



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

www.concordheritage.asn.au

EDITOR
LOIS MICHEL
9744-8528

PRESIDENT
ERROL GRACE
9743-4301

PUBLIC RELATIONS
TRISH SKEHAN
4369-4172

SECRETARY/TREASURER
LOIS MICHEL
3 Flavelle Street
(P.O. Box 152)
Concord 2137
Phone: 9744-8528
Fax: 9744-7591

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

Tours Organiser

Sandra Elliott
9797-1040

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.147

August 2008

Walker Chronicles (part 7)

Under Our Own Tent

Howes Station on the Murrumbidgee

It was thus Thomas headed his next entry, indicated his pleasure to at last be under canvas. He was overjoyed to have overtaken Dutton and Brown, and to find them camped by the river, waiting for the rest of the party to arrive.

Travelling with a team of oxen was slow going, so Walker and McAlister rode on ahead. They recorded passing through Jugion, a station belonging to Mr H O'Brien, no doubt related to the other O'Brien families mentioned earlier. Thomas also commented on pleasing aspects of the riverside along this stretch of the Murrumbidgee.

'These stations seem to be chosen wherever there is an extensive plain or flat, on the banks of the river, generally at a bend and most beautiful places they are. The valley of the river is here much wider than at Cavan and the country quite as beautiful, generally speaking, where there is a plain on one side, the banks rise into higher ranges on the other, and these are thinly covered with timber while the plains are clear of timber altogether. Wherever there is a creek, there is a shepherd's hut and hurdles, but the creeks are at present mostly dry.'

They passed through a break in the stringy-bark forest known as the Black Range, an area he described as having very soft granite 'of the spongy type' and, being too scrubby, not suitable for sheep. They crossed more dry creek beds, turned northward at Reedy Creek, leaving the Murrumbidgee road behind, and entered into the recesses of the forest, 'until we came to Cappabella, a place surrounded by hills, all wooded and grassed.'

They had a midday meal at Bolong Creek where a station provided for travellers. The meal consisted of 'eggs and bacon, damper and fresh butter, with tea to wash all down and a quantity of white-heads (lighter ears of wheat) for our horses.'

A large caravan on its way to Port Philip passed by. Thomas estimated that there were over 5000 sheep, 600 head of cattle,

plus drivers and servants with provision carts, all led by a gentleman proceeding to settle in that country. Observations about problems encountered with managing a large staff on the road were exchanged.

Thomas noted, *'He has a long and arduous journey before him, but time and patience will enable him to accomplish it, if dry weather continues. I am writing on my knees, and far from comfortable. You may suppose I have not inclination to write more than absolutely necessary and must therefore be contented with dry narrative.'*

They were still camped there the next night. The bullock team and men had not arrived. There had been much-needed rain that day, but this led to concerns about the dray and team not being able to cross some creek beds if water was now flowing in them.

'One can scarcely complain about the rain. The country is so much in want of it, but I hope it will not follow us all the way to the Murray. We have here a large party, two Mr Howe's, two Mr Broughton's, Mr Crane and the four in our party. Mr Howe willingly supplies us with anything he had got, and he has what we chiefly require, some food for our horses and dairy produce for ourselves. He had here rather an extensive dairy, making butter for the Sydney market. His improvements (on government land) are of course not much or many, but it is pretty and nice place.'

'We should have gone duck shooting on the Murrumbidgee this forenoon but for the rain. Dry as the season has been, the Murrumbidgee is still flowing on over a pebbly bottom and with some reaches presenting large sheets of water, on the banks and even in the bed, large trees of she-oak and flooded gums are growing.'

(to be continued)



Bulletin Board

**August 13 - Annual General Meeting and
Election of Officers and Committee**

Correy's Pleasure Garden

In the late 1850s the relationship between work and leisure altered markedly with each area becoming more sharply defined, more clearly distinguished from the other. Changes in mental attitude towards pleasure seeking were also evident, as was an increasing need to find relief from workaday routine. These factors and the availability of transport interacted and produced fertile ground for the development of pleasure resorts – a commercialisation of leisure. The resorts, modelled on English style pleasure gardens, offered a wide variety of entertainment and amusement.

Unlike England, resorts in Australia have, until the 1960s, been virtual suburbs of the large capital cities in which sixty per cent of the population has lived.

... well-dressed crowds wend their way to parks and gardens . . . to steamers, trains, trams, etc., to convey them to a favourite resort of which is a legion, where the day is spent in enjoyment in the full, and return home at dusk.

The Cabarita Gardens on the Parramatta River were probably the first commercial attempt to gild the harbour's lily in the early 1800s. The idea of improving a beautiful area, adding certain amenities and then running a ferry to the scene soon caught on.

Joubert's Picnic Grounds at Fig Tree were another successful gathering place.

One of the most popular was Correy's Gardens at Cabarita Point. The *Sydney Morning Herald* carried an advertisement for celebrations of the Prince of Wales' Birthday at Correy's Gardens.

... Visitors will find the above gardens the favourite resort of all pleasure-seekers, and no exertion has been spared to render the establishment one of the very best in the Australian colonies. All who have visited the Pavilion have expressed wonder and surprise at its magnitude and handsome proportions and in the Cuisine Department the world-wide representation is still maintained . . . the comfort of the Ladies and Little Folks made a speciality, for whom Summer Houses have recently been erected. (SMH 3/10/1885)

From the 1800s until the First World War, Correy's Pleasure Gardens and

Dance Pavilion catered for all the family. For children there were swings, merry-go-rounds and other attractions, while a cricket field and running track provided entertainment for their parents and for members of the many social and sporting clubs which held annual picnics at the Gardens, which were established on 2.8 hectares of land adjacent to Cabarita Park, fronting onto both Hen and Chicken Bay and Kendall Bay.

Thomas Obed Correy, the founder of the resort had previously established similar gardens at Botany in about 1874 but, after a rent increase, moved shrubs and plants to Cabarita, where he set up a new complex.

After an elaborate dance pavilion was erected in 1887 the popularity of Correy's Gardens boomed. Its tallow wood floor was a feature of special pride to the family, as was the fernery underneath the raised bandstand. The pavilion was lit, first by kerosene lamps, and later by gas lighting. Families and social groups made the boat trip along the river from the city or Parramatta to Correys, where they either relaxed in the gardens with an open-air picnic or danced to a seven-piece string band in the pavilion. Later, when gas had replaced the kerosene lamps, evening dinners and dancing became increasingly popular and many of Sydney's clubs and organisations booked a year in advance to ensure their society's night out at Correys.

On public holidays and gala occasions special ferries were arranged to bring visitors to Correy's Gardens. It was used for weddings and private functions, many of which were held in the family's dining room, enlarged by double doors, which opened into the next room.

Sunday excursions gained popularity and were commenced as early as 1831 with the ferry steamer *Surprise* plying to Cabarita and Correys. However, in some quarters it was considered 'a sinful desecration of the Sabbath'. Horne quotes the correspondent in the *Colonist*, "These Sunday trips are run by a company of ungodly men who are willing to fill their pockets with the fruit of their profaneness".

Moral attitudes aside, to further attest to the popularity of these Gardens, two Parramatta River steamships, *Pleasant* and *Bronzewing* carried 3,000 excursionists one eight-hour day in the early 1900s. Locomotives also carried excursionists to the picnic grounds.

It was common to see a steam locomotive pulling three car loads crowded, to picnic at that delightfully wooded point at Cabarita or to dance at the famous Correy's Garden Pavilion where the music was dispensed by Boxall's String Band.

By 1918 leisure patterns had changed from pre-war days, people preferred to venture further afield for their entertainment. In 1918 Correy's Gardens was sold up. The property was purchased by British-Australian Lead Manufacturers Pty Ltd (BALM), who established a white lead factory on the site, which began production in 1921. BALM was later incorporated into the Dulux group. The Correy home still stands in the grounds.

(The above is an extract from Jean Allan's thesis, The Natatorial Art - The Social History of Swimming in Sydney to the outbreak of the Second World War. She has kindly allowed us to print this extract and has presented our Society with a copy of the thesis which is now in our Library.)



An Industry picnic group enjoying a day out at Correy's Gardens

The Eureka Stockade

For the first few months (of 1851) the golden scene was solely given over to private enterprise; officialdom had yet to come. At first, there was merely a theory that gold belonged to the Crown; but no hesitation was evinced in simply taking it when found . . . on August 15, 1851, La Trobe proclaimed that all gold, whether on Crown or private lands, was the property of the Queen, and that anyone disturbing the soil in search of such gold without Government authority would be prosecuted civilly and criminally. Three days later, regulations for the issue of licences to dig were issued. The fee was fixed at thirty shillings per month . . .

One of the conditions of the licence was that it had to be produced instantly upon demand by a Commissioner or his man. Many diggers refused to take out licences under the conditions; others were without the means. Digger hunting was frequent. On the appearance of the Commissioner with his troopers, the cry of "Joe" – the term applied to La Trobe's police, after his second Christian name – resounded throughout the field. Some took to the bush, scattering in all directions; others retreated to drives at the bottom of their shafts and, armed with picks, defied the forces of law. The hauls were, however, often quite numerous. Hauled before the magistrates, they were summarily dealt with, heavily fined and, if unable to pay, remained chained to logs, in default for a time of any form of lock-up.

A particularly bad instance of venality upon the part of the authorities added fuel to the flame. A publican was charged with killing a digger in a drunken row, but against the weight of evidence he was acquitted by a bench of three officials. A mass meeting resulted and a riot ensued, the hotel in question being burned. Three ringleaders were arrested. Hotham, however, before their trial appointed a special board to investigate the charges, which poured in from all quarters, of general corruption on the part of the authorities of the Ballarat goldfield.

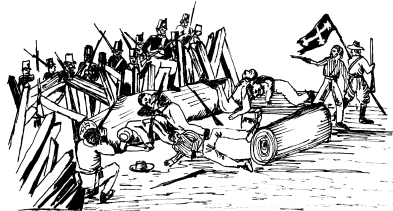
The result was the dismissal of the police magistrate and the senior sergeant of police. The hotel-keeper was re-arrested and charged with murder. He got off with a verdict of manslaughter and three years' imprisonment. The arrested ringleaders, however, were found guilty, though the jury attached a rider "that they would never have had their painful duty to perform

if those Government officials at Ballarat had done theirs properly". The irritation grew in intensity. On November 11, 1854 a meeting was held on Bakery Hill, when the "Ballarat Reform League" was formed with a platform of liberalisation of the suffrage and abolition of licences. A deputation was sent to the Governor to demand the release of the three prisoners, but without result. Troops were sent up and some minor collisions resulted. A mass meeting was again summoned for November 29.

A new Australian flag, blue with the Southern Cross in silver, was hoisted. Finally the meeting got out of hand and all present threw their licences into a bonfire.



The next day the Commissioner made a licence raid. Invoking the aid of the soldiers, a hostile crowd was charged. Eight prisoners were taken and a number left wounded. A meeting in the afternoon decided upon stronger measures, though first holding out the olive-branch to the Commissioners. Rebuffed, they constructed the Eureka Stockade, hastily built up of mining timber, logs and slabs. Drilling actually began and an armourer commenced the fabrication of pike heads, other weapons being scarce. The official forces totalled some 276. In the Stockade were barely 200, the rest being in their tents.



On Sunday, December 2, an attack was made at 4 a.m. and was quickly over. The Stockade was taken and some 125 prisoners, mostly wounded, were captured. At least 24 miners were killed. Captain Wise and four privates of the 40th Regiment detachment, sent from Melbourne, were killed. At the inquest on the non-combatant, a rider to the verdict said "the jury view with extreme horror the brutal conduct of the police in firing at and cutting down unarmed and innocent persons of both sexes at a distance from the scene of the disturbance". The Argus, The Geelong Advertiser and the Ballarat Times sided with the diggers. Public opinion at least in the towns, was also strongly sympathetic. Some of the prisoners were sent to Melbourne for trial, but were all acquitted.

Sub-Committees

Our Society has two very active sub-committees - the Walker Estates and the Museum. If you would like to become an active member of either of these groups please contact the Secretary on 9744-8528 and we will keep you notified of meetings and activities.

The Walker Estates group deals with all matters pertaining to Yaralla and the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital (Rivendell) as well as organising the Open Days at both estates and regular group visits to Yaralla.

They desperately need more people willing to become Tour Guides. This is not a difficult job and we give you plenty of literature to provide all the basic knowledge you will need. If you think you would like to become a guide come along to one of our Open Days and accompany a regular guide or guides as they do a tour - you'll soon see how easy it is.

The Museum group deals with all matters pertaining to the museum. This can entail many different skills from computer research, physical research such as visiting the Mitchell Library, identifying objects in our possession, minor repair/restoration work, needlework skills, carpentry, computer work, clerical work, and other things we haven't even thought of yet, or just bringing new ideas and thoughts to the group.

We need more volunteers. It's not hard physical work, so won't you please put your hand up.

GET INVOLVED!



More to test your knowledge of the Prime Ministers of Australia . . .

7. The shortest term for any Prime Minister in Australia was that of Frank Forde in 1945. He served from July 6 to?
8. When William McMahon became PM, former Prime Minister John Gorton briefly served as Deputy Leader and held which Portfolio?
9. The 1963 autobiography of which PM is entitled "Truant Doctor"?
10. Andrew Fisher was elected to the first Commonwealth Parliament as the MP for which electorate?

(Answers on back page)

YOU'RE Invited

The Embroiderers' Guild NSW invites you to an exhibition of Antique Needlework Tools & Accessories on Saturday, 26 and Sunday 27th July from 10:00 am till 3:30 pm.

These are from the collections of three well-known members of the Needlework Tool Collectors Society of Australia. Each day there will be talks by Dr. Genevieve Cummins (Needlework Chatelaines), Sybil Harland (Wildlife in the Workbox) and Heather Joynes (18th Century Needlework & Needlewomen).

Venue: 76 Queen St, Concord West
Cost: \$45.00 for either day - a light lunch is included.

Bookings essential: Chris, 9743-2501

Are you just a member?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,

Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the crowd,

Or do you stay at home and complain both long and loud?

Do you take an active part to help the club along,

Or are you satisfied to be the kind that "just belongs"?

Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick,

Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

There is quite a programme scheduled, that means success if done,

And it can be accomplished with the help of everyone.

To attend the meetings regularly, and help with hand and heart,

Don't be just a member, but take an active part.

Think it over, member, are we right or are we wrong -

Are you an active member - or do you "just belong".



Answer to Prime Ministers' quiz on page 3. 7. July 13; 8. Defence; 9. Earle Christmas Grafton Page; 10. Wide Bay.

Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers and Committee

This is the Society's most important meeting of the year. The annual balance sheet, that lets you know where all your money has been spent, is presented for members' information.

Also the various officers present their annual reports, which let members know what we have been doing and, more importantly, what we have accomplished in the year just past.

The year 2007-2008 has seen many great achievements: the restoration of the dairy building at Yaralla which we can now use for our Devonshire Teas; successful Open Days at Yaralla and Rivendell; group tours of Yaralla; and a new home for our Museum.

All these have only been achieved by the dedicated volunteers who put their hands up for the many tasks asked of them, from acting as Tour Guides, looking after Devonshire Teas, physical work involved in restoration work and grounds work at Yaralla, and packing up and moving our entire museum.

To each and every one of you we say a very big "THANK YOU" - we could not have accomplished all we have done without YOU!

Speaking of Volunteers

In the months to come we will need many more members to put up their hand in response to our calls, particularly with re-establishing our museum in its new home. This will involve unpacking, sorting, cataloguing items and choosing and researching those items we intend to put up for our opening display.

When the time comes we will be regularly changing displays to make the museum a much more welcoming place for visitors, and encourage them to keep coming back, therefore, research work will be ongoing.

We will also be opening on a more regular basis - every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - and we'd like two people to be on duty at all times. If you can help please contact us.



From the Secretary's Desk

Membership: Just a reminder that your membership dues for 2008-2009 are now due. To those who haven't yet paid there will be a reminder in this issue.

Welcome to our new member, Elizabeth McEwan. You will find details of our meeting on the front of this newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at coming meetings.

Election of Officers and Committee: A society needs regular new faces on the committee otherwise it can become stale and progress is slowed. We need fresh faces and fresh ideas to lead us into the future. To our newer members, don't be shy violets, come along to the meeting and put your hands up to become a really active part of the Society. Don't say "I can't do it" or "I don't know enough" - you won't know what you can do until you try.

Museum Committee & Walker Estates Committee: If you would like to become an active member within either of these groups, please let us know and we'll keep you informed of what is happening.

Garage Sale: This is still some time off but please keep us in mind for anything you no longer want or need. We will need much money to get the Museum set up for the first time.

Tour Guides: We desperately need more tour guides for Yaralla and Rivendell. With our next day at Rivendell we have been unable to fill all the time slots as some of our guides have been unable to help on the day due to personal commitments. This means that we have had to turn people away and our profit will not be as much. Please, won't you give it a try?



For Your Diary

Sun. 27th July - Rivendell Open Day

Wed. 13th August - Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers

Wed. 27th August - Executive Meeting and welcome to new Committee members