



# "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

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## CONCORD HERITAGE MUSEUM

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

**No.134**

**July 2007**

## The Ancient Guilds

Guilds were economic and social associations of persons engaging in the same business or craft, typical of Western Europe in the Middle Ages. Membership was by profession or craft, and the primary function was to establish local control over that profession or craft by setting standards of workmanship and price, by protecting the business from competition, and by establishing status in society for members of the guild.

In the Western world today the term *guild* is used for certain associations that have little connection with the medieval institution. Some of the great professional associations (e.g., in medicine and law) fulfill some of the functions of the old guilds but are rarely given that name.

By the 11th cent. in Europe, associations of merchants had begun to form for the protection of commerce against the feudal governments. Those merchant guilds became extremely powerful as trade in the Mediterranean and across Europe increased. Some of the Italian merchant guilds, such as those in Genoa and Florence, became dominant in local government.

In England and in Germany the merchant guilds also exercised enormous power in the growing towns. Commerce was becoming less and less a local affair, and the guilds in some cases developed into inter-city leagues for the promotion and protection of trade. The merchant guilds had vast influence in the development of commerce during that period.

No less important were the craft guilds, the associations of artisans of a particular industry (e.g., the weavers guild). These grew with great rapidity as towns developed in the 12th cent. and tended to share power with the merchants or even, in some cases, to supplant them in power.

Generally the members were divided into masters, apprentices, and journeymen. The masters were the owners of the shops and instructors of the apprentices. The

apprentices were bound to the masters; they were accepted for a stipulated sum paid to the masters for training and were given a subsistence wage for a number of years; the amount paid and the length of time varied from one craft to another and one place to another. The apprentices were strictly under the control of the masters, but the conditions of control were set by guild regulation. The journeymen were men who had finished their training as apprentices but could not attain the status of masters, the number of masters being limited.

Each guild set the terms of its craft: the forms of labor, standard of product, and methods of sale. The guilds of London had wide social obligations and prominence in the city government.

The improvement of communications, the expansion of trade, with the introduction of foreign-made goods, and finally the appearance of the capitalist and the entrepreneur hastened the end of the guild system. The guilds, with their rigorous controls and emphasis on stability and quality, were not equipped to cope with the expanding production of a more capitalistic age. They tended to guard their monopolies jealously and to oppose change.

As time went on, the guild system became increasingly rigid, and the trend toward hereditary membership grew very marked. Thus the development of new trade and industry fell to the capitalists, who adapted themselves to new demands in an age of exploration and expansion.

By the 17th cent. the power of the guilds had withered in England, and their privileges were officially abolished in 1835.



## Bulletin Board

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

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

# In the Hallowed Halls of Learning

Life for students was strict a century ago.

"The day begins with prayers and breakfast at 8 o'clock. Everyone who does not have conscientious objections is supposed to be present at prayers. The ideas which find most favour in the college is that it is the bounden duty of the freshers to put in an appearance regularly and that there will be enough virtuous ones in the other years to make up a respectable number. The duties, position and correct behaviour of a fresher are clearly defined and as a general rule, she is not long in being plainly informed as to what they are."

After a five-year campaign, the Women's College at the University of Sydney started life at Strathmore, Glebe Point, in 1892; the college building opening two years later. But in a parliamentary debate on the Women's College Endowment Bill in 1889, an extreme critic, William Crick, who later became Minister for Lands, said: "*It is of no use to attempt by legislation to make women the equal of man. Woman never will be, and never has been his equal.*" With the Fairfax family supporting the college, *The Sydney Morning Herald* described life at the college just before Christmas 1902.

"Lectures at the university begin at 9

o'clock and the walk across the university park can be comfortably managed in 10 minutes, in how much less depends on the punctuality of the lecturer and the lateness in leaving the college. The women students have their own common room and dressing rooms at the university where they can put in spare time between lectures.

"The multiplicity of subjects the unfortunate fresher is supposed to grapple with – English, Latin, French, chemistry, physics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry (all compulsory subjects) besides any little extra things such as Greek that she may take up – would be enough to make the brain of an ordinary mortal reel. Subjects like chemistry and physics are dismissed in a term each with a final examination at the end of the term so that the memory need not be further burdened.

"The pass lectures are for the most part over in the morning; the honours lectures in the afternoon. Eleven o'clock tea is a feature of university and college life. But as it is not an authorised part of the college programme, the students make it in their own pantry. Lunch is a moveable feast from 12:30 to 2 and afternoon tea at 4. Dinner is at 6:30 after which supper materials are taken up to the pantry on

each floor where the students may make their own at any hour. Lights in the corridors and public rooms are put out at 10 o'clock. No one is allowed to be out later than 10 o'clock without special permission from the principal and that only extends to 11:30."

There are some relaxation. The *Herald* described the annual Old Students' Dinner held on June 25. "Everything is carried out like the old-fashioned Christmas. The decorations are holly and mistletoe with red ribbons. The hall is decorated with evergreens. Turkey, plum pudding and mince pies are the order of the day. No fruits are allowed save oranges and apples, raisin, figs and nuts.

"After dinner there are toasts and speeches and the evening is spent round the hall fire, roasting nuts and telling ghost stories.

"Sometimes fancy dress is decreed and it is usual to choose a book from which each person takes a part. *Alice in Wonderland* and *Nicholas Nickleby* have been successfully done."

*(Article by Geoff Howe and printed in the Inner Western Courier on 2/8/2004 – reprinted with permission)*

## The Walker Connection

In 1881 Thomas Walker gave £5000 for the foundation of bursaries at Sydney University, up to one half of which should be awarded to women. This gift followed the Senate's resolution to grant women equal participation with men in all university privileges. Women were first admitted to the University of Sydney in this same year with "*all its advantages and privileges in complete equality with men*".

This enlightened approach was in direct contrast to many overseas institutions of learning where women were not considered worthy of admission, especially to the disciplines of science and medicine. Some prestigious establishments allowed women to sit for final examinations, but would not confer the actual degree after graduation.

Although only a small number of male students lived in at that time, it seemed appropriate that the next logical step after admitting women as undergraduates was to provide them with residential accommodation. With the expectation of a lower rate of

women students, a sum of only £5000 would be sought by public subscription to be matched by funds from the government. It was also expected that the government would provide the salary for the principal.

A public meeting was called in 1887 to which academics, businessmen and community groups, directors of public institutions and government leaders were invited to attend.

Women who had attended the initial meeting in 1887 helped to plan fundraising for the College while the men discussed policies and strategies.

The Ladies Collecting Committee proceeded with the daunting task of securing donations.

By this time Eadith Walker was independently wealthy, having inherited the magnificent Yaralla estate. She boosted morale by promising "*to contribute the final one thousand pounds once the fund had already reached a total of four thousand pounds.*" By February 1891 the full sum and more was in hand. This amount, destined

for building purposes only, led to a decision to continue raising further monies needed for fittings and furnishing.

Eadith pledged more funding for the college library. With financial support well assured, the subscribers elected a council of nine members in May of that year.

In 1891 Eadith Walker visited Britain. There she joined others, representing the Sydney Women's College Council, to consider applications from 24 candidates aspiring to the post of foundation Principal of the College. Miss Louisa Macdonald, the only candidate who had experience at tertiary level teaching, was finally chosen and sailed for Australia in 1892.

Five designs were submitted for the new College and the one considered most suitable for the Australian climate was an Italianate style, featuring shaded upper verandahs, designed by John Sulman of the firm of Sulman and Powers. Some council members complained that the design was too reminiscent of the convalescent

hospital at Yaralla and others felt that, owing to the fact that John Sulman was a lecturer at the University and well known to the councillors, he should be declared ineligible to tender for the building.

The estimated costs also exceeded the available funds, prompting calls for a more reasonable design. Modifications were hastily made to the original plans and work proceeded.

Following her father's example, Eadith generously provided endowments to Sydney University. Some of them still assist undergraduates to pursue academic careers over a century later.

She was one of two major benefactors to the College's building fund, and also provided a substantial long-term loan for expenses. Eadith contributed the Yaralla Scholarship of £50, presented annually from 1895 to 1903, for any student of high attainment who could not afford to reside in College.

*Ref: The Walkers of Yaralla, Trish Skehan*

**Footnote:** In 1891 Louisa Macdonald helped launch the Womanhood Suffrage League of NSW. At one of the first meetings, she said: "It is said that the greatest discovery of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the discovery of women."

## New friends

We introduce some new members this month: Steven and Catherine Marvell of Concord; Barbara Gardiner of Tennyson Point; Anne Lewis and David Leahy of Concord West; and Robert and Carol Hussey of Cabarita.

We welcome you to our society and look forward to meeting you soon.

All have indicated their interest in the Walker Estates. Our next meeting of this group is on Wednesday, 27th June at 7:30 in the Senior Citizens' Centre and you are invited to join us.

## Rivendell Open Day Sunday, 8th July, 2007

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

*We also need more people to learn to be guides for Rivendell - can you help? Come along an accompany our guides to learn the ropes*

## Exile Bay Industries Tanner Middleton Pty.Ltd.

An important pioneer industry in Concord was timber felling, which began in the earliest years of the Longbottom Stockade. It was actively pursued by the Canadian exiles and continued right through until the 1920s when suburban development removed most of the remaining timber. A timber mill was set up in the Concord Golf Links in 1906 when Walker's Bush was being cleared to make a new course. Timber getting was also a side result of the clearing in the 1920s and 1930s of much of Cabarita Park when many of its original trees had died.

The most long lasting of the timber mills of Concord was that of Tanner Middleton. It was founded in 1927 by a merger of two separate companies, one of which was already established at Concord.

By 1933 it was a flourishing concern. According to the jubilee history of that year:

*The works cover an area of four acres, handling normally ten million feet of timber per annum. The principal activities comprise log sawing, milling, floorings, linings, weatherboards and mouldings, manufacture of doors and detail joinery.*

The Concord site was found to be the most suitable for expansion as the waterfrontage made possible the receipt of timber from overseas and the delivery of finished produced by barge to waterfront industrial sites. As other branches of the company were sold, the Concord site was expanded to five hectares. A log mill was installed and logs were rafted into Hen and Chicken Bay. Before World War II the company had established a profitable export business. During the war years Tanner Middleton was seconded to the American defence forces and later the Royal Navy, to carry strategic reserve stocks of timber and to service defence requirements in the Pacific region. In the years of intense building activity following the war, the company doubled its capacity and erected new building on the site to cater for the increased demands. In the late 1900s they employed over 200 workers.

They vacated the area fronting Exile Bay around 1990 and 200 units were built on the site.

*(Ref: Concord, A Centenary History, 1883-1983*

# YOU'RE Invited

## Burwood & Dist Historical Society:

**Second Annual Christmas in July Dinner** on Friday, 20th July, 2007, 7:00 for 7:30 start at "The Dome", Burwood RSL, Shaftesbury Road, Burwood.

**Cost:** \$35 per head for a traditional Christmas Dinner.

**Guest Speaker:** Mrs. Judith Dunn, "First Settlement of Parramatta".

**For details and RSVP** by 15th July: Peter Freame on 9742-5475 or pfreame@bigpond.com

## Communities for Communities

**A Starry Night Gala Charity Ball** with special guest Louise Sauvage, at Waterview Convention Centre, Bicentennial Park, Homebush Bay on Friday, 20th July from 7:00 pm to midnight. Dress: black tie.

3 course gourmet dinner with beer and wine; auction, fabulous prizes and dancing to the incredible 'Enormous Horns'.

**Tickets:** \$150 per person available from Communities for Communities - phone 9743-1069 or [www.communitiesforcommunities.com.au](http://www.communitiesforcommunities.com.au)

**Hosted by** Mayor Angelo Tsirekas, Co-Patron and supporting **Lucas Gardens Chool**, Canada Bay, for children with severe and multiple disabilities.

## Hunters Hill Historical Society

**Sausage Sizzle** at Hunters Hill RSL Hall, Cnr. Ady and Alexandra Streets, Hunters Hill on Thursday, 28th June - noon for 12:30 pm.

**After-lunch speaker** Frank Arbalestier, President of Hunters Hill RSL Sub Branch.

**Cost:** \$10 per person

**RSVP** by 25th June to Jocelyn Glencross, 9817-2212

### The Guilds in order of precedence

The Worshipful Companies of: Mercers; Drapers; Fishmongers; Goldsmiths & Fine Metal-workers; Merchant Taylors; Skinners; Haberdashers; Salters; Ironmongers & Blacksmiths; Vintners; Clothworkers & Dyers; Alchemists, Apothecaries & Potionmakers; Brewers & Distillers; Chirurgeons, Surgeons & Barbers; Bakers; Weaponsmiths & Armourers; Butchers; Saddlers & Leatherwork-ers; Shipwrights & Carpenters; Masons & Architects; Bowyers & Fletchers; Scriveners, Scribes & Stationers; Musicians, Bards & Troubadours; Master Mariners, Watermen & Lightermen

# Parramatta Road

It was under Governor Phillip, some time between 1789 and 1791 that a winding track was cut through thick bush between Sydney and Parramatta. Parramatta was known as Rose Hill at the time and its population of 1,970 exceeded Sydney's population of 1,170.

In 1802 Francois Peron, the French naturalist, described Parramatta Road as follows:

"A large road leads from Sydney Town to Parramatta, it is not paved but is well made and kept in good condition. It is almost everywhere wide enough for three carriages to pass abreast and bridges have been thrown over such parts of it as are interrupted by waters so that the traveller meets with no obstacle on his journey.

Having been opened through vast forests that were never before assailed by the axe, this grand road appears at a distance like an immense avenue of foliage and verdure. The charming freshness and an agreeable shade always prevail in this continuous bower, the silence of which is interrupted only by the singing and chirping of the richly plumed parroquet and other birds which inhabit it."

At that time the road was maintained through volunteer labour from landholding officers, businesses and settlers along the route. From 1810 a toll funded ongoing maintenance of the road by a private contractor.

Early farms made use of Parramatta Road; of note Grose Farm, Annandale Estate and Petersham Estate. Discovery of fertile land on the Hawkesbury plain appears to have discouraged further agricultural settlement.

Other early development was related to the road's communication function.

Longbottom Stockade and Government Farm was established at Concord in 1792. This was an overnight stopping point, prison, police barracks, government farm, timber mill and agistment area. It became famous as the place of incarceration of the French Canadian Exiles. Hotels developed as an important supporting function to travel along the road.

The preferred route between Parramatta and Sydney was, in fact, the Parramatta River until it was superseded by the railway line in the 1850s.

It was only with the proliferation of motor cars in the 1920s and 1930s that Parramatta Road became the principal transport route between the two cities.

Suburban growth south of Sydney Harbour followed the road and railway routes from the city centre.

Along Parramatta Road the suburbs of Glebe, Annandale, Leichhardt, Stanmore and Petersham evolved, although the road itself made no universal contribution to their development.

Stanmore and Petersham were fostered by the railway whilst Glebe, Annandale and Leichhardt profited from tram routes which eventually fed the suburbs directly.

Were it not for the presence of a tram line along Parramatta Road as far as Norton Street it could be argued that the ribbon of retail development might not have occurred.

The twentieth century saw the development of a significant manufacturing sector along the road. Icon sites such as Bonds, Arnotts and AWA provided employment for substantial numbers of workers. Parramatta Road also grew to be the most important car sale areas in Sydney. In recent years manufacturing sites have been rezoned and redeveloped as residential sites.

The Parramatta Road project commenced its third phase, planning and design, with the appointment of the Place Manager in November 2000. An urban design competition was staged in 2001 and following that the Master Plan for the full length of the road is being developed.

([www.parramattaroad.net/resources\\_02history.html](http://www.parramattaroad.net/resources_02history.html))

## "In union there is strength."

All the fruits gathered to hold a discussion. They wanted to discover why no other fruit but the grape contained the juice from which the finest wines are made.

"Why is the grape more worthy than we to be blessed with this gift of God?"

A cluster of grapes hanging nearby replied: "All of you grow individually and produce your fruits independently, but we grapes grow together in bunches and are faithful to each other."

## For Your Diary

4Sun. 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

## From the Secretary's Desk

**Secretary needs assistance:** 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.

Hopefully we will see some hands raised at the Annual General Meeting.

**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!*

## Rainy Days

*It rained and rained and rained,  
The average fall was well maintained,  
And when the lawns were simply bogs,  
It started to rain cats and dogs.  
And after a drought of half an hour,  
There came a light refreshing shower,  
And then, the most curious thing of all,  
A gentle rain began to fall.  
A little cloud went floating by  
Letting down a deluge from the sky,  
That wetted people to the skin,  
And after that the rain set in.  
Folks wondered what they next would get,  
They got, in fact, a lot of wet.  
But sometime soon we'll have a change  
And then perhaps we'll get more rain.*

(Ed: Thanks, John, for your contribution)