



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

www.concordheritage.asn.au

EDITOR
LOIS MICHEL
9744-8528

PRESIDENT
MARK DURANCE
9743-0583

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
City of Canada Bay
Museum
1 Bent Street, Concord
9743-3034

Executive Meetings

4th Wednesday of
August, October, January,
March, May and July
at 7:30 pm in the
Museum

Walker Estates Committee

4th Wednesday of
September, November,
February, April and June
at 7:30 pm in the
Museum
Bob Jones, 8765-9347

Tours Organiser

Sandra Elliott
9797-1040

Museum

Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682

Archives & Oral History

Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

Heritage

Bob Jones, 8765-9347

CONCORD HERITAGE MUSEUM

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

No.148

September 2008

Walker Chronicles (part 8)

Four Hours Ride Through a Soaking Rain

Wharby's Creek, Friday evening 5th May 1837.

"We arrived here about an hour and a half ago, after four hours ride through a soaking rain, and were very glad to get into this shelter, where entertainment for travellers is provided."

Thomas continues with his diary, describing Wharby's Inn as a rude dwelling, but watertight and warm, and mostly what they required at that time.

"We found here a young gentleman settler proceeding with stock to Port Philip and two mounted policemen from Yass, so that the place is quite full. Our horses and cattle are worst off, for they have to abide the pelting of the storm in the stock-yard, and have very little to eat, but we dare not let them out."

"Just as I finished writing at Howe's yesterday forenoon, the weather cleared up and MacAlister, Broughton and I went out shooting ducks and quail on the banks of the Murrumbidgee."

After hunting for several hours, they played cricket until night fell.

"With music in the evening, thus passed the day. Our music was derived from flutes and a drum, the latter made by Howe out of a sheep skin and a flour barrel. In the evening it commenced raining, and to this hour it has not ceased. The wind now blowing strong, gives us hope of a clearing up but as it has commenced so gently with the new moon, and after a period of warm weather, we have reason to dread a continuance. It will make world of difference to us, the sample we have had today sufficiently convinces us of the extreme discomfort of it and indeed if we have many more such day as this, there will be flood in the rivers and we may not be able to get across them without much difficulty."

Camped on the banks of the Murrumbidgee, Sunday evening, 7th May, Thomas wrote once more in his journal.

"The weather cleared up on Friday night, and as early as we could next morning, we got our cavalcade under way, which was not effected until ten o'clock. McAlister and I then left our party and proceeded across

the bush to the Murrumbidgee, which we made at Mingy, thence we crossed the river to Young Wardy's station, called Darbyleara. These are beautiful stations, opposite to each other, each with large clear flats of rich land, watered by the river. The latter is indeed within the fork formed by the junction of the Toomat with Murrumbidgee and has therefore a very large portion of water frontage.

"From some of the ranges we passed over, we had excellent views of the Murrumbidgee valley, through which this fine river flows through large rich meadows with a few trees interspersed over them. The meadow, or flats as they are called, are backed in by sloping ranges, covered with grass and thinly timbered, generally speaking all fenced in by the river running round them, the whole is like a succession of ornamental parks. Tis true that there is at present very little grain, all is brown owing to the want of rain and to the quantity of stock feeding over it. The valley is capable of growing a great deal of grain at a very small cost, and of maintaining a considerable population"

They passed through Gundiggi (Gundagai?), which Thomas described as a splendid station, and Nangus, where Thomas was most impressed with the quality of the cattle.

"The cattle on it looked better than any we had lately seen, indeed most of the cattle on the various runs have lately been sent away owing to the deficiency of the pasturage, but not from Nangus"

He was surprised to encounter a head station every four or five miles for about eighty miles in distance, until they neared the Lachlan river, where the land became more swampy. He also noted buying another of O'Brien's horses - to replace Flibberty.

(to be continued)



Bulletin Board

September 10: Come along and be surprised

October 8: Richard Oliver, pilot who flew recon. in the war. He has a great yarn to tell.

Hargrave's Contribution to Flight

On a lonely Stanwell Park beach on 12 November 1894 occurred an event that was to change the course of history.

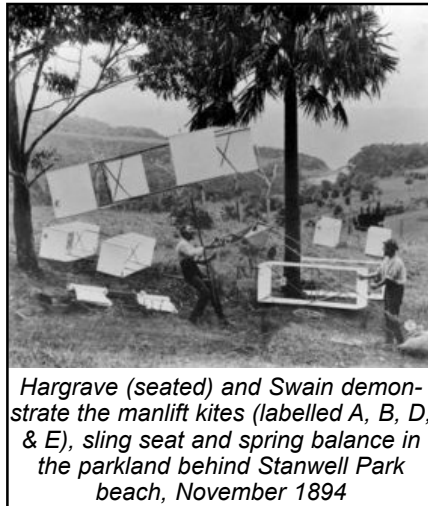
Lawrence Hargrave was lifted nineteen feet into a 21 mph breeze by a string of his box kites. An event witnessed by only four people, it was to culminate in the development of the first practical aeroplanes demonstrated to the world at the French city of Reims in 1909.

It was in 1882 that Hargrave decided to begin his aeronautical experiments. He, unlike his contemporaries, was confident that powered flight was possible. The first breakthrough came on the last day of December 1885. The machine, a model, was subsequently demonstrated to his fellow members of the Royal Society of New South Wales in "The Societies House" in Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

He went on to improve his flying machines, testing them in the early morning from his home in 40 Roslyn Gardens across the adjacent Rushcutters Bay Park. These models were first powered by India rubber then compressed air engines. The machines were not designed to cope with normal air which was always in motion. Lawrence knew he now had to solve this problem. He decided on a new investigation based on the use of kites to develop a stable supporting surface.

An answer was found to the stability problem on 16 February 1893 in his tenth kite. This kite had two sets of cells separated yet held together with a timber rod. The cells were three rows of superimposed boxes open at each end with a total number of cells of eighteen. It was this kite that gave Hargrave's cellular kites the popular name of "box kites".

He went on to develop this kite to the near perfection reached in mid 1894. It then consisted of only two large oblong cells with side curtains and strongly braced surfaces. While the size of his box kite varied considerably an average length would be six to eight feet (2.4 m). The surfaces were usually flat, and were made to collapse and roll up.



Hargrave (seated) and Swain demonstrate the manlift kites (labelled A, B, D, & E), sling seat and spring balance in the parkland behind Stanwell Park beach, November 1894

Hargrave announced his new invention at the Royal Society meeting on 6 August 1896 and this announcement was published in several overseas journals.

He built over 100 kites of a wide variety of types. Practically all of them were given to the Science Museum in Munich in 1910 and were destroyed by fire during the allied bombing in World War II. Only one of his cellular kites is in existence today and that is the one Hargrave made for his English friend G Salmon. This was his 89th kite and was made on 8 November 1899. Salmon willed it to the Royal Aeronautical Society who gave it to the Science Museum, London. L J Willis, Director of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, obtained a detailed drawing of this kite and had a copy made for inclusion in the Lawrence Hargrave Memorial Court. When the museum moved to the Powerhouse all the remarkable Hargrave collection was placed in storage.

Two French brothers, Gabriel and Charles Voisin, read about Hargrave's box kites in a magazine in 1898 and decided to build one. At the end of the century there were several people in France experimenting in aeronautics.

The most prominent of the French experimenters was Archdeacon, a wealthy sportsman. He commis-

sioned Gabriel Voisin to build a glider based on Hargrave's box kite design. This was to be mounted on floats and tested on the river Seine, towed into the air by a powerful motor launch. It had 538 square feet (50 sq.m) of supporting surfaces and the characteristic Hargrave wing design. With Gabriel piloting, the machine made a perfect take off, flew under control for 2000 feet (610m) and alighted safely. Everyone in Paris who was interested in aeronautics was there, including Santos Dumont, Bleriot, Ferber and of course Archdeacon.

Santos was the first to capitalise on the demonstration. He quickly built a huge ungainly powered machine which was designed to fly tail first. It was pure Hargrave. Santos won the coveted Archdeacon prize with a flight on 23 October 1906 of 197 feet (60 m). This was the first powered flight in the world in public and the first in Europe.

The Voisin brothers set up business as aeroplane manufacturers. They commenced building large simple machines with wheeled undercarriages and incorporating Hargrave cellular wings and tails powered by powerful Antoinette engines. Voisin machines became very popular. They were safe and easy to fly, in fact, so easy that purchasers could teach themselves.

Other makes of French aeroplanes had begun to appear. Prominent amongst these was the Bleriot monoplane. Bleriot had first built a biplane but it had not been a success. His monoplanes still retained, unlike the Wright's machines, a tail advocated by Hargrave for fore and aft stability. All these machine had their genesis in that remarkable first powered flight of the Voisin/Hargrave glider in 1905, which broke the Wright monopoly and saw the advent of a safe and practical aeroplane at the great "air meet" at the French city of Reims in 1909.

(by Arthur W Hudson Shaw and printed in the December 1994 issue of History, the newsletter of the Royal Australian Historical Society.) Reprinted with permission.

Rivendell Open Day

In spite of the cold and afternoon sleet the day began bright and sunny enabling many beautiful photographs to be taken of one of the most picturesque spots in Sydney.

Thank you to all volunteers: guides, caterers, organisers and support assistants for yet another successful Open Day. It was successful in not only raising \$3,200 for ongoing restoration but in furthering the awareness of one of the heritage treasures in the City of Canada Bay .

Attention members!

PLEASE NOTE: All future meetings - General, Executive and Walker - will now be held in our new museum building at 1 Bent Street, Concord, at 7:30 p.m.

2008-09 Committee

President Mark Durance
Vice-President Alan Wright
Secretary/Treasurer Lois Michel
Assistant Secretary Sandra Elliott & Trish Skehan
Public Relations Officer Trish Skehan
Editor of Newsletter Lois Michel
Assistant Trish Skehan
Chairpersons:
Museum Committee ... Lorraine Holmes
Walker Committee Bob Jones
Deputy Sandra Elliott
Oral History/Archives Lola Sharp
Tours Organiser Sandra Elliott
Committee Members Pat Corbitt
..... Jann Ogden
..... Beryl Law
..... Ray Lane
..... Carole Davidson

Errol Grace, Lorna Wright and Derek Williams chose not to stand for election this time and we thank them for their past services. We also welcome Ray Lane and Carole Davidson to the committee and look forward to working with them

First Fleet collection on line

The State Library's First Fleet archive of over 450 original documents and illustrations was launched as a comprehensive on-line collection last month. The centrepiece of the collection is the original First Fleet journals, as the Library holds nine of the 11 journals known to exist.

You can read these extraordinary first-hand travel-diaries, fascinating tales of adventure and eyewitness accounts of the daily struggle to overcome starvation during the colony's early years.

Go to www.sl.nsw.gov.au/ for further details and to read private and official letters by First Fleeters and zoom in on First Fleeter William Bradley's original maps of Sydney Harbour and the surrounding areas.

Financial Report for 2007-2008

This is too large to print in our newsletter but if you would like a copy either telephone or email the secretary and a copy will be sent to you.

Minutes of Meetings

In an effort to save time at our general meetings we do not read out the minutes but send copies to each member of the Executive Committee. If you would like to receive copies of these please email or telephone the secretary and we will send them to you.

Yaralla Open Day

Our next open day is set down for Sunday, 26th October. If you will be available to help on this day please contact Sandra Elliott on 9797-1040 or by email to ttoille@optusnet.com.au as soon as possible.

We still need more guides - both grounds and house. Won't you please give some serious thought to putting your hand up to assist us. This will relieve the pressure on our regular guides who sometimes have to do two or three tours on the day to accommodate all the people who want to book.

We supply you with all the material you will need and our regulars will take you through the tours so you can get the feel for them before actually having to go out solo.

Our Museum

Things are progressing well and we sincerely thank our small band of helpers who have been coming along regularly helping to sort and store our possessions ready to start the actual planning for the layout of the building.

However, we can always use more helpers if you can spare some time, now and then, to come along.

This is a new and exciting time for our Society with the wonderful opportunity to make a brand new start for our museum. Thanks to the Council we now have a much more suitable building which will allow us more scope to present regularly changing and more interesting displays, all with stories to tell.

Also thanks to the Council we have the professional guidance of a Museum Advisor, Linda Raymond, to train us in museum management so that we will have the knowledge to research and present stories connected with the various artefacts we have gathered over the year.

You are invited to become part of the group in this new beginning.- you don't have to be an expert in anything, just keen to learn and help develop the project.

Experts wanted!

Do you know any person or group with some expert knowledge in fabrics, clothes, china, radios, typewriters, cameras, or any other items we may have in our collections? We need the assistance of such people to help us when we start to set up our displays.

Heritage - what now?

With the passage of the planning law changes in June by a one vote majority in the NSW Legislative Council we now await the full impacts of this disturbing legislation. The changes will increase the likelihood of demolition of buildings which have not yet been heritage-listed by local councils or on the State Heritage Register. Consequently communities will need to nominate for heritage listing all those places that they believe should be protected for future generations.

September is slated as the date for commencement of the changes, notably, after the Local Government elections. Development is now being given priority over communities' aspirations and hard-won rights to collectively shape our surroundings, as government reverts to a dictatorial approach to decision-making. The National Trust is therefore intensifying its campaign to assist local communities to protect the special character, history, scenic qualities and nature conservation values of their local environments against accelerated, unsympathetic development. Have the ideals of "Common-Wealth", the "National Estate" and "Community wellbeing" now been usurped by pursuit of economic advantage at any cost

Graham Quint, National Trust (NSW) Conservation Director



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

11. After the Queensland police failed to arrest an egg-throwing protester, which PM established the Federal Police?
12. Because of his ambivalent attitude towards Federation, which future PM was nicknamed "Yes-No"?
13. PM Holt disappeared while swimming off which Victorian beach?
14. For how long was Bob Hawke the leader of the Opposition?

(Answers on back page)



Friday, 12th September at 2:00 pm at Concord Library - Meet, listen and chat to Debra Adelaide as she talks about her book "**The Household Guide to Dying**". The book is fresh, witty, deeply moving - and a celebration of love, family and that place we call home. Bookings essential, phone 9911-6210. The \$5 booking fee includes refreshments.

Concord Library - 6th to 14th September - "Ebb and Flow" photographic exhibition explores Council's rich historical association with the Parramatta River. The display will take visitors on a visual journey along the river from Birkenhead Point to Rhodes, illustrating the diversity of activities, including recreation, transport and industry.

Sunday, 21st September - Rookwood Open Day. 9am to 3pm. Parade starts at 11am featuring hearses, people in costume and bands. Heritage tours, garden tours, behind the scenes at the Crematorium and much more. Free entry. All tours, gold coin donation. Robyn Hawes 9889-3899.


Until 12th October - (only Wed, Sat & Sun's - 11 am to 4 pm) Cameraygal Festival - come and see yesterday today, a photographic exhibition at Carisbrook House, 334 Burns Bay Road, Lane Cove. Phone 9428-1364. An exhibition of "Then & Now" photos of Lane Cove created through a partnership between Lane Cove Historical Society and Lane Cove Library's Local Studies and Archives. Take a guided tour through a restored Victorian House and stroll through the riverfront gardens. Entry \$8 adults, \$4 seniors/children, \$17 family. 9428-1364.

Tuesday, 14th October - Jonnie Russell CD launch & Anniversary Concert to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Charles Kingsford Smith's epic trans-Pacific crossing of 1928. State Theatre, Sydney. Tickets on sale mid-August at \$50, State Theatre, 9373-6853.

Until 9th November - "Women Transported: life in Australia's convict female factory". Parramatta Heritage Centre, 346A Church Street, Parramatta. Free event, opens 10:00 am.

Until 30th November - Lost Gardens of Sydney Exhibition. The gardens of the extravagant villas of early Sydney inspired Colleen Morris' book and exhibition, "Lost Gardens of Sydney". This includes Drummoyne House, the 19th century home that gave Drummoyne its name. Museum of Sydney, 9:30 am to 5 pm. Cost \$10 museum entry.

Audio Walking Tours - City of Canada Bay Council has released Audio Files for you to download onto your MP3 or Ipod and enjoy the beautiful foreshore walks across our City - Abbotsford, Bay Run and Yaralla. To download http://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/community_and_culture/tourism_information/walking_tours_-_audio_downloads.html

 **Answer to Prime Ministers' quiz** on page 3. 11, William (Billy) Morris Hughes; 12, George Houston Reid; 13, Cheviot/Portsea; 14. 1 month

Just for Laughs

Just before the funeral service the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked: "How old was your husband?" "98", she replied, "two years older than me" "So you're 96", the undertaker commented. She responded: "Hardly worth going home, is it!"

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" Her simple reply: "No peer pressure".

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia, have poor circulation, hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's licence.

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over the Westfield shopping centre. "Westfield!" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Westfield?" "Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

The Senility Prayer: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

What are Seniors Worth? Remember that old folks are worth a fortune . . . with silver in their hair; gold in their teeth; stones in their kidneys; lead in their feet; and gas in their stomach.

For Your Diary

Wed. Aug. 27 - Executive Meeting

Wed. Sept. 10 - General Meeting

Wed. Sept. 24 - Walker Committee

Wed. Oct 8 - General Meeting

Wed. Oct 22 - Executive Meeting

Sun. Oct 26 - Yaralla Open Day

From the Secretary's Desk

Executive Committee: We welcome back those members who were re-elected to the various positions and thank them for their continued interest. We express thanks to those members who, for various reasons, chose not to stand again and we welcome the two newcomers.

Vacancies: There are still a couple of vacancies on the Committee. We desperately need new members to come forward and put their hand up to fill these spots. You can bring fresh, innovative ideas to the table to take us forward in this coming year. Won't you please give it your consideration?

Welcome to our new member, Dr. Leslie Glen and family from Five Dock. We welcome you and look forward to getting to know you in the future.

Meeting Venue: Please note that all future meetings will now be held in our new museum building at 1 Bent Street. Why not take this opportunity to come along and see what is happening.

Meeting Attendance. Lately attendance at meetings has been falling off and this is very disappointing for Trish, who organises our speakers, and for the people who come along to speak to us. The speakers are always interesting and have covered so many different and fascinating subjects. It's also a good opportunity to get to know the other members and learn more about how our society operates. Won't you give it a try?

Museum & Walker Committees. These two groups are not elected committees - only the Chairperson is elected. The meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Details of the **Walker** meetings are on the front and back page of our newsletter.

The **Museum** groups does not meet on set days at the moment but if you email us at chs@concordheritage.asn.au we'll put you on our list and we'll keep you advised each time a meeting is called.

Executive Meetings are also open to all members to attend at any time.

Just come along to any of these meetings, you'll always be welcome.