



# "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  
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

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**CITY OF CANADA  
BAY MUSEUM**

1 Bent Street, Concord

**Watch this space  
for opening date**

**No.150**

**November 2008**

## Walker Chronicles (part 10)

### Fording the Hume

*Encamped in the bush about twenty-four miles N.E. of the Hume or Murray, Thursday evening 11<sup>th</sup> May 1837.*

Thomas expressed some confusion as to their exact location near the Murray and Hume rivers, given their convergence with the Murrumbidgee. Early maps were not clear and there were no signposts at that time. He stated that *"properly speaking, the Murray does not commence until the junction of the Hume with the Murrumbidgee"*.

*"I must not permit a fourth evening to elapse without an entry in my journal. We left Wardy's Station at eight o'clock on Monday morning, and pitched our tent that evening at Jones's station on the Tarcutta creek, having made a distance of only twenty miles. Next morning, we were off as early as on the previous day (we always breakfast before daylight) and got as far as ten miles beyond Manton's station.*

*During the last three days we have made sixty miles, which is exceedingly good travelling for bullocks, they have been eight or nine hours in the yokes each day."*

They came to an area he described as *"indifferent country, ridges or ranges more scrubby and hilly"*, and the bullocks only just managing to get down the steep descent then up the other side.

About Tarcutta Creek, he lamented travelling through twenty-five miles of low, swampy land, thought better for cattle than sheep. He was surprised to find several stations in that area, given that the ground was of *"very inferior character, the soil not sound and thinly grassed"*. The countryside changed into level open forest, but he still found the soil to be spongy granite, supporting mainly small white gum trees.

*"Upon the whole, since leaving the Murrumbidgee, I have been disappointed with the country and think it is badly watered. There are very few stations in it. They have certainly plenty of room and would require it, to support much stock.*

*We have as yet a well-beaten cart track, and a good road with few obstructions of*

*any kind, the worst are occasional creeks or water courses, but generally without water in them. The weather has been very nice, more like spring than autumn. It has threatened rain but there have been only two or three slight showers during the nights."*

He commented that they jogged along very comfortably, but too slowly, allowing for the slow speed of drays pulled by bullocks.

*"It seems strange to be traversing so great an extent of country uninhabited, even the black natives are very few. At Manton's station we met with a tribe, which followed us that day and encamped with us at night. Two or three families of them have accompanied us since. They are obliging enough, but lazy, and are really of no use to us. They stay about us with the hope of getting food.*

The next journal entry was dated Friday evening. Thomas wrote that the bullocks went missing during Thursday night. This was the first time that they had strayed, and they were only located some distance away after a lengthy search. After this event occurred for successive nights, they dissuaded the aboriginal families from travelling with them further.

Proceeding through an area of undulating open forest, with high ranges either side, but with little grass due to bushfire, the men split into two groups to explore further.

*"In about six miles we came to the edge of a swamp, with a creek through it, which we followed for two miles and came to Mr Dutton's hut. This creek, which runs down to the Hume, is called the Mullingindra."*

The men were welcomed by Mr Darlot, the overseer. After lunch, he took Thomas and



#### Bulletin Board

**November 12** - Richard Oliver, pilot who flew recon. in the war. He has a great yarn to tell

**December 10** - Annual Christmas BBQ at Rhodes/Rotary Park

Mr Dutton over the extensive property, and showed them 1000 head of stock, divided into three herds in separate paddocks; the breeding herd, bullocks and another one containing heifers. Thomas said that Dutton's run was the best station he had seen since leaving the Murrumbidgee. *"It is both pleasing to the eye, of good character, well sheltered and warm."*

These men rode along the banks of the Hume River. Thomas expressed frustration as to the river making too many twists and turns, and being eight miles long within only two or three miles length of land. He recounted seeing many lagoons and lakes isolated from the main riverbank except in times of flood, and spoke of two streams feeding into it.

Between several loops of this section of the river Mr Ebden established one of his homes in the region. Thomas looked forward to seeing him the next day.

*"We are now on the run where Ebden first brought his sheep, about fifteen or eighteen months ago, which he has since removed beyond the Goulburn, to within sixty miles of Port Phillip. He was the first to come so far out as this, and has evinced a great spirit of enterprise. We are now at least 360 miles inland from Sydney."*

Meanwhile McAlister and Brown had ridden further down the Mullingindra Road and encountered several gentlemen returning from Port Philip. These men stated that they had been on the road for eleven days, and were much pleased with the countryside thereabouts, and intended to settle in it. Useful information was exchanged about the route in both directions. McAlister was informed that the Hume had been high for a few days past, but was now lower and passable.

Thomas did not write further until after they forded the Hume. They decided to send some mail back to Sydney, along with several men, a cart and two extra horses.

*"On going through the bush, we expected to find game. The stockman have assured us that kangaroos, emus, native turkeys, pelicans and native dogs abound, but we did not meet with any of these animals. I have, in fact, only seen one kangaroo since leaving Yass, and not a single emu. We saw black ducks and swans on the rivers and lagoons."*

*"It was near three o'clock ere the drays reached the ford. The course of the river is here exceedingly torturous. The water was not above four feet deep at the ford, but the banks on both*

*sides were rather precipitous and the current tolerably rapid. We yet found no great difficulty or delay in getting over."*

Thomas had obtained a copy of Hume and Howell's (sic) journal dated 1822, and this proved to be helpful in selecting a crossing site. Hume had even ventured to the spot where Thomas and his party crossed over the river, but mentioned that the water was much higher and with a more rapid current then. Hume had returned upstream to cross near a point he named Battery Mount, and had taken a different but more easterly route through mountainous country. Thomas chose the gentler country to the west for his crossing, as had Ebden, who named the region Indigo Creek.

However, one dray stuck fast on the riverbed while getting across the creek. This delayed them for some time and frustrated their intention of going further that day. Thomas learned that there was a watering hole five miles away, but that it was the only known one for some considerable distance. Plans were made for taking on more water for the bullocks.

Thomas rode over to see Mr Ebden's stockyard, describing it as *"the largest and strongest that I have yet seen in the country. On the opposite side of the Hume he had a large paddock fenced in, and has grown some wheat."*

*(Prepared by Trish Skehan)*

*(to be continued)*

## Volunteers' Barbecue

**All our volunteers are invited to come to the Yaralla Dairy on Sunday, November 2 at 1:00 pm.**

We want to thank every volunteer who has helped our Society in any way - on Open Days, on the Estate in any capacity, or at the Museum this year.

We demand that you relax, enjoy a glass of red (or whatever takes your fancy) and be waited upon by the CHS executive.

For your enjoyment a gourmet BBQ will be cooked by El Presidente himself.

For catering purposes please let Sandra know by 29th October that you will be joining us.



## From the Yaralla Tours Organiser

**Open Day Preparations:** We need to have a clean up in and around the Dairy and the Stables complex in preparation for our Open Day. We will be meeting at Yaralla at 10:00 am on Saturday, 25th October. Can you spare a couple of hours to help with this? I would love to hear from you.

**Yaralla Open Day Sunday 26th October** Please let me know if you can help, even at the 11th hour.

**Additional Spring (November) tours** of the grounds of Yaralla have been booked.

The Nepean Evening View Club will visit on Saturday 8th, while the Mosman Community College will visit on the 15th. Both have booked to arrive at 10:00 am and, following Devonshire Teas in the Dairy, will be shown our photographic collection and taken on a tour of the grounds.

Both these groups could have approximately 40 people and this means we will need two grounds tours guides as well as caterers on both days. Please contact me if you can help.

Sandra Elliott

ttoille@optusnet.com.au  
(02) 9797-1040

## Toohey's Trademark



In June 1989 the Herald's Column 8 appealed for information about the Toohey's trademark. Beer buffs came to the rescue and the next week they printed the following article.

Beef buffs have given us information about how Toohey's came to use a stag's head as a trade mark. Much of it points to The Bald Faced Stag Hotel in Parramatta Road, Leichhardt, owned by the Hearn family from 1830 to 1970.

The story goes that Abraham Hearn, convict of 1803 and later publican, kept deer, one of them a bald-faced stag, on a small property in the Five Dock area.

On the stag's death he had the head mounted and displayed in the bar, changing the name of The Australian to The Bald Faced Stag.

Toohey's people, who were friends of the Hearn's, liked the head so much they borrowed the symbol, which eventually was registered as a trademark in 1909

# Convicts, Drunks and footballers at Concord

Concord Oval has seen a number of developments over the years, ranging from a prison to a Rugby World Cup venue.

In 1792, Governor Phillip established the government farm of Longbottom at the mid-point between Sydney and Parramatta, which was used as an overnight resting place for convicts travelling between the two centres. The farm is where Concord Oval is now and Longbottom is an old English word for swamp, and that explains just what the area was.

Later on, a stronger lock-up was built and by 1838, convict labour was being used to reclaim the swampland and establish a working farm and orchard. This lock-up was named the Longbottom Stockade. Part of the farm was sold off and became known as Burwood Park, even though it was not in the Municipality of Burwood.

After a political uprising in Canada between 1835 and 1838, the rebels were transported to Australia, arriving here in 1840, with the British being sent to Tasmania and the French speakers housed at the Longbottom Stockade. Eventually, these rebels were pardoned and repatriated to Canada in 1840, not before the bays, Canada, Exile and France were named after them.

Subsequently, the stockade was manned by the army and police as a horse training ground and agistment paddocks whilst the surrounding area was split into farmland and the Burwood Park was retained. The stockade became a lock-up for drunks.

St Luke's Church was consecrated nearby in 1861, and in 1886, the land surrounding the stockade was dedicated as a recreational area and renamed St Luke's Park. The stockade was refurbished and rented out to a horse trainer, who trained his horses on the nearby track. The street running past was called Stockade Street. This has since been changed to Loftus Street.

This horse track was converted into a playing field and became the home of Concord Rugby Club. The field was upgraded and enclosed and was then known as St Luke's Oval.

When grade Rugby was begun in 1900, the bigger Burwood club merged with the smaller Concord to form the new district club to be named Burwood as it was the major party. However, Concord had the best ground and as a team named

Burwood could not play on a Concord ground, the club named was changed to Western Suburbs District Football Club. The type of football was not mentioned.

This Rugby club, that won the grade competition in 1902, was granted the lease of the Oval in 1904 and by 1910, a grandstand had been added. In subsequent years, the ground became the home of Western Suburbs Athletic Club, Cricket Club and Rugby League Club.

Wests Rugby was very strong in the 1920s and went on to win the Shute Shield in 1929. That year's game against Randwick at Concord Oval attracted over 11,000 fans and the police had to shut the gates for crowd safety reasons. This remains the record attendance for a round of Sydney club Rugby.

Concord Council celebrated its golden jubilee in 1933 and as a project for this, and as a reward for Wests 1929 win, the Council approved an upgrade of St Luke's Oval, which included the surface and a new grandstand, as well as installing training lights, all for a cost of 8,000 pounds (\$16,000), a huge amount for those days. This was all completed in 1932 and the ground was renamed Concord Oval.



This stayed the same until Wests lease was not renewed at the end of the 1950 season. Wests then went to Henson Park and then to Ashfield Park. Both the Western Suburbs Australian Football Club and Concordia Soccer Club gained the lease for 1951 onwards.

It was 10 years before Wests Rugby returned "home" and in 1966, the club was readmitted to Sydney's district competition. The club struggled but made the grand final in 1973 but the facilities at the oval were antiquated and needed to be overhauled.

In 1983, Wests put a proposal to the Sydney Rugby Union, who then controlled the local Rugby

competitions, about a total regeneration of the ground and to make it the home of Rugby in NSW. This was accepted and work began almost immediately.

When work began on the western grandstand in 1984, the foundations of the old Longbottom Stockade, which had been demolished in the 1932 reconstruction, were uncovered. The area was surveyed by the local Historical Society and the building of the stand was allowed to continue.

Because of the success of the 1984 Wallaby tour of the UK, it was suggested that the stand be called the "Grand Slam Stand" but this did not proceed. Concord Oval did become the home of Rugby. There were internationals, interstate, sevens, trans-Tasman and finals matches played there. It was the home of the Waratahs and the offices of the NSWRU when that body regained control from the SRU. The ground was then called Waratah Rugby Park.

The zenith came when the first Rugby World Cup, in 1987, was played there. A new eastern stand was built which gave a 20,000 crowd capacity. All Sydney matches were held there, including the semi-final between Australia and France, which is recognised as one of the all-time great Rugby games.

Eventually, the Waratahs moved to the bigger Sydney Football Stadium leaving Wests alone. Financial and other difficulties made it too hard for Wests to continue and lost the sole lease. It is still the home of Wests Rugby but the ground is shared with the Tigers Rugby League Club, who use it for training and merchandise sales, and a soccer club that play on Sundays.

There is no doubt that Wests Rugby still see Concord Oval as its headquarters with the club's administration now there as well.

Harry Kimble



## One man's inspiring story

He drifted through his 20s. When he turned 31 he thought: "I've got to get myself going and do something!"

He formed a partnership and went into business, but in 18 months he was bankrupt. Then he decided, since he was broke anyway, he would go into politics. In his first local election he lost badly.

Two years later, aged 34, he went back into business. Bankrupt again. A year later he thought things were improving when he fell in love with a beautiful woman. She died. At 36 he suffered a nervous breakdown and was confined to bed for six months.

He recovered and went back into politics, running for another local government post. He lost again. He started another business, with a little more success this time.

So, at 43, he decided to run for Congress. He lost. At 46 he ran for Congress again, and he lost again. At 48 he ran for the Senate, and lost that as well.

When he was 55, he tried for his party's nomination for Vice-President. He was badly defeated. At age 58 he ran for the Senate again, and again he lost.

Finally, at 60 years of age, Abraham Lincoln was elected to his first office - President of the United States.

Lincoln told his friends late in life that he had had a lifelong battle with fear and depression, but he wouldn't quit.

*(Reprinted from Vison Business Book Summaries, Number 104, The 10 Laws of Leadership by Bill Newman, BNC Publications.)*

## What's in a name?

*"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."*

A suggestion was put to our last meeting that we should give consideration to changing our name to make it more applicable to the broader community of the City of Canada Bay.

We want to encourage the people from the former Drummoyne Municipality to take an interest in our museum when it opens.

We will need additional assistance in manning the museum because it will be opened on a more regular basis and for longer hours and we will need two people on duty at all times. This would put a bigger load on our own members.

Over the past 30 years of our operations we concentrated only on the history of the Concord Municipality. As a result we have very little on the history and heritage of the Drummoyne Municipality. We now need to encourage those residents to help gather information, photographs, etc. to add to our archival collection. We also need to seek out objects relating to the history of the area and its people for our museum displays.

This is a very big step for our society and we need to give it a great deal of thought and discussion before actually making any changes.

Please let us have your thoughts and suggestions regarding a change of name.. Do you support a change? Do you want to stay as it is? **We need your input before making such a big decision.**

## Christmas is Coming

*If the stores can do it, so can we!*

Just a reminder that our Christmas Barbecue will be held at Rhodes/Rotary Park, Concord West on Wednesday evening, 10th December. Come as early as you like from (say) 5:30 - the barbecue will be served about 6:30 pm.

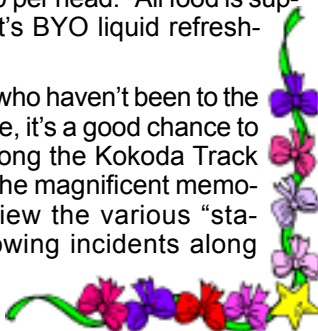


All members and friends, as well as any other interested people, are invited to come along for a pleasant evening of fellowship.

This is a good chance for members to get together in an informal group to get to know one another better.

Cost is \$10 per head. All food is supplied but it's BYO liquid refreshments.

For those who haven't been to the area before, it's a good chance to wander along the Kokoda Track to look at the magnificent memorial and view the various "stations" showing incidents along the track.



## For Your Diary

Wed. Oct 22 - Executive Meeting

Sun. Oct 26 - Yaralla Open Day

Sun. Nov. 2 - Volunteers' Barbecue

Wed. Nov 12 - General Meeting

Wed. Nov 26 - Walker Committee

Wed. Dec 10 - Christmas BBQ

## From the Secretary's Desk

**Vacancies:** There are still a couple of vacancies on the Executive Committee. Why not come along to one of our meetings (we meet at the museum, 1 Bent Street, Concord at 7:30 pm) and see if you'd like to become part of the group. Meetings are only held every second month but the committee plays an important part in the running of the Society and you gain a better insight into what we do. Why not give it a try?

**Collectors and Antiquers:** Surely some of our members or our friends know someone who could help us gaining vital information for setting up more interesting displays in our museum. We need the help!

**Articles or Items for Nurungi:** Thank to our new member, Harry Kimble, for his interesting article on the many lives of the Longbottom Stockade.

Special thanks also to Trish Skehan who has been doing a wonderful job of paraphrasing Thomas Walker's diary of his overland trip to Port Philip. We do hope you are enjoying it and learning a little more about the man himself.

Do you have anything you could offer? Have you come across any article you think would interest members? It's not always easy filling these pages with what we hope are interesting items. Any help would be appreciated.

**Does anyone read this newsletter?** We keep asking questions but nobody answers. This is your newsletter why not support it . . . send in an item or article - give us your opinion on something about the Society. We are happy to receive complaints or praise; criticism or congratulations. Just let us hear from you so we know you're out there!

**Museum Research:** Does anyone out there have some time to help with research for our museum displays? Most could be done on the internet, if this is your thing. Or, if you would be happy to go to the Mitchell Library, or other such places, for more research, this would also be most helpful.

The Museum Committee is always looking for additional assistance, particularly with the initial setting up of the museum.