" may have also included WW I A.I.F. soldiers from Concord.

Margaret Hughes

Ref: Australian Battlefields of the Western Front, 1916-18, by John Laffin.

Ed Note: *You may remember Margaret coming along to one of our meetings to tell us about this very badly damaged print she was trying to*

have restored. She gave us the above article and I was waiting to see whether she managed to do anything with her print before publishing.

However, In our museum cleanup of our collection of paintings, drawings, etc., we came across a framed lithograph of the same print.

Printed on the back is the following:

The first rush of the great German offensive in March of last year carried the enemy to a position in front of Villers Bretonneux nine miles east of Amiens, where he (the enemy) paused for a few days reorganising and accumulating material to allow him to continue the advance.

The position was extremely critical for the allies, as the loss of Villers Bretonneux would have left open the road to Amiens, there being at that time no other defensive positions east of the city.

On April 4 at 6:00 a.m. following a tremendous bombardment of the town, the enemy attacked in great force.

Australian troops were holding the line immediately in front of the town and as the Germans succeeded in penetrating the line between their left flank and the Somme the position was extremely serious, but a readjustment of the line was made, and British cavalry arriving at the critical moment, dismounted, dug in and filled the breach and, with the Australians, frustrated the enemy's further attempts to advance.

In the afternoon the Germans renewed the attack, making violent efforts to envelope the town from the south and by sheer weight of numbers gaining some temporary success but a brilliant bayonet charge by the 9th Australian Brigade completely saved the situation, London troops digging in in support.

The German losses in this battle were very heavy, a large number of dead being left on the field.

gaps, and helping to paint at a later date.

* All major heavier work is carried out by Vince Scerri with the occasional assistance from members.

* We now have some people who have offered to help whenever they can. They are Bob Jones, who has cleaned up the water gutters along the drive and cleaned up part of the grounds, Lorraine Holmes, Ron Schmid, John Clarke, John Walmsley, Frances Simon, Trish Skehan (with a distance problem), and Mary Scerri, who to date has also put in long hours.

* Whilst every offer is very much appreciated, we need to find still more volunteers, members

Cabarita Park - Draft Management Plan

A draft Plan of Management has been prepared for Cabarita Park to guide Council as the owner of community land and trust manager of two parcels of Crown Land in the future management of Cabarita Park.

Due to its historical connections, Cabarita Park has substantial regional significance. The park occupies a prominent location on the Parramatta River and accommodates wide range of significant activities.

The Draft Plan of Management will be on public exhibition from Wednesday 10 January until Wednesday 12 March 2007, and written submissions to the General Manager will be accepted during this period. It may be viewed at the Canada Bay Civic Centre in Drummoyne, Five Dock Library, Concord Library and Concord West Library, or on Council's website www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au.

Written submissions should be sent to the General Manager, City of Canada Bay Council, Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne, 1470 or can be sent by email to council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Public Hearing

The Local Government Act requires Council, when preparing Plans of Management, to categorise Community Land as either:-

Sportsgrounds,
Areas of Cultural Significance,
Parks, and/or
General Community Use Areas.
Natural Areas,

The Act prescribes core objectives for each category. The Act also requires that a Public Hearing be held in regard to the proposed categorisations.

A Public Hearing will be held into the categorisations proposed in the draft plan of management on Thursday, 15 February 2007 at the **Concord Community Centre in Gipps Street**.

Comments from the public hearing will be considered in conjunction with submissions received during the public exhibition period.

For further information, please contact Council's Parks Planner, Mr Vincent Conroy, on 9911 6422 or email vincent.conroy@canadabay.nsw.gov.au

Gary Sawyer (General Manager)
City of Canada Bay Council

or not. This is a large project and we need all the help we can get.

* I don't have a date for working bees as we are waiting on our Council Heritage Officer to inspect the Dairy before we can start. As soon as we have the go-ahead we'll begin.

* A huge five-week clean up of the Dairy grounds and inside the building has been carried out. Hundreds of nails and brackets have also been removed from the walls, many steel brackets sticking out of the ground have all been cut off, huge gaps in the building have been closed off with timber, the toilet is now working. We have a kitchen with a working hot water urn and cold running water. Most noticeably, we have much more work ahead.

Please contact Vince Scerri on 9736 1003

Yaralla Dairy Project Update

* There is much to be done to refurbish the Dairy complex so that it could be used for our Devonshire teas. There is almost a job for every member.

*We are looking for volunteers to help clean up debris left by other workers, make teas or coffees, hold ladders, pass things to other workers, etc. Any small effort is very appreciated.

* We are also looking for people who are willing to help with slightly heavier duties, such as light sanding, light sawing, filling in mortar



Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Why Seven?

The fact that there are seven wonders and not five, six or 10 is hardly ever questioned. Seven was considered a special number within many ancient cultures, possibly because of the number of times it appears in nature.

For instance the moon moves through seven phases in a cycle lasting about 28 days – a multiple of seven.

When people looked for some way to group days they grouped them in weeks of seven days, four of which would make a lunar month. There are also seven colours in a rainbow.

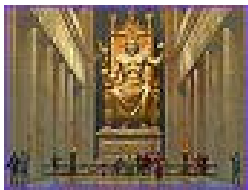
Naturally enough when people went looking for the best manmade structures they grouped them into seven.

The best known list of the seven man-made wonders of the ancient world was compiled by Antipater round the 3rd century BC.

☛ **Pharos Lighthouse on Pharos Island**, off Alexandria in Egypt. Completed about 280 BC. Standing about 110m tall, the Pharos lighthouse was built to aid ships navigating the difficult Egyptian coast. It eventually fell into ruin and the Qa'it Bay fortress was constructed from the ruins on the same site during the 15th century AD



☛ **Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Greece.** Built about 430BC. The shrine of Olympia is best known as the site of the original Olympic games, but the games were dedicated to Zeus, chief god of the Green pan-



theon. In the temple of Zeus at Olympia was a 12m-high statue of the god, made mostly of ivory and gold over a wooden interior scaffold. By the 5th century AD the statue had been stripped of the gold and its ivory was either looted or destroyed in a fire in 475. Nothing remains of the statue but its image influenced Christian depictions of God and Jesus (even American memorials of presidents Lincoln and Washington).

☛ **The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus** (modern day Bodrum in Turkey). It was built between 353BC and 351 BC. This was the



monumental tomb of King Mausolus of Caria in Anatolia. It was built by his widow and was adorned with sculptures by the four greatest Greek artists of the time. Most of it was destroyed in an earthquake some time after the 11th century AD, but the marble and stone was taken by local people to be used for other buildings. Mausolus' tomb became a model for many tombs thereafter and the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance was based on it.

☛ **Colossus of Rhodes**, an island in the Aegean Sea. It was built between 294BC and 282BC. The Colossus was a huge bronze statue of the sun god Helios, built at the harbour of Rhodes. It was built to honour the Rhodians' chief god to thank him for raising the Macedonian siege of Rhodes (from 305BC-304BC). Helios was believed to be the god who revealed Rhodes, bringing it up from the bottom of the sea. It was destroyed by an earthquake in about 225BC. The statue was left where it fell until the Arabs invaded in AD654, when the bronze and iron was scavenged and sold for scrap. The Statue of Liberty was inspired by the Colossus of Rhodes. A plaque at the base of the statue features a poem by Emma Lazarus called "The New Colossus".



☛ **Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.** Built between 2575BC and 2465BC. These are the oldest of the seven ancient wonders, consisting of three stone structures built during the 4th dynasty of ancient Egypt. They are the only ancient wonder from the list of seven to survive, mostly intact, today. However, in Philo's time they were covered with an outer layer of fine white limestone.



☛ **Temple of Artemis at Ephesus** (in modern day Turkey). Built about 550BC. Artemis was the Greek goddess of – among other things – the hunt, wild animals, crops, chastity and (paradoxically) childbirth. She was



also known as Diana in Roman mythology. It was burned down in 356BC by a disturbed young man named Herostratus, who hoped the act would make him famous.

☛ **Hanging Gardens of Babylon** (modern day Iraq). Built between the 9th and 6th centuries BC. The Hanging Gardens did not actually hang, they were a series of tiered, landscaped terraces



that formed part of a palace, as if it were part-mountain, part-castle. They were most likely destroyed by an earthquake.

Note: The idea of the list dates to the fifth century B.C. when Greek historian Herodotus marvelled about some of the Wonders. Although it has been argued that other ancient wonders of comparable regard—such as the Great Wall of China, Machu Picchu in Peru, and the Aztec Temple in Tenochtitlan in Mexico—should have been included, these may not have been known about by the Greeks who first proposed Wonders for the list. **And now . . .**

The New Seven Wonders of the Modern World

For the past six years, a movement has been afoot to create a new seven wonders list. The "New 7 Wonders Project" was created in 2001 by Swiss filmmaker and adventurer, Bernard Weber, who wanted to create a list of seven wonders that would update the ancient one.

The Egyptian pyramids are the only surviving structures from the original list of seven architectural marvels. Those seven were deemed wonders in ancient times by observers of the Mediterranean and Middle East

By 2005, the New 7 Wonders Project had compiled a list of 200 buildings and monuments. An internet vote that included 20 million participants whittled the list down to 77. The list was then further reduced to a short list of 21 by a panel of eminent architects. And for the final list, the online world is currently casting its votes. The final list will be announced on 7/7/07 in Lisbon, Portugal.

One problem with the old ancient wonders list is that most of us don't have even a vague sense of what these ancient glorious monuments look like since they perished so long ago. But the new list of 21 potential wonders is truly full of wonders both awe-inspiring and familiar to most people - Stonehenge, the Taj Mahal, the Eiffel Tower, Angkor Wat, the Great Wall of China. There isn't one structure on the list that doesn't deserve to be there, and it's going to be a tough job making the final cut.

The project, which has received massive publicity, has inspired discussion about the world's greatest structures. As an added bonus, 50% of all net revenue raised by the New 7 Wonders Project will be used to fund restoration efforts worldwide.

The 21 Candidates for the New Seven Wonders:

Acropolis, Greece: A million people come here each year to see the marble temples—including the ruins of the columned Parthenon—and statues of Greek gods and goddesses dating from the fifth century B.C.

Alhambra, Spain: The palace and citadel, perched above Granada, was the residence of the Moorish caliphs who governed southern Spain in splendor until 1492, when the city was conquered by the Christian forces of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, ending 800 years of Muslim rule. Stunning features include mosa-

ics, arabesques and mocarabe, or honeycomb work.

Angkor, Cambodia: The archaeological site in Siem Reap was the capital of the Khmer (Cambodian) empire from the ninth to 15th centuries. It served as administrative center and place of worship for a prosperous kingdom that stretched from Vietnam to China and the Bay of Bengal. The 12th century ruins include Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom.

Christ Redeemer Statue, Brazil: The 125-foot statue of Christ the Redeemer with outstretched arms overlooks Rio de Janeiro from atop Mount Corcovado. The statue was built in pieces in France starting in 1926, and shipped to Brazil. A railway carried it up the 2,343-foot mountain for the 1931 inauguration.

Colosseum, Italy: The 50,000-seat amphitheater in Rome was inaugurated in A.D. 80. The arena has influenced the design of modern stadiums.

Easter Island, Chile: Hundreds of massive stone busts, or Moais, are all that remains from the prehistoric Rapanui culture that crafted them between 400 and 1,000 years ago to represent deceased ancestors. Some statues are over 70 feet tall.

Eiffel Tower, France: The 985-foot tower, built in 1889 for the International Exposition, symbolizes Paris. Made almost entirely of open-lattice wrought iron and erected in only two years with a small labor force, the tower—Paris' tallest structure—demonstrated advances in construction techniques, but some initially criticized it as unaesthetic.

Great Wall of China: The 4,160-mile barricade running from east to west is the world's longest man-made structure. The fortification was built to protect various dynasties from invasion by Huns, Mongols, Turks and other nomadic tribes. Construction took place over hundreds of years, beginning in the seventh century B.C.

Hagia Sophia, Turkey: The soaring cathedral, also called the Church of Holy Wisdom, was completed in 537 AD at Constantinople, today's Istanbul. In 1453, when Constantinople fell to the Ottomans, it became a mosque with minarets. When Turkish President Kemal Ataturk turned it into a museum in 1935, Christian mosaics covered up by the Muslims were revealed.

Kiyomizu Temple, Japan: Kyoto's Kiyomizudera, which means Clear Water Temple, was founded by a Buddhist sect in 798 and rebuilt in 1633 after a fire. Drinking from its three-stream waterfall is believed to confer health, longevity and success.

Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral, Russia: Onion domes with golden cupolas surrounded by red brick walls are at the heart of Moscow's Kremlin, a Medieval fortress converted into the center of Russian government. The Kremlin once symbolized Soviet communism. The Cathedral of St. Basil the Blessed on adjacent Red Square features nine towers of different colors. It was built by Czar Ivan the Terrible in the mid-16th century.

Machu Picchu, Peru: Built by the Incan Empire in the 15th century, Machu Picchu's walls, palaces, temples and dwellings are perched in the clouds at 8,000 feet above sea level in the Andes overlooking a lush valley 310 miles from Lima.

Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany: The inspiration for the Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland, Neuschwanstein is a creation of "Mad King" Ludwig II of Bavaria, who had it built in the 19th century to indulge his romantic fancies. Perched on a peak in the Bavarian Alps, the gray granite castle rises to towers, turrets and pinnacles and contains many paintings with scenes from Richard Wagner operas admired by Ludwig.

Petra, Jordan: This ancient city in southwestern Jordan, built on a terrace around the Wadi Musa or Valley of Moses, was the capital of the Arab kingdom of the Nabateans, a center of caravan trade, and continued to flourish under Roman rule after the Nabateans' defeat in A.D. 106. The city is famous for water tunnels and stone structures carved in the rock, including Ad-Dayr, "the Monastery," an uncompleted tomb facade that served as a church during Byzantine times.

Pyramid at Chichen Itza, Mexico: This step pyramid surmounted by a temple was part of a sacred site in an important Mayan center on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. It is built according to the solar calendar. Shadows at the fall and spring equinoxes are said to look like a snake crawling down the steps, similar to the carved serpent at the top. An older pyramid inside features a jade-studded, red jaguar throne.

Pyramid of Giza, Egypt: The only surviving structures of the original seven wonders, the three pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs 4,500 years ago. Nearby is the Great Sphinx statue, with a man's face and a lion's body.

Statue of Liberty, New York: The 305-foot statue in New York Harbor has welcomed immigrants and symbolized freedom since 1886, when it was dedicated as a gift of the French government.

Stonehenge, Britain: How and why this circular monument of massive rocks was created between 3,000 and 1,600 B.C. is unknown, but some experts say the stones were aligned as part of a sun-worshipping culture or astronomical calendar. Today it is a major tourist attraction. Druids and New Age followers gather here every June 21 to celebrate summer solstice.

Sydney Opera House, Australia: Situated on Bennelong Point reaching into Sydney's harbor, the opera house was designed by Danish architect Jorn Utzon and opened in 1973 by Queen Elizabeth II. Its roof resembles a ship in full sail and is covered by over 1 million white tiles. The building has 1,000 rooms.

Taj Mahal, India: The white marble-domed mausoleum in Agra was built by a 17th century Mogul emperor for his favorite wife, who died in childbirth. The architecture combines Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles. The complex houses the graves of the emperor, his wife, and other royalty.

Timbuktu, Mali: Two of West Africa's oldest mosques, the Djingareyber, or Great Mosque, and the Sankore mosque built during the 14th and early 15th centuries can still be seen here in the northern Sahara Desert. Founded about A.D. 1,100, Timbuktu was a flourishing caravan center in the Arabic world and a leading spiritual and intellectual center in the 15th and 16th centuries, with one of the world's first universities.

From the Secretary's Desk

Museum Clean up: Thanks to those who turned up to help with the museum cleanup. We did manage to copy all the painting and photographs that were stored, and to catalogue them if we need to located any at a later date. Unfortunately this was all we managed so we'll probably be organising another day later.

Yaralla Open Day: Our next Open Day at Yaralla will be on Sunday, 29th April. Please mark it in your diary now! **If you are going to be able to help on the day please contact the secretary as soon as possible so we can organise.**

Seven New Wonders of the World: To cast your vote (*with the Opera House as No. 1, naturally*) go to <http://www.new7wonders.com/index.php?id=352>

Congratulation to our member Virginia Walker who has recently won a Human Rights Award. Virginia is the founder and chairperson of Bridge for Asylum Seekers, an organisation that provides financial support for refugees on Bridging Visas, who are not allowed to work and do not receive health benefits or welfare payments to survive in Sydney. They can only help people who have been tortured, persecuted, or seen their families die in front of them.

Calling Garden Lovers: The Concord Garden Club, in conjunction with the Council, will be holding their Concord Autumn Flower and Floral Art Show on Saturday, 24th March (10:30 am to 4:00 pm) and Sunday, 24th March (11:00 am to 3:00 pm) in the Concord Community Centre in Gipps Street. Show entries close at 5:00 pm on Thursday, 22nd March, 2007 with Show Secretary, Mrs. Pat Allport, phone 9558-1209.

Rally - Coalition Against Private Overdevelopment: This group is organising a combined protest rally on Sunday, 11th February, 2007. It will start in Hyde Park (Archibald Fountain) and march to Parliament House. They are contacting other groups - Friends of Gladesville Hospital and Hunters Hill community, who are opposing the sale of The Priory; Friends of Graythwaite, who are facing sell off of at least part of the estate; and Friends of Callum Park, as well as our Society. In fact, all community groups across NSW who are opposing NSW government planning approvals/disasters and other related issues are invited to participate.

The purpose of the rally is for each community group to hold their own protest, but with the combined support of other groups facing similar issues. There will be key note speakers.

There will be plenty of media attending - one representative from each group will have access to the media. This would be an opportunity to get the Walker story out to the wider community.

For Your Diary

Wed. 14th February - General Meeting

Wed. 28th February - Walker Estates Committee Meeting

Wed. 14th March - General Meeting

Wed. 28th March - Executive Meeting