



"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.143

April 2008

The Walker Chronicles (part 3)

On Sighting Lake George

After the re-capture of Flibberty, and a good night's rest, Thomas brought his journal up to date with a description of the previous day's adventures. *'We then entered a gap which led though the ranges, and in due time descended on the other side. There, emerging from the bush, we suddenly came upon the plain of Lake George, and I experienced no small degree of surprise and astonishment at the sight of it.*

'As far as the eye could reach, I beheld a level plain, as even as a bowling green, not a rise nor a tree nor an object of any kind to interrupt the view, with the exception of mobs of cattle scattered over the surface, like flies on a billiard table.'

'This was the bed of a lake not recently fifteen or sixteen miles long and three to six wide but, instead of water there was grass on it, and instead of fishes, horned cattle. There is now not a drop of water in it, nor a hollow of which water could remain.'

Thomas surmised that the lake could not have been very deep at any time, but merely a collection of ground water, collecting 'as it fell from the heavens' and similar to what he had seen around the Lake Bathurst area. Several fine estates were located around the lake's edge including that of Mr Terrence Murray, a family friend.

Murray's spread occupied the northern boundary in a very wide and long valley, 'many miles in length, the soil very good and uncommonly well-watered by a chain of ponds running through the centre'.

Steep ranges rose on either side of this valley, leading towards Breadalbane. Thomas described the estate as beautiful and valuable, with sheep scattered on the slopes and cattle grazing on the flat, central areas. He mentioned that all the locals had their cattle on the saline flats, munching on the nutritious grasses.

Mr Murray accommodated them that night within his modest, unpretentious 'but well furnished farmhouse where he lives in a

quiet, gentlemanlike style, and has a nice collection of books.' Terrance was building a much finer stone house a short distance away, and the present one would become the overseer's home, being in the midst of the stockyards and other service buildings. A neighbour, named Mr Mowat, had arrived with his pack of dogs, and a hunt was swiftly organised.

'This afternoon we went out with the hounds, and had a short gallop after a kangaroo. The country was so rugged however, that I found it difficult to follow far or fast and, not wishing to knock up our horses, and having letters to write, Mr Dutton and I soon pulled up and returned to the homestead.' They wrote several letters to those at home.

'The nights and mornings are now very sharp, though in the middle of the day it is very warm. We have as yet had delightful weather, nothing can exceed the beauty of the mornings and evenings just now. In the evenings especially, with the sun slanting though the trees and up the glades in the bush, the effect is most pleasing. I felt this especially the night we arrived at Mr. Murray's, where I found so many other pleasing rural objects. The cattle and sheep, with calves and lambs, returning to their folds, filling the air with their voices. Workmen returning from the fields. Poultry and other birds and beasts all evidently retiring to their roosts, gave altogether an impression of peace and repose, which was most gratifying.'

Thomas added his observations about the practice of running sheep and cattle on the same property. 'Cattle I find are the pioneers



Bulletin Board

April 9 - Update on the Museum relocation

May 14 - to be advised

June 11 - to be advised

July 9 - Nik Blkaskovic, City of Canada Bay Council, "Concord Foreshore Survey" with many photographs of then and now.

for sheep, they prepare and ameliorate the country for their reception, eating off the long, coarse grass, and hardening the ground. But, as fast as the sheep come, cattle must retire before them, for sheep eat so close they soon starve out cattle. The cattle are now almost driven out of the colony. Sheep encroach so fast, and it is difficult to find where to put them without going beyond the boundary line.'

They took leave of Mr Murray and rode to Jackson's Inn. Thomas calculated that they had gone a considerable way out of their intended route, and was anxious to proceed towards Yass, as it was now April 19. They were yet to meet with the rest of their party of fellow travellers in order for the main journey to Port Philip.

'Between Murray's and Yass, in a direct line, there is a rather lofty range of rugged hills, impassable for a gig. Carriages going from Murray's to Yass must go around either end of this range, either by Lake George and then turning sharp round, go up the valley of Gunderoo, or going round by Breadalbane.' Gunderoo was about twenty miles from Yass.

They sent their carriage by the former way. Dutton and Walker rode over a twelve mile bridle-path, a short-cut through the ranges, arriving at the Inn just after sun-down. They found that the carriage had already arrived, trav-

elling the twenty-four mile road faster than those on horseback.

'We have therefore now crossed the dividing range, which separates the western from the eastern waters, and have arrived at the first stream running west.'

Thomas Walker's journal would resume several days later, after arriving in Yass, and meeting up with McAlister and Brown. The rest of the party took care of the many arrangements needed before their journey would begin in earnest.

He described Yass. *'No allotments have yet been sold. They have, however, been applied for and will be greedily bought, and will sell for a great deal more than the upset price when buildings will rapidly arise. A capital court-house, both commodious and elegant, is now in course of erection. There are already three stores and two inns doing a good deal of business. The situation of the township is near the river, with firewood at hand, and is sheltered.'*

Until this time they had travelled from place to place, either visiting friends or acquaintances, or being accommodated in fairly adequate inns. Thomas had two more friends to visit in the Yass area. One was Mr O'Brien and the other Mr E W Riley. At one homestead, tragedy had struck. Thomas was in for a great shock, one that would delay them for several days.

Cover your medals, not your heart.

When you place your right hand over the left side of your chest to honour the fallen, you are not placing it over your heart - you are covering your medals, in a gesture which owes its origin to the ceremony in London's Whitehall on Armistice Day, 1920, to unveil the Cenotaph.

A funeral procession accompanying the remains of the Unknown Soldier, which had arrived from France the previous day, was to march past the Cenotaph, then proceed to Westminster Abbey.

The regimental sergeant-major of the Guards regiment conducting the ceremony decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hands over their medals.

"No matter what honours we may have been awarded, they're as nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice", he said.

The RSL maintains that tradition to honour the dead by placing the right hand over medals - not the heart - during a march past at a ceremonial occasion or at a wreath-laying ceremony.

By inference, only those who have earned medals should make this gesture.

(Reprinted from "Bunk", the newsletter of the Hunters Hill Historical Society)

Words of Remembrance

The following was written by Pericles well over two thousand years ago, long before the first ANZAC Day, but only a stone's throw from Gallipoli:

*Each has won a glorious grave -
not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie,
but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance
wherein their glory is enshrined.*

*For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes.
Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land,
but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial
that no pen or chisel has traced;
it is graven not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity.
Take these men for your example.*

*Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free,
that freedom is the sure possession
of those alone who have the courage to defend it.*

Engraved forever at ANZAC Cove are these words from Kemal Ataturk, the Commander of the Turkish 19th Division during the Gallipoli Campaign and the first President of the Turkish Republic from 1924-1938.

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives.
You are now living in the soil of a friendly country,
therefore rest in peace.*

*There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments
to us where they lie side by side, here in this country of ours.
You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries,
wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.
After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.*

Reference: <http://www.anzacday.org.au/education/tff/rememwords.html>



Memorial to a Turkish Soldier (Gallipoli).

The plaque tells the story of a Turkish soldier who held up a white flag of peace during the battle for Chunuk Bair on 25 April 1915 in order that he could help a wounded British soldier.

Written by First Lieutenant Casey (later to become Australian Governor-General).



Bushrangers at Bargo.

The stretch of road between Bargo River and the southern end of Bargo Brush was notorious in the early days for the frequency of hold-ups.

Bushrangers were usually convicts who had absconded from their masters or from road gangs. Sometimes it was found that robbers were assigned men who were supposed to be cleaning brush, or looking for cattle, and then took advantage of lone travellers.

They were often not mounted, as a horse could be traced. They relied on their knowledge of the surrounding country and of escape routes on either side of the road. They stole money, tobacco and clothing, plus any firearms or ammunition that the travellers had with them.

This extract from the *'Australian'* dated March 8th 1842, gives some idea of the perils on the Great South Road in the early days.

"On the 3^d instant, at 3pm, Colonel and Mrs Gwynne in their carriage, and Major Moore and Thomas Moore, Esq JP, in their tandem and the future Chief Constable of Goulburn and another constable in a gig, were proceeding through Bargo Brush on their way to Goulburn.

About two miles from the Bargo River, two mounted men armed with double barrelled guns and pistol, galloped up and presented their pieces. They ordered the party to stop and deliver their firearms. Only the constable was carrying arms and, without offering any resistance, he threw the loaded gun to one of the bushrangers. He immediately discharged it and threw it to the ground.

They still levelled their guns at everybody and demanded money. The amount of money that they collected was £11/14/00, of which they generously returned £3/14/00 for expenses on the road. The travellers were then allowed to proceed without further molestation. During the hold-up, the bushrangers boasted of robbing the Goulburn Mail coach half an hour earlier.'

Mr James Crispe of Myrtle Creek Inn, hatched a daring plan with some constables, after hearing about neighbours being robbed the previous day. That night, he rode along the moonlit road towards Bargo Brush, pretending to be drunk. After crossing the river, two men stopped him and told him to get off his horse.

He pretended he could not get off, so they helped him and then he fell heavily on their shoulders, and put his arms around their necks. Two policemen, who had been quietly following Crispe in the shadows, rushed up and arrested bushrangers Kennedy and Thornton.

(From Picton and District and Family History Society's archives - printed with permission.)

Picton-Mittagong Main Line Railway

by William Bayley.

As early as June 1836, the *"Sydney Herald"* reported that desperadoes were robbing every traveller on the road, six being robbed between Sutton Forest and Bargo Brush. Some men were being stripped to their boots during the robbery, families, individuals and men with drays all losing valuables. A police sergeant and troopers were appointed in 1837 to keep order.

In 1838, a journey from Campbelltown to Goulburn took 16 days. Coaches were put on in the 1840's, travelling from Goulburn to Sydney in 29 hours. In the 1850's, Cobb and Co coaches made the journey. However, passengers had to walk up the hills in rain, hail or snow, mud and slush, night and day, so that people would only make the journey when an absolute necessity, for it gave passengers anything but pleasure.

Freight to the interior was much slower. Bullock teams would travel only six to ten miles a day, camping by the roadside, if possible near a stream. After Stonequarry Creek, the Bargo River ford would make a suitable day's journey. The bullocks would be freed and the bullockies would camp in company for safety.

In 1840, another Herald article reported that the Bargo River would soon be impassable due to erosion caused by the wool teams crossing. Every day there would be accidents due to the rough, rocky bottom of the river. Coaches travelled through, in the dead of night, up and down the steep precipices. Despite numerous complaints from passengers, it was pointed out to them that no other road was available through the district at that time. It was reported that rugged rocks formed the bed of the river. If they were rough, they were at least solid rather than soft and muddy as was the bottom of the ford at Menangle.

(Extract from an article in Picton and District and Family History Society's archives - printed with permission.)

This is happening right in our own country! We Must Stop This Immediately!

Have you noticed that stairs are getting steeper; groceries are getting heavier, and everything is farther away? Yesterday I walked to the corner and I was dumbfounded to discover how long our street had become!

And, you know, people are less considerate now, especially the young ones. They speak in whispers all the time! If you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, endlessly mouthing the same silent message until they're red in the face! What do they think I am, a lip reader?

I also think they are much younger than I was at the same age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she has aged so much that she didn't even recognize me!

I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so, I glanced at my own reflection. Well, really, NOW even mirrors are not made the way they used to be!

Another thing, everyone drives so fast these days! You're risking life and limb if you happen to pull onto the road in front of them. All I can say is their brakes must wear out awfully fast, the way I hear them screech and see them swerve in my rear view mirror.

Clothing manufacturers are less civilised these days. Why else would they suddenly start labelling a size 10 or 12 dress as 18 or 20? Do they think no one notices?

The people who make bathroom scales are pulling the same prank. Do they think I actually "believe" the number I see on that dial? HA! I would never let myself weigh that much! Just who do these people think they're fooling?

I'd like to call up someone in authority to report what's going on — but the telephone company is in on the conspiracy too: they've printed the phone books in such small type that no one could ever find a number in there!

All I can do is pass along this warning:

WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!

Open Day at Yaralla Sunday, 13th April, 2008

Calling all volunteers – if you will be available to help on this day please let Sandra Elliott know as soon as possible. You can reach her on 9797-1040 or 0412-350-288.

Also, don't forget to come along to the **Volunteers' Meeting on Saturday, 5th April**. This is for ALL volunteers, not just the tour guides. We'd also like to be able to take your photograph on this day for our new Identification Badges to be worn on our Open Days and other functions

Things to do & see . . .

City of Canada Bay Seniors' Week:

Monday, 7th April - 9:45 to 1:30 pm at Concord Senior Citizens/ Centre, Wellbank Street - A Morning of Music. Entertainment includes Amazing Grey's Quartet, Mised Nuts, Mortlake Public School and McDonald College. Cost \$2 donation - light lunch provided. For more information and bookings contact Community Development on 9911-6579.

Wednesday, 9th April - 11:00 to 3:00 pm. Cruise along Sydney Harbour. Cost \$25 per person, includes light lunch. This excursion is for Canada Bay residents only. Bookings are essential, call Customer Service on 9911-6555.

Information on the above events can also be accessed at www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au.

Thursday, 10th April - 9:30 to 2:00 pm. Drummoyne Community Centre presents "Choices, Challenges and Changes" - a morning providing information and interaction that gives you the choice to maintain your health, manage stress, stay fit, create joyful experiences and explore healthy ways of meeting challenges in life. A chance to connect with other locals and services too. FREE EVENT - light lunch provided. For information and bookings call 9719-8102.

Strathfield Council and Strathfield District Historical Society are hosting the following events for Heritage Festival 2008.

Saturday, 10th May - Historic Walking Tour - 10:00 to 1:00 pm. A tour of Homebush and Strathfield historic properties. Cost \$10, includes refreshments and tour guides. Further information from Cathy Jones on 9642-3145

5th to 20th April - Photographic Exhibition, "The Great Houses of Strathfield". This will be held at the Strathfield Library, 65-67 Rochester Street, Homebush during normal Library hours.

Important Notice

Please make every effort to come along to our next General Meeting on Wednesday, 9th April.

Instead of a guest speaker we will be discussing the move of our museum to the Bent Street building and our obligations to the City of Canada Bay Council regarding this.

Three important items on the agenda will be an increase in membership dues, increase in museum entry fees and hours of opening for the new museum.

In addition, extra commitment by members will be needed to make the museum a success.

It is now time for the museum to take its proper place in the works of our Society. How we do it is up to you!

Odd Advertisements

Humour and Verbosity

A casual search in the "Herald" files of the eight-teen thirties and forties reveals much that is interesting regarding the "professions" of the period, and advertisers exercising considerable wit. Take, for example, the following polite advertisements which appeared on February 27, 1837:

Mr. Lear, oculist, dentist, and corn operator, of 10 Macquarie Street, Sydney, has pleasure in announcing that he has had consigned to him from an old-established firm in London a certain and immediate cure for every description of headache.

It is not difficult to imagine the joy with which the wonderful remedy would be sought by the hard-living, hard-drinking population.

Other extracts from the advertising columns speak for themselves, and make amusing reading in a day when economy of language and propriety of expression are insisted upon. Here is a selection:

FIVE POUND REWARD

Lost, a cat, with a brass collar on her neck, with my name engraved on it. Whoever will bring her to me, dead or alive, shall receive the above-mentioned reward. As suspicions are attached to a party residing in Lower Pitt Street, where a number of cats are seen to go in and never come out again, an increase of £2 on the above-mentioned reward will be given if this party can be convicted of killing my cat. (Signed) Henry Messer, Elizabeth Street.

To Shoemakers - Wanted, a shoemaker, competent to undertake the work of a large family in a neighbourhood where he will have an opportunity of obtaining as much work besides that of the family as will keep him constantly employed. To any good tradesman, of industrious inclination, who may be desirous of retiring from the temptations of the town, where he will have but few inducements to a life of dissipation, this holds out an eligible opportunity. Apply to Mr C Tompson, Clydesdale, near Windsor. A single man would be preferred, and no objection would be made to a ticket-of-leave holder.

In an advertisement headed "Economic Funerals", Mr. Henry Thomas, undertaker, of Clarence Street, informs the public that he has available a "full size man's mounted coffin with hearse and pair, feathers and pall, all for £1/15/-"

In the "To Let" column we read:

A verandah cottage to let in a salubrious situation at Surry Hills, with a garden, vineyard and orchard, comprising two acres, with a nice stream running through the ground. But then, of course, Surry Hills was a gum-scented paradise.

An this, too - it will be the last - conjures up strange visions of a well-known district:

To let, the villa residence and ornamental pleasure grounds, orchard, shrubbery, detached offices, extensive stabling, and rabbit warren, with a considerable number of rabbits, etc., the whole standing on 11½ acres of land, pleasantly situated at Darlinghurst, the present residence of Mr. William Macdonald.

(SMH souvenir edition dated April 18, 1931)

From the Secretary's Desk

Volunteers' Meeting - Saturday, 5th April at 10:30 am in the Dairy:

All guides, and other volunteers, as well as anyone contemplating becoming a tour guide, are asked to make every effort to come along on this day.

Any house tour guides who have drawn up a "Points Guide" or anything similar for their tours are asked to bring these along on the day so that we can set up a folder similar to the one that was prepared for the grounds tour guides. This would be particularly helpful for new guides to assist them in learning the ropes.

Please come along and give Sandra your support as she takes on this important but time-consuming job.

New Library in Wellbank Street. The current date set for the opening is Saturday, 10th May. We will have a stall there to advertise our museum, open days, etc. If you can spare a little time to help man this please contact Lois on 9744-8528.

Museum re-location: During April we will be meeting each Thursday and Friday from 9:30 am to about 2:00 pm to pack up the contents ready for transport to the Bent Street building. If you can spare a little time it would be appreciated.

Tour Guides Needed: We are desperately in need of people willing to become tour guides for both Yaralla and Rivendell. These new guides are needed urgently if we are to continue with our fund-raising efforts to care for and preserve these historic estates.

Museum Volunteers: With our new home being supplied by Council we will be expected to open more often and on a regular basis. Currently we are proposing to open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This will involve more volunteers to man the museum - if you will be able to help please get in touch with Lorraine Holmes on 9743-2682 or me on 9744-8528. We will also be seeking help from those with internet skill to help in researching themes, etc. for displays.

For Your Diary

Sat. 5th April - Volunteers' Meeting

Wed, 9th April - General Meeting

Sunday, 13th April - Open Day at Yaralla

Wed. 23rd April - Walker Estates

Museum Committee: We will be at the Museum on 3rd & 4th, 10th & 11th and 17th & 18th April for packing up. Any dates after this will be notified in next Nurungi.