



"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
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.133

JUNE 2007

Our Museum. Where it it Going?

Our original museum was opened on 12th August, 1972 in the Joanna Walker Children's Cottage in the grounds of the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital. Unfortunately, due to the Area Health Service requiring the building for their own use, we were forced to close, and vacated the premises in May 1990.

During the 17 years that it had operated the Society amassed an extremely large collection of items relating to both Concord and to the way of living over the past 100 years or so. With its situation in such an historic area and with its vast collection, it was considered one of the finest social history museums in the State and was used regularly by schools in the area as a teaching adjunct, as well as attracting visitors from all over the metropolitan area.

After it was closed, the contents of the museum were placed in storage pending finding another suitable building to house it. Several discussions were held with council over the next couple of years and, despite tentative offers of several sites, nothing concrete ever came of them.

We again approached Council in early 1993 and finally, at a Council meeting in April, it was resolved to establish, as a project for the celebration of the 200th year of the first land grants in Concord, a new museum to accommodate our exhibits. Council gave us the use of a vacant block in Wellbank Street and set aside a sum of money to erect the necessary building.

This building was intended only as a temporary measure (5 years, but possibly up to 10 years), pending a suitable area and building becoming available in the future.

By September 1993 plans had been approved and the order gone out to the builder. The building and assembly of this pre-fab unit would take about four weeks and then a further two weeks to erect on the site. After that would be the mammoth task of getting the interior ready and bringing our artefacts up from storage, cleaning and organising the display.

Early on the morning of 6th December, 1993 the building arrived – in two sections – and was quickly lifted into position and assembled. Various minor building work, security, etc., then needed to be carried out to make it ready.

On 14th April, 1994 a public meeting was called, and so was born the Concord Heritage Society (incorporating the Concord Historical Society). At this meeting the keys to our new museum building were

handed over to us. By mid year, with the help of three Council trucks and drivers, three young people from the LEAP programme and supervision by Sid Money, things began to happen. Items were brought out of storage, sorted, cleaned and repaired. Display cases were set in place, sanded down and painted. It took just on 12 months before everything was in place ready for the opening.

On Sunday afternoon, 9th April, 1995, before a crowd of between 150 and 200 members, former members, aldermen and former aldermen, and citizens of Concord the museum was declared open by the then Mayor, Councillor Peter Woods.

The 10 year plan for the museum has now extended to 12 years, with no sign yet of another home.

Also, the building is too small for our collection and does not allow us to display items and information in the manner we would prefer. (After all, it was only temporary!)

In anticipation of a new home we have been developing plans to show more local history information and a better and more relevant display, including regular changes in the displays. It is not possible to carry out these plans in our present situation.

Because of the uncertain tenure on the Wellbank Street site we recently wrote to Council asking if we could be allowed to use the Bent Street Library building, when the new Library in Wellbank Street is completed. Council seemed to be enthusiastic at the beginning but we have not heard anything further and are becoming concerned.

The Concord Heritage Museum plays an important part in showing our culture and history and should become a regular attraction for visitor to our area, as well as a teaching tool for local school children and nursing home clients, for whom the items bring back happy memories. Unfortunately, in its current situation the Museum cannot do these things justice.

Please come along to our next meeting on 13th June and let us have your ideas and thoughts on the future of this important part of our Society.



Bulletin Board

June, Wed. 13: The Future of Our Museum

July, Wed. 11 - Judith Hughes, "The Guilds of Old London"

Aug, Wed. 8 - Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers and Committee

Secrets of Inner West Revealed with a Family History

By Glen Coleman

The Concord Oval site once housed a penal colony for French Canadian political prisoners.

This little-known chapter of inner-west history was recently uncovered by author Mr. Kevin Marceau in a book tracing his family's history in Australia. *All But One Went Home* chronicles the Marceaus' history dating back to Kevin's great-great grandfather Josepher.

Joseph and 57 other French-speaking Canadians were shackled and transported to Australia for their part in a political uprising in Canada in 1838.

The Canadians' arrival to Sydney in 1840 was inauspicious, with the press labelling them as "malcontented political incendiaries". To keep them segregated from the community, the prisoners were sent to an isolated timber stockade at Concord.

The Longbottom Stockade had been built on marshy swampland in 1793. It was originally used to hold convicts overnight on the 24 kilometre march from Sydney to Parramatta.

From 1819, the 700 acres became a government farm where convicts cut timber and tended gardens. Several buildings were added to the site, which housed more than 100 convicts by 1820.

The farm's popularity declined in the mid-1820s and the stockade became a billeting centre for convicts sent to work on nearby Parramatta Road.

Mr. Marceau said authorities need not have worried about the French Canadians inciting revolution because they were 'well-behaved and devout Catholics'.

More than 30 of them were farmers and there were 15 skilled artisans, none of whom had previous convictions. During the early 1840's, the exiles labored on arduous tasks such as roadworks, breaking stones from

quarries at Five Dock, gathering timber and oysters (the latter were burnt for mortar lime). They worked under the watchful eye of Superintendent Henry Baddely, who had a reputation for cruel and erratic behavior.

Jospeh had the unpleasant task of being his cook and valet.

Gradually the exiles earned their tickets of leave and were pardoned by Queen Victoria in 1843. Many of the exiles returned to Canada while others became masons, helping to construct the Victoria Barracks

The story had a happy ending for Joseph Marceau, who set up a farm in Dapto, married, had 11 children and died in 1883 at the age of 77.

The French Canadians' legacy in Concord is shown in names such as Marceau Drive and Durham Street and Canada, Exile and France Bays along Parramatta River.

Former Canadian Prime Minister Mr Pierre Trudeau commemorated the exiles when he unveiled a memorial plaque at Concord in 1970.

Mr. Marceau is planning a family reunion to celebrate the Bicentenary and the 150th anniversary of the Canadian uprising. The reunion will be at Concord Museum, Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, on Sunday October 23rd (1988) from 10am. For details, call Mr. Marceau..

Extract from The Glebe 17th August 1988,

Update on Work at the Dairy

We are now over half way there. Much of the hard and filthy work, which entailed large bags of work rubbish having to be disposed of each week, is now completed.

We still have a lot of physical work, and some very large jobs ahead of us involving concrete, steel and timber work. But work is still going to plan.

We have a very dedicated team of workers who cry no pain.

Paint has been applied to some areas where possible.

Because of some difficulty organising times for volunteers **we now all meet on Fridays only, as one team of workers.**

If you can spare a little time, why not pop down on Fridays to see what you can do!

It is hoped to have the building ready for our next Open Day in September

More Industries on Exile Bay

Bushells Pty.Ltd.

Bushells bought land in Concord in the mid 1950s and built the first stage of their present extensive plant in 1957-1958.

In 1975 all the company's NSW operations were moved to the site and the main building of the complex has become a landmark in the district.

Approximately 300 men and women were employed by the company at Concord. Their work consists mainly of the roasting and manufacture of ground and instant coffee, the production of coffee essence, and the blending and packing of tea and teabags.

(Ed.note: Do you remember when you could have a virtual morning tea when Arnotts were baking and Bushells were making coffee? Oh, those wonderful aromas!)

Austral Bronze Crane Copper

The company began in the mid-1930s when George E. Crane established a small brass foundry in Burwood Road for the manufacture of taps. The site had previously been used for residential purposes and an existing caretaker's cottage served for many years as the company's laboratory. The original well on the lad has been retained and is still functional.

During WWII the company became part of the national defence effort when it began rolling aluminium alloys for aeroplane bodies for the Department of Defence. It was the first company to roll aluminium in Australia.

Expansion continued after the war under the direction of the founder's son, Clifford Crane, and the company moved its copper rolling foundry to Concord to join the brass and aluminium enterprise there.

Foreshore reclamation enabled the building of a copper 'cast house' as well as extensions to the aluminium rolling facility.

In 1968 G.E. Crane merged with Austral Bronze to form the present company which employs about 250 people in Concord.

Austral Bronze Crane Copper has the distinction of being the only company to roll brass and copper in Australia and is known, too, as a manufacturer of high quality aluminium sheet.

(Note: The company has since moved to Wetherill Park and the old site is now occupied by residential buildings.)

(Reference:

Concord, a Centenary History, 1883-1983.)

Rivendell Open Day

Sunday, 8th July, 2007

If you will be helping please let us know as soon as possible so we can prepare posters.

We also need more people to learn to be guides for Rivendell - can you help?

Cabarita Park - Historical events

The history of Cabarita Park and its context in Concord is well documented in various books and reports. Cabarita Park has a rich and varied history dating back to Sydney's early days. The Park has been continuously added to with structures, plants and memorials, giving the Park much of its present charm and character. The name Cabarita may have been derived from a place in Spain when Surveyor-General Mitchell served under Wellington.

Events in the European History

1788 - Cabarita Point was sighted by Captain Hunter on his journey up the Parramatta River in February.

1856 - Cabarita Park was reserved as a recreation area at the time of the first survey of the area.

1850s - A wharf on Cabarita Point was in existence as part of the Sydney to Parramatta steamers run.

1880 - An area of 9.7 hectares around Cabarita Point was dedicated as a 'Reserve for Public Recreation and Access to Wharf on 21 April.

Cabarita Park was little used and was described as "undeveloped wilderness" until construction of the ferry wharf at Cabarita Point in 1880. It was a publicly owned ferry stop, providing 3 berths providing access to the Park and to Correy's Pleasure Gardens.

1880-1918 - Correys Pleasure Gardens, a two-hectare site immediately south of Cabarita Park, was an extremely popular destination for company picnics and weekend outings.

Pleasure grounds and harbour-side recreation resorts accessed by ferries were a part of the health and lifestyle escapism movement. Correy's Pleasure Gardens was developed with exotic gardens, summer houses and a dance hall. It also had a ferry wharf, a large building for functions, a dirt racetrack, and pavilion.

Until 1907 patrons could make their way to the Gardens either by a carriage drive or by river transport.

1884 - William Beach defeated the world champion Edward Hanlon on the sculling course on the Parramatta River between Ryde Bridge and Henley Point. Beach went on to defend his world title successfully six times before his retirement in 1887.

1893-1935 - Large crowds watched rowing events and GPS regattas on the Parramatta River between Rhodes Point and Cabarita.

1903 - The pavilion in the middle of Cabarita Park is the timber structure of the ornate fibrous plastered rotunda in which the signing of the Federation documents, the swearing-in of Australia's first Governor General Lord Hopetoun, and the proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia occurred in Centennial Park in 1901. In 1902, the pavilion was described as being in a very dilapidated condition. A tender was let for removal of the structure from Centennial Park, and was subsequently bought by the Municipality of Concord for

£60. At the time of purchase, the plaster or ornamentations had all but disintegrated, leaving the wooden frame on which they had been erected. The Council re-erected the pavilion in Cabarita Park, then known as Mortlake Park.

1906 - Charles Sanders, the son of a Mortlake gas fitter, established Sanders boat shed at Cabarita.

1907 - The steam tramway between Enfield and Mortlake was extended to Cabarita. The present bus stop was the tramway turning area. The tram made Correys Pleasure Gardens even more popular for a time. Eventually with cars becoming increasingly available, train lines extending further from Sydney, and new recreation pursuits becoming popular, the Gardens faded. By WWI the ferry wharf also became less important after the steam tram ran as far as the park entrance.

1918 - Correy's Pleasure Gardens were sold.

Up to 1920s - The park remained in its original 'wild' state dating from pre-European settlement. During the 1920s, a significant number of original trees died and were used by locals as firewood. Most of the trees that now exist in the park were planted in the 1930s and 1940s.

1920 - Sanders Boatshed was moved to Cabarita Point because the former position exposed boats to southerly winds. d'Albora Marina continues today in this location.

1920s - Concord Council netted the north shore of the park with wire mesh for a shark-proof swimming enclosure in the harbour. The baths were originally 80 yards x 50 yards, but were later extended to 160 x 50 yards. Mens' and ladies' dressing sheds were provided. On busy days, between 400 and 500 people visited the baths.

1920s-1930s - Cabarita Park was popular because it was a prominent vantage point for rowing races and championships which were held along this section of the Parramatta River.

The park layout and plantings were established, including native swordgrass, Port Jackson figs, garden beds for annual flowers, and Phoenix Palms.

1923 - A substantial kiosk designed by architect A. Ponton was erected.

1931 - 50 trees were planted in the park to coincide with the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

1933 - Parramatta River Ferry steamers called at the Park Wharf. A frequent tram service operated from Ashfield and Enfield via Burwood to the park. The Concord Citi-

zens' Band performed regularly in the Park.

1936 - Council's solicitor, Mr Woodward, said that the Lands Department had advised that the land had never been proclaimed as a park. Cabarita Park was proclaimed a public park under the Public Parks Act 1912 on 24 April. Council were named as trustees, and could lease any portion with consent from the Minister of Lands.

1937 - Plans for Concord-Cabarita Coronation Baths were drawn up by a Concord Council Alderman. The Olympic pool and children's pool were constructed during the Depression at a cost of £10,230, using water pumped from the Parramatta River. The baths were named to commemorate the coronation of King George VI. The baths were opened on 7 November. In the first 30 days following the opening, 30,000 people visited the baths.

1938 - An obelisk as a memorial to William Beach (1850-1935), one of Australia's great international scullers and undefeated world champion, was erected by friends on the northern shoreline of the park. He competed in outrigger races on the Parramatta River.

1945 - A small memorial was placed, and a row of trees forming a 'Victory Coppice' were planted in a ceremony on Arbor Day (25 August) along the southern road to commemorate those from Concord municipality who served and fell during WWII. Unusually, the plantings are almost exclusively of species native to Australia. A similar planting ceremony was held the following year on Arbor Day.

1951 - As part of Jubilee of Federation celebrations, a memorial tablet and plaque at the rotunda commemorating the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia in Centennial Park on 1 January 1901 was unveiled by the Honourable K.W. Street, Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice of NSW on 9 May. The ceremony, organised by Concord Council, was attended by some 10,000 people as well as representatives of other harbourside Councils. Accompanying the ceremony were exhibitions of basketball, gymnastics and aquatic events, including waterskiing and speed-boat racing.

1961 - The Olympic and children's pool were modernised by filtration and chlorination, and improvement of the surrounds at a cost of £8,900. A picnic enclosure accessible from the baths was also provided.

1978 - A Boating Spectacular run by the Boating Industry Association was held in the Park. This involved boat displays, as well as demonstrations on the river.

1979 - Fire damaged the kiosk and caretaker's cottage on 27 September.

1981 - The kiosk and caretaker's cottage was demolished in March 1981.

1982 - Council constructed a large picnic shed on the site of the former caretaker's residence and kiosk.

1987 - Commercial swing moorings were approved by NSW Waterways.

1988 - Sanders Marina extended its area. The NSW Minister for Natural Resources adopted a Plan of Management for Cabarita Park.

mid 1990s - Parking fees were collected by an attendant at the entrance gate.

1998 - Pay and display vehicle parking arrangements were introduced.

2000 - The Rivercat ferry wharf was opened by the MP for Drummoyne, John Murray on 20 January.

2001 - The children's playground was completed.

2005 - The foreshore path between Kendall Inlet and the ferry wharf was constructed.

Sources: *Coupe, 1997 PoM; Karskens, 1986*

Aboriginal

An archaeological survey of Cabarita Park in 1985 for the Parramatta River Heritage Study identified three areas of open middens, or major concentrations of shell within one larger single midden, together with stone artefacts, which were recorded as a single site (NPWS site 45-6-532').

In 1985, this site was a large midden extending up to 400 metres along the northern foreshore of the Park. By 1989, the site was much reduced when only 40 metres x 45 metres was documented as exposed or evident. Very little surface evidence of this site remains due to disturbance from intensive visitor use, continuing landscaping and maintenance works, and littering.

Gondwana Consulting (2006) identified that this midden is not of great regional significance, but is important locally as one of the few remaining tangible examples of prior Aboriginal occupation of the area.

1 *Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)*

(The above article was produced by Sandy Hoy for the Cabarita Park Plan of Management Draft. Reprinted with permission of author and City of Canada Bay Council.)

If anyone should ask you what you get out of our Society, tell them this: "High on the side of a mountain in Scotland there is said to be an inn and over the door is a sign with these words: 'In this inn you will find joy and good company - provided you bring them with you'."

Abercrombie House

If you are looking for somewhere to go on the June long weekend, why not take a trip to Bathurst. Abercrombie House (1878) will be open from 11 am. Cost: \$8.00 (pay at gate, no bookings needed). The address is 311 Ophir Road, Bathurst.

To get more information contact Keith Marshall on 9621-8971 or 0424-132-421. or email: keithmarshall@optusnet.com.au

Dangerous Practices of the Salvation Army

Our attention has lately been called to the dangers to which the public are subjected by certain practices of the Salvation Army. It is contended by many that the Army should not be allowed to parade the streets at night and recent events show clearly that they should not. A few nights ago Mr. H P Andrews was quietly walking along the street when a horse came galloping wildly by, brushed against him, and knocked him down. The horse had a rider on its back, but it had been frightened by the band of the Army, and was totally unmanageable. Mr. Andrews had scarcely regained his feet when another horse nearly galloped over him. Fortunately he managed to escape from the "cavalry charge" without being hurt, but he had a very narrow escape of being killed.

We could relate other instances in which well-known residents of the town have run the gauntlet with death through horses they were driving being frightened by the Army, but the case mentioned is sufficient to show that night processions should be stopped. It is a favourite trick on the part of the drummer to give three sounding hits on the drum before the tune is commenced, and this sound has the maddening effect on horses, frightening them out of all control. The blows are not necessary, and they may well be dispensed with.

Another little manoeuvre the Army occasionally indulge in on Sunday afternoons is to march round in a circle in the street in front of the barracks, completely blocking it. If this is not obstructing the roadway we do not know what is and the police should be empowered to prevent a repetition of the dangerous custom. The council should take into consideration the question of street processions by night, and either stop them or regulate them in some way, and it would be better to do it now than to wait until someone is killed.

If Mr. Andrews had been killed, the rider of the horse would, doubtless, have been prosecuted for manslaughter, whereas he was not to blame in the least. The Army were at fault, and they should be shown at once they cannot endanger the lives and limbs of persons with impunity.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post. 29 November 1884.

(The Argyle Bulletin, May 2007)

From the Secretary's Desk

Rivendell Open Day: Calling all guides and Devonshire tea helpers - I know you've hardly had time to catch your breath but this Open Day is fast approaching. **Sunday, 8th July is the date** so please mark your diaries now. If you are again able to help please let me know as soon as possible.

To our potential Yaralla guides, if you think you'd like to help with this Estate as well, then please come along and join in the tours to see what it's like.

Assistant Secretary: I'm not sure how long I will be able to continue doing the work I have been and it would be less of a problem if some of our members could assist with the work so they can learn the basics. In this way there could be a smooth changeover at some time in the future.

We particularly need someone to learn how our Open Days are organised and the work that has to be done to see it run smoothly. This is a very important function of our Society and we need more than one person who knows what to do.

Annual General Meeting: Make a note in your diaries now - it will be on Wednesday, 8th August. At this time we will receive the reports from the various Committee Chairmen, the President and the Auditor. Also all positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called to fill the various vacancies.

Do you want to become more involved with the Society? Have you given any thought to standing for office at our AGM? New blood and new ideas are always welcome and serving on the committee can be a very satisfying experience. *Please give it some thought. We need you!*

For Your Diary

Wed. 13th June - General meeting

Wed. 27th June - Walker Estates

Sun. 8th July - Rivendell Open Day

Wed. 11th July - General Meeting

Wed. 25th July - Executive Meeting

Wed. 8th August - Annual General Meeting and Election of Committee

Wed. 22nd August - Executive meeting

Sun. 16th Sept. - Yaralla Open Day