



"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.137

October 2007

Concord as it was (1977)

This is from a presentation to a Concord Historical Society meeting in June 1977 by Gladys Plant. It is a combination of notes from two Concord residents, Mrs. Shirley Woods and Miss Francis Pollon, who live in Alton Avenue, North Strathfield.

Francis Pollon's parents came to their new home in Alton Avenue on December 22nd 1920. They had been looking for a home to purchase, away from the dust of Petersham, where they had been living since their marriage. The builder described it as "a desirable residence set in rural surroundings with clean mountain air." *There were paddocks right over to Wellbank House, where the Flavelle family resides, and to the west of the Chinamen's Gardens beyond North Strathfield Station.*

The Pollon family did her 1920 Christmas shopping locally. Groceries came from Harries' Store, which, for many years, occupied the site on the corner of Concord Road and Wellbank Street. It is now a hairdressing salon. They still have the "KinKara" Tea Caddy and the Arnotts cake tin, which were purchased in 1920.

Her mother also purchased Christmas gifts from Mr. Gosby(?), the Draper, where the Bank of NSW now stands. Another Christmas gift was purchased for Frances' young sister from the Misses Ruff's Drapery Store.

The Walker Cottages in Concord Road, built in 1889, were admired by Mrs. Pollon as she passed by. They were known as the Penny Cottages.

On her way back home, Mrs. Pollon passed Doctor Paine's old home, opposite where Woolworths now stands, and then into her street past Miss Hoskins home on the corner. Miss Hoskins was related to the Iron and Steel people and she it was who had the first rotary clothes line in that street. It did not compare with today's type, according to Francis.

Francis mentions that among other neighbours was Mrs. Woods to their right, as well as Nurse Barrett, who did a lot of nursing and was very well known. The Pollon children were in a group that was regularly

picked up and taken to Miss Chick's Kindergarten.

Mention is made of the social life among the parents and children, as it revolved around the North Strathfield School and the various churches. Mr. Hall was the Headmaster at North Strathfield School. Much activity centred on Anzac Day, Empire Day and Wattle Day. I believe special songs were sung and there were picnics and half holidays.

Traffic was, of course, very sparse on Concord Road and she recalled the horse driven broughams as they ambled along from Strathfield Station. Of course there were steam trains to the city. There was great excitement when the first bus went along Concord Road. They were bright red in colour. Very much faster than the horse drawn vehicles. Hansom cabs still plied for hire from Strathfield station.

The pedestrian route to Burwood was down Patterson Street, past the big white two storey house which was occupied by Mayor Chapman in the 1890's and whose wife made two of the hand embroidered christening gowns on display in the Concord Historical Museum. Miss Pollon remarked that the hall of the Chapman House was big enough to turn a carriage and pair! And on they went through the Burwood Park to Burwood and such shops as Murray's Emporium (alas, now gone), where they sold everything. Hibley's and the Black Cat are also now gone.

At Cabarita, the swimming was segregated !! Women and girls on the right and men and boys on the left and nothing odd was thought of it. Mum and Dad were always ready to get the children homeward bound. There was also much excitement on the days that the "Head of the River" was held on the Parramatta River at Cabarita. The whole family went along to cheer their favourite team.



Bulletin Board

Wednesday, October 10 - Beverley Earnshaw,
speaking about her book "House & Heritage -
Residences of the Kogarah Municipality"

Shirley Woods recalls that there were acres of large open spaces in the area. The Alton Estate spread from Alton Avenue to Wellbank Street, where it joined the Walker Estate. The Alton Estate was divided into 127 building blocks. A beautiful spacious home with a tower was built on the corner of Concord Road and Alton Avenue, which is one of the highest points in Concord. The home, built by one of the Hordern family, had beautiful views from the glass walls of the Tower. The rooms were big, with lofty ceilings. The balustrade of the wide staircase was of polished cedar.

After the Horderns, the home was occupied by a Mr. Anderson, followed by a man named McDougall, who carefully demolished the stately home and used most of the materials to build four cottages on the Concord Road frontages and four facing Alton Avenue. Part of the croquet lawn had been cut up to make Alton Avenue. A two-storey portion that had been the servants' quarters and situated in Alton Avenue, still stands and has been occupied by a Rev. David and his family, the last of whom passed away in April 1976.

Next to the cottages on Concord Road there was another big two-storey home named "Gladwyn" which had very beautiful extensive views. The home was built and occupied by a Mr. Kitchen, the soap manufacturer. In more recent years a large block of white brick units has taken its place.

Further along Concord Road was a doctor's home, the residence was called "Creewood" and when it was cut up and sold the street at the back was called Creewood Street

People named McNamara, after whom McNamara Avenue was named, had lived on the corner of Patterson Street and McNamara Avenue. Their property ran through to Wellbank Street.

Nearby was a small ill-cared-for cemetery, first used in 1870 and last in 1889. About 1926 the cemetery was in a state of bad repair, much overgrown, and later on most of the graves were removed to Rookwood. Later it was an R.S.L. holding then bought by Council for £275 and is now a playing field and children's park called Henley Park. It is bounded by Pitt, Castlereagh and Flavelle Streets.

A large dairy was situated on the bottom end of Patterson Street run by Smiths but after the second World War, it was cut up and sold for building blocks.

Model T Fords at Yaralla

Thank you to Bill Webb and the members of the Model T Ford club for the wonderful display of classic vintage cars on the lawn at Yaralla mansion during our Open day on 16th September. Their display drew a large crowd of admirers.

Bill says that the club usually can't find enough suitable venues to showcase the cars. They are very welcome to come back next year!

Their members were keen to see the old photos of Dame Eadith's motorcars and have offered their help to identify the exact make and model of those in our photographic collection, even though none appear to be Fords.

In glorious sunshine, over 300 people attended the mansion and grounds tours, and expressed delight at their visit.

Some told me that they had no previous idea about the significant history of this estate. Many others were there for their second or third tours, and had brought along friends or family. I was also pleased to see so many children enjoying the day.

One visitor, Ron Walker, came from



Brisbane to visit his daughter and surprised the family with tickets for the day.

Ron was so impressed with the estate, he wants to join our society and do what he can to help. His only disappointments are that he isn't related to our Walkers, and that he doesn't live closer.

Due to recent maintenance, the grounds and gardens looked good. Unfortunately, the roses were not yet in bloom. However, Ryde TAFE's Horticultural group are

taking cuttings to grow, and donating them to us.

Soon we will have Yaralla rose bushes for sale. This should prove to be a great fund-raiser in future years.

The newly restored dairy building filled with visitors enjoying Devonshire teas, and seeing the restoration photos.

Another item of interest was the Indian room pieces on display in the Squash Court.

Several visiting groups, including Gladesville Probus, have booked guest-speaking talks about Yaralla.

Editor's Note: *How many of our older members can relate to these reminiscences?*

What are your memories? What shops were where? Who ran them? How did you spend your childhood? What games and amusements do you remember?

These are the memories that disappear with time and we should be recording them now while they still live.

Concord is constantly changing and the "old times" are being forgotten. Please don't let them disappear forever!

This article must have brought back memories for you.

Why not put pen to paper and share your memories with us all.



Future Guest Speakers

10th October - Beverley Earnshaw, speaking on her newly released book "Houses and Heritage - residences of the Kogarah Municipality.

28th November - Royal Flying Doctor Service (to be confirmed)

12th December - no meeting, but make sure you come to our Christmas barbecue

January - no meeting

February 13 - Gregory Blaxell, speaking about Banjo Paterson, apart from his poetry he led a very exciting and interesting life.

March 12 - Bill Allen speaking about the Sydney Ferries

April 9 - to be advised

Please mark the dates in your diary now so you won't forget and bring along any of your friends who might be interested.

Yaralla Dairy Complex Reborn

After 35 years of closure and neglect the east wing of the Dairy building, within the Yaralla estate, has been fully refurbished, back to its heyday. It was accomplished by our own volunteer members and other caring friends. The project took ten months to complete.

The work included the rebuilding of the cattle loading ramp, which is part of the complex. It was in a very bad state with much of the timber rotted away. It has been almost fully replaced with new posts which were concreted into the ground and new timber rails. To replace the rotted ramp flooring 80 year old rail sleepers were located.

The brick east wing has also been brought back to life. It meant repairing broken and missing bricks, repairing or replacing many rotted timbers, patching many dangerous areas in the floor and outside the entry, as well as scraping layers of thick enamel paint from the walls.

It is now back to what it once was – a

unique building that is fully functioning once more, although not as a working dairy but for our Devonshire tea area

It took 1,600 working hours to accomplish, but it has all been worthwhile.

The project was headed by Vince Scerri and his very dedicated band of volunteers – John Clarke, Mike Fisher, Lorraine Holmes, Bob Jones, Beryl Law, Annette Lemercier, Susan Mayfair, Betty Robertson, Helen Sadler, Mary Scerri, Victor Scerri, Ron Schmid and Frances Simon.



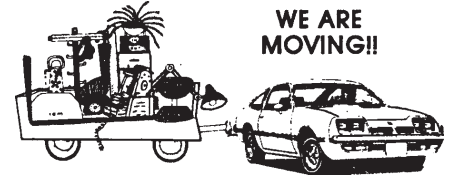
It saw its first official function when a special barbecue was held to thank all those who had worked so hard on the restoration. It had its second outing to celebrate the dedication of the newly restored balustrade and it will continue showing

off its new-found beauty at regular Open Days and other Society functions.

Our sincere thanks to all those who helped in any way, you should all be very proud of your accomplishment.

Our Museum has a Future

At our Balustrade Dedication function the Deputy Mayor, Jeanette O'Hara, made the announcement that Council had agreed to allow us to use the Bent Street Library building as a permanent home for our Museum.



After 12 years in our "temporary" premises we are all excited at the prospect of bringing the Museum to life again.

These larger premises, with a much larger storage area, will allow us to rotate displays and put on special topical displays on a regular basis.

However, the actual move will be quite a massive task. Everything will need to be packed, transported and then considered as to whether it should be stored away properly or put on display for the grand opening.

We have been told that we would probably have to vacate the present site by the end of this financial year but the new building will not be vacated until early in the new year so we need to start planning immediately.

We have set up a committee consisting of the Errol Grace, Lois Michel, Lorraine Holmes and Lola Sharp to negotiate with Council about their requirements and ongoing involvement and we will keep you informed as things progress.

However, we would like to know who will be available to help with the work so, if you want to be part of the move, please let Lorraine or Lois know.

Questions that haunt me!

Can you cry under water?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in" - but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every couple of hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all those ACME gadgets, why didn't he just buy dinner?


If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune? Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

A friendly reminder



Is your membership up to date?

We still have a few members who have not paid their 2007-2008 dues? If you are one of these there will be a reminder notice enclosed with this issue.

We don't want to lose you, but if we don't receive your renewal we will presume that you no longer wish to retain membership and will remove your name from our mailing list.

Balustrade Dedication



At 3 pm on Sunday, 26th August 2007, approximately 50 members and guests of

gathered by the Four Winds fountain at Yaralla.

Walker Estates Chairperson, Bob Jones, welcomed those present and then Deputy Mayor Jeanette O'Hara officially dedicated the restored balustrade area and spoke about the work our society does at the Estate.

Cr O'Hara also took this opportunity to announce that Council has approved the movement of our Museum from its temporary site into the old Library premises in Bent Street.

Our Society spent just over \$18,000 on restoring a number of balusters, several large urns at the top of the stairs and other work to help weath-

erproof and preserve the stonework. This restoration was undertaken by Bryan Doyle of Crookwell.

Amongst those present were Mrs Judith Lord (nee Walker) and her daughter-in-Law, Mrs Jill Lord, as well as our own members, Virginia and Alec Walker.

Judith was delighted to be back at Yaralla and reminisced about her days there as a young child, visiting Aunt Eadith.

Local Federal MP, Mr John Murphy, also attended.



Jill & Judith Lord

Many visitors took the time to stroll around the grounds and inspect several other projects completed by our team of dedicated workers.

Guests were later treated to a lovely afternoon tea in the newly restored Dairy building.

From the Secretary's Desk

Yaralla Open Day. Thank you to all who helped on this day. The weather was perfect, the line up of vintage cars was spectacular (I'd love to have seen the faces down Majors Bay Road as they come up in convoy to visit), and another financial success, adding another \$4,400 to our coffers for the ongoing work we do at Yaralla. Well done, all concerned. Don't forget to come along to our special barbecue on the 7th October.

Attendance at General Meetings: Trish Skehan goes to a great deal of trouble to source interesting speakers for our meetings and it is very disappointing when only about a dozen members turn up. Members are urged to try to attend meetings as often as possible. This way you will learn what is going on within our society, get to know other members, and have an interesting and enjoyable meeting.

Last Meeting our guest speaker was David Williamson, who took us on a wonderful journey, one which many of us will never make in person, visiting the Antarctic. This was presented with some of the most spectacular photographs we have ever seen. If you didn't come, you missed a wonderful evening.

Keys to Museum and Yaralla: I am trying to update my key records as there seems to be some keys out there which I don't have listed. If you have keys to any of our buildings would you please let me know.

Tours Organiser: I am finding it increasingly difficult to carry out the work I am presently undertaking, and with the advent of our Museum relocation I feel it is time to hand over to another of our members.

I am currently drawing up a list of things that have to be done to organise our Open Days to make the hand over easier. If you think you would like to take over the job, why not come and have a chat with me to find out how things work.

Reminder to members of the Executive: There is a special meeting being held at the Concord Citizens' Centre on Wednesday, 3rd October at 7:30 p.m. please make every effort to be present.

Reminder: Volunteers Meeting and "thank you" barbecue at Yaralla on Sunday, 7th October. All volunteers, whether members or not, are invited to join us but we need to know numbers no later than 3rd October for catering.

Tour Guides

and other interested volunteers

Sunday, October 7, commencing at 10:30 a.m. in the Dairy building is when we will be getting together to get your input on the organisation our open days and any improvements we can make.

The feedback from the last meeting we had was most helpful to all concerned and we need this follow-up to help continue to make these tours the resounding success they are.

Following this meeting we hope you can stay to join us for our . . .



Special "Thank You" Barbecue for all our helpers, whether they be members or not. This will be at the Dairy, commencing at approximately 12:30 pm.

This is not just for Yaralla helpers, but is for anyone who has helped us in any way.

If any of your friends, who are not members, have been helping us in any way, please make sure to invite them to come along and join us.

All food will be supplied but please BYO liquid refreshments. Tea and coffee will be available.

However, please let the secretary know by 3rd October if you will be coming so we can organise the catering.



For Your Diary

Wed. 3rd October - Special Executive Meeting - 7:30 pm

Sun. 7th October - Special meeting of tour guides and other volunteers

Sun. 7th October - Thank You Barbecue for all our Volunteers

Wed. 10th October - General Meeting

Wed. 24th October - Executive Meeting

Wed. 14th November - General Meeting

Wed. 28th November - Walker Estates

Wed. 12th December - Christmas Barbecue