



"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.140

January 2008



Late last year Karen Harris, the Cultural Development Officer at City of Canada Bay Council, applied to Museums & Galleries NSW for a grant of \$6,000 to secure the services of a Museum Advisor to assist with the museum relocation and further development and training of our members.

We have now been advised that the application was successful and this amount will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the City of Canada Bay Council for maximum benefit to us and the museum

Linda Raymond, who recently conducted the Training in Significance Assessment workshop attended by a group of our members, has agreed to take on this position.

Her responsibilities will cover:

- Discussions with members of our Society and the Drummoyne and District Historical Society about the potential joint location in the new space and how this would work for both our societies;
- Training in Significance Assessment for our volunteers, particularly those who did not have a chance to attend the recent workshop;
- An initial assessment of our collection, in conjunction with our volunteers, to identify collection themes, key items and ensure that the collection is ready to move to the new space;
- Facilitating planning sessions with our volunteers towards the development of our Strategic and Business Plan, which will ensure the museum's sustainable development as a lively facility that provides an educational and tourism resource to assist the City of Canada Bay Council celebrate its history and heritage as an integral part of its growth.

Linda will be responsible to the City of Canada Bay Council, through Karen Harris, and will report regularly to Museums & Galleries NSW.

She will spend a total of 20 days through-

Museum Happenings

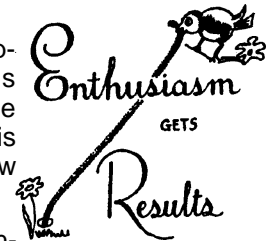
out the year working with us to achieve the aims set out.

She will also assist by undertaking a strategic analysis of the collection, history and community identity, and this process will help with the development of the strategic plan and business plan. All this will guide us in developing projects that enliven the presentation of the museum and realise its potential as a tourism and educational resource.

Linda will also assist in preparing grant applications, and will provide preservation and collection management training to improve the skills of our museum volunteers. This will better prepare us for seeking grants in the future.

As you can see it is going to be a very busy time and we want as many of our members as possible to come along and become part of this new and important activity of our society.

The Council has supplied us with this wonderful new home for our museum – it is now up to us to show what we can do.



With the proper training this grant affords us, we can make the museum a vibrant addition to Canada Bay's facilities.



Bulletin Board

January - no general 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 - Nick Blascovic from Canada Bay Council; topic to be advised

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

The Walker Chronicles.

Extracts from *A Month in the Bush of Australia. Journal of one of a Party of Gentlemen who recently travelled from Sydney to Port Phillip - with some remarks on the present state of the farming establishments and society in the settled parts of the Argyle Country.* This journal was intended only for the circle of the writers own family. Later the journal was published anonymously by Mr J Cross of London in 1838. However, various historic documents indicate clearly that it was written by Thomas Walker.

Thomas Walker, a resident of Lower Fort Street in Sydney, ventured into the Australian bush in April 1837, accompanied by several gentlemen, a party of servants, and an Aboriginal guide. Their remarkable journey from Sydney Town to Port Phillip would take over seven weeks, culminating in a voyage to Van Diemen's Land in June 1837.

Thomas offered profuse apologies for inconveniences in his writing, stating that he wrote whilst seated on the ground, paper propped on his knees, mostly at the end of each long, fatiguing day.

He need not have been so modest. I recently re-read Walker's journal after an interval of ten years. Once again I found a stirring and imaginative writer, one whose voice rang clearly through the pages. His vivid descriptions of life in the Australian bush are a remarkable tale of courage, hardship and mateship, as the party shared their experiences in Australia Felix.

Bear in mind that those intrepid explorers had no main roads or street maps to follow, that they ventured from place to place by word of mouth, pointed directions, and vague bush signs to follow Major Mitchells' line. Major Mitchell's own account would not be published till after this journal went to press.

During the next few issues of our magazine, we will read about life on a colonial farm, visit a great cave system, cross mighty rivers, battle bushfires and thunderstorms, and make contact with several Aboriginal tribes in the outback of Australia. As Thomas opens his heart and soul to the reader, we learn so much about this man who made Yaralla possible. I trust that you will enjoy his adventures.

Trish Skehan, Public Relations Officer

Information sought

We are still seeking information on the hulk of a sailing ship which was on the Parramatta River in the late 50s to mid 60s - near the punt and Sanders Boatshed. Can anyone help?

Now the Work Begins!

Linda will begin working with us next week – on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th January, meeting at the museum at 9:00 am, ready to start work by 9:30 sharp

We want as many of our members as possible to come along and become part of our new, and very active, Museum Committee.

Linda's idea is to look at the space available in the Bent Street building as a start to the planning. We will then need to look at interpretation of our artefacts in terms of display themes and layouts.

Please put your thinking caps on and see what ideas you can come up with for various parts of our history and heritage around which we can build thematic displays.

The more people who can come along, the more ideas we can throw up for discussion and consideration, and the better will be the results.

Don't say to yourself "I can't do this, I don't know enough about running a

museum". You don't need to be an expert in anything, we just need your knowledge of the local area and your thoughts and ideas of what you feel would be interesting enough to bring people to the museum.

We will also need to consider our various displays and signage needs so we can apply for grants to assist with the initial setting up.

So, please give these two days of meetings your support – its not brawn that's needed but your brains. We need your input - and you won't know what you can do until you come and take part.

Remember: Thursday 10th and Friday 11th January at 9:00 am at the museum. See you there!

Note: We did set Saturday 12th January to begin packing up. If you had arranged to be available on that day please give me a call late Friday to find out if this will still take place. We will probably be able to undertake some preliminary work.



Annual Christmas Barbecue

Once again this was very successful with over 40 in attendance and a good evening of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

And what a pleasant surprise it was to have Fred and Bill Stansfield and John Walmsley join us. Another very welcome presence was Jill Hodder, looking well and telling us she feels much better following a difficult year. We hope to see more of you all throughout the year.

Our congratulations to our two hard working cooks – Errol Grace and Mark Durance – the meat was cooked to perfection. It was matched only by the delicious salads and deserts supplied by our members.



If you came and enjoyed the evening then we know you'll be back next year.

But, if you missed out, make a note now to be there on the second Wednesday next December.

Yaralla Bushcare Group

The City of Canada Bay Council would like to invite all Bushcare volunteers, and anyone who may be interested, to participate in a tour and some light hands-on work at the Yaralla Estate.

This is to see how many people are interested in forming a permanent Yaralla Bushcare Group and to discuss works planned for the future.

This meeting will be held on Saturday, 19th January from 9:00 am to approx. 12 noon. Meet at the car park behind Concord RSL

It's Time

(a message from the secretary)

Our society has been operating now for 20 years . . . and, perhaps, it's time to take stock of what we have achieved . . . and what we hope to achieve in the next 20 years.

In the beginning our progress was strong. Within 3 years of commencement we had a membership of 200, we had found a building to turn into the Concord Museum and, through much hard work and co-operation of members, we managed to renovate the building and stock it with quite a lot of fascinating artefacts. Progress was easy . . . we were all enthusiastic, and 20 years younger!

Over the years our museum has progressed . . . and well . . . until it can now be regarded as one of the best museums of its type in the country.

This is due in no small part to our members who have helped over the years, and also to the many visitors who have found our museum so interesting that they have been willing to donate further items to enhance the displays.

Our museum continues to grow and grow . . . but we need the members to keep it operating.

Unfortunately, time is beginning to take its toll – we are all 20 years older now. The average age of our members is getting greater and we are not bringing in the younger members to take our place. This is a situation that needs to be remedied . . . and the time is NOW!

Membership is dwindling as members have retired and moved away from the area, or have died.

With all the current interest in conservation and preservation, surely there must be plenty of younger people out there who could find an interesting outlet in working with our society.

Where are we falling down in not attracting these people to join us?

Bob Wade always manages to have interesting guest speakers to our meetings, but it is very disappointing when only a small handful of people turn up to listen to them.

Why don't you come to our meetings? Is lack of transport one of the problems? If so, this can easily be rem-

edied. Just telephone the secretary and we will be able to arrange transport for you . . . and your friends.

Speak to your friends and neighbours about our society. Spread the word about us. If you have any suggestions, or even constructive criticism, why not come along to our meetings and see if we can't solve some of the problems.

It would be a shame if our society ceased to exist and the items in our museum were dispersed to other museums and away from Concord.

We must work now if we want to continue on to the future!

(Ed's note: As a member of the old Concord Historical Society I wrote this nearly 20 years ago and it was published in the July 1987 issue of Nurungi, but (with just a few minor changes) it is still as relevant here and now as it was back in 1987, particularly with all the big things happening in our society.

Won't you give us your support and help us to continue the good work begun all those years ago?

"The more things change, the more they stay the same!"

The Garden

Come to the garden alone . . . while the dew is still on the roses . . .

For the Garden of your Daily Living

Plant three rows of peas:

*Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of Soul*

Plant four rows of squash:

*Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness*

Plant four rows of lettuce:

*Let us be faithful
Let us be kind
Let us be patient
Let us really love one another*

No garden is complete without turnips

*Turn up for meetings
Turn up for service
Turn up to help one another*

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

*Time for each other
Time for family
Time for friends*

Water freely with patience! There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Anon

Another Grant for Yaralla

Thanks to Vince and Bob appealing to Angela D'Amore in recent times, we have received a \$2000 grant. This is conditional and is earmarked for painting of the apex and fascia of the Dairy. This work is beyond the scope of our members (because of the height) so Vince will be seeking quotes, which he estimates will be around \$2,000.

If there happens to be any money left over they have indicated to Angela that it will be used to seal the woodwork on the small stable (which we can carry out through our volunteers) and this will complete the work on this building.

Thanks you Vince and Bob and, of course, Angela.

Bob has also advised that he and Vince, early in this new year, will repair



the garage doors on the eastern side of the dairy and make it pigeon-proof, thus remedying a very unsightly part that was clearly visible to our visitors.

Vince also put in 2 days of amazing work to reproduce,

on a lathe, a heavy roller that was shattered and has re-fitted it so the door now moves again.

Many thank to you both for your continuing interest in Yaralla

Things I've learned

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

Help Wanted!

Calling all Historical Societies, Library Staff and Community Members

Women Transported

Life in Australia's Convict Female Factories

Are there objects hidden in your attic, under your bed, on shelves, or in photo collections? Are there female factory convict stories lurking in your family tree? Help us with the hunt for objects and stories!

Parramatta Heritage Centre is looking for objects, images and information for an exhibition to be held next year called *Women Transported – Life in Australia's Convict Female Factories*.

Why these women? They are an important part of Australia's heritage and have been significant in the development of the Australian character and yet they only get a mention in some colonial histories or histories of certain locations, and usually only in passing.

Although some of the stories survive there is little evidence of objects relating to these women in public collections. We are also seeking information on individual female factories – Parramatta, Cascades, Ross, Launceston, Georgetown, Hobart, Moreton Bay, Newcastle, Bathurst, Port Macquarie and possibly Goulburn. We are hoping that material about these women and their places are in public collections or very possibly hidden in the homes of their descendants.

If you are one of these descendants or know one of these descendants and would like to share your information please contact the Centre's curator, Gay Hendriksen, PO Box 32, Parramatta, 2124. Phone 8839-3324 or. email: ghendriksen@parracity.nsw.gov.au.

(Ed: If you do have anything involving your descendants, we'd like to have a copy too.)

The Concord Garden Club in

conjunction with the
City of Canada Bay Council,

will be holding their
Concord Autumn Flower,
Floral Art and Vegetable Show
on

Saturday, 15th March, 2008 from
10:30 am to 4:00 pm

and

Sunday, 16th March from

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

in the Concord Community Centre,
Gipps Street, East Concord.

Admission \$3.00, children free.

If you would like any further information contact the secretary,
Marjorie Hogan on 9744-8502.

Yaralla Dining Room

The present dining room is not the original Blacket design, it was added by John Sulman. The original inner courtyard was diminished in size for its creation.

Tasmanian oak and Queensland maple decorated the walls. Each corner had a wood turned column that held a diagonal shelf, where a statuette could and did stand.

This room was also used, in conjunction with the entrance hall, for balls and special occasions such as weddings.

The dining room contained a magnificent dining room appointment, forming a complete and unique set of furniture, designed and manufactured in 1923 to special order by F E de Groot, the man who is most known today for the fracas he caused on the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The dining room appointment was beautifully figured from Australian woods, in the traditional style of William and Mary, and finished throughout in the highest order of cabinet workmanship.

De Groot himself bought this item at the auction, following Dame Eadith's death, for 500 guineas.

The oval ended dining table, on eight massive carved supports with under stretchers, and two removable supports, expanded to seat 20 persons. There were two carver's Arm and eighteen dining chairs and the sideboard was 9 feet (2.75 m) long.

The antique hand wrought brass hanging lamp was decorated with winged figures. Five statues stood in the room, one an important bronze statuette "Winged Mercury with Caduceus", on a rouge marble circular base 40 inches (100 cm) high.

This room revealed another of Eadith's private interests, for in the room was a 3-tiered spoon cabinet, made of Queensland maple, with velvet shelves, enclosed by clear glass panels, also manufactured by De Groot. It contained 111 silver and enamelled souvenir spoons.

As well as many valuable spoons, dating back to 1634, there were many souvenir spoons she obviously collected on her various journeys.

Displayed above the magnificent fireplace is the Hart crest in honour of Thomas' wife Jane.

From the Secretary's Desk

Reel-to-Reel Recorder: Does anyone out there have one of these machines we can borrow for a short while? In cleaning up my office recently I have come across several reels, most unmarked.

However, one of them is labelled as being an interview with Frances Ashton (Ashton's baths). I'd like to check the contents of all the reels to see if there is anything else relevant.

Flat top truck (or similar): Does anyone have access to one of these? We need to clear out the area under the library in preparation for our move and we'd like to move the parts of the Indian House to Yaralla. A lot of this is very fragile and needs to be fully supported in transport. Please let me know ASAP.

Executive Meeting: Just in case you haven't updated your diaries for this year, the next Executive Meeting is on Wednesday, 23rd January at 7:30 pm in the Senior Citizens' Centre.

There are quite a few important matters for discussion and we'd like a full attendance if possible.

Management Plan for our new Museum:

To those who took the sample documents regarding preparation of such a plan - have you had a chance to look these over and make notes of anything you think should be included? This is needed by Council as soon as possible. We will probably have a brain-storming for ideas at the February meeting so hope there'll be a good attendance there.

Reminder for our Museum Volunteers -

we'll be meeting at the museum next Friday and Saturday, 10th and 11th January at 9:00 am to get started on the mammoth task of moving smoothly to our new premises. We want as many as possible to come along. We need your brains!



For Your Diary

Wed. 9th January - NO general meeting

Frid & Sat, 10th and 11th January:

Meeting with Linda Raymond at the Museum at 9:00 am for 9:30 start

Sat. 12th January - Working Bee at Museum - commencing 10:00 am - AND THEN ON AN ONGOING BASIS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS

Wed. 23rd January - Executive Meeting