



# "Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

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**MEETINGS**  
**General Meetings**  
2nd Wednesday of month  
(except January)  
at 7:30 pm in the  
City of Canada Bay  
Museum  
1 Bent Street, Concord  
9743-3034

**Executive Meetings**  
4th Wednesday of month  
at 7:30 pm in the  
Museum  
(all members welcome)

**Walker Estates Committee**  
meets when required.  
Bob Jones, 8765-9347

**Tours Organiser**  
Sandra Elliott  
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**Museum Committee**  
meets irregularly at the museum  
For details contact  
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  
**Open Wed & Sat**  
**10am to 4pm**

**No.158**

**June 2009 (2)**

### Walker Chronicles (part 17)

## The Yarrazene Falls to Mount Macedon

May 27<sup>th</sup>. The falls of the Yarrazene lay in their path. Thomas described that scene as 'a romantic place a little to the south of the road called Cobban', and saw the spot where flowing rapids cascaded over the rocks. 'When there is a large body of water, the sight, I have no doubt, is a pretty one, though the fall is not over thirty feet.'

Mount Macedon was still sixty miles south, nearer to Port Phillip. Although welcoming the company and safety of travelling with Ebdon and his household, the party were anxious to complete their journey, being weeks overdue.

But the climate proved as unpredictable as the country. The weather turned nasty and Thomas described it as 'the most unpleasant day of the trip so far.' Bitterly cold winds and chilling rain made changing into dry clothes a real pleasure.

Charles joined Thomas to shelter in his tent, and Thomas made a note not to grumble so much. Reading over his comments about their progress, he realised that most of the journey had been made in very agreeable weather.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Mount Macedon. Thomas described the high autumn pastures of gently rolling meadows, and the thinly wooded hills of Stringybark and Black-butt trees. Ebdon, after much consideration, had selected a spot on the banks of Wearidy Creek. 'Those who get these lands can count themselves fortunate. The fertile soil would well grow grain.' Thomas wrote about how he coveted this land that the elderly squatter had just claimed.

Hardier members of the party climbed the near side of Mount Macedon. On the higher plateau, creeks cascaded merrily through the lush green landscape. Thomas marvelled at the view of the waterfalls plunging down the mountainside, then flowing onwards to form the headwaters of Wearidy River.

Crossing the top of Mount Macedon proved to be tougher going than first anticipated, but they finally found a spot where the undergrowth opened to reveal the water of Port Phillip Bay on the horizon to the south-east. Thomas fancied that he glimpsed the

ocean directly to the south, but misjudged the effect of nearness that high altitude created, as the bay was more than twenty miles away.

As they all gazed towards the sea, they agreed that 'no-one would ever forget the journey, nor attempt lightly to do it again.' Buoyed by the apparent nearness of their final destination, Thomas Walker and Lachlan McAlister hurried down the rocky mountainside to pack their gear and take leave of their travelling companions.

They readied horses and provisions, determined to arrive in Port Phillip before the first of June. Land sales would begin in earnest on that date and large numbers of settlers were already gathering in the township of Port Melbourne.

The two men rode overland for about eight miles, through fertile grassland ripe for the plough. They arrived at the solitary homestead of Mister Mollison, who made them feel most welcome as darkness fell. After supper that night, they settled on the floor in front of the fire. Mollison had not yet completed the house, so they bedded down under cloaks and blankets. Thomas said that he never slept so soundly nor so peacefully.

He noted on various occasions the contrasting aspect of homesteads owned by single men, 'where spartan interiors, devoid of bare necessities, contrasted with the difference that woman and children made to the places, filling them with homely comforts and good cheer.'

They departed early the next morning to attend a sale of allotments at which more than two hundred people would bid on various sites offered. Half-acre blocks fetched between eighteen and ninety-five pounds, depending on their location, the average being about forty pounds a site.

(to be continued)



### Bulletin Board

June 10 - John Brock, "The Day we Met the Don - plus some of his friends".  
Invite all your cricketing friends along!!

# City of Canada Bay Museum

1 Bent Street, Concord

Open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



Our official opening on Saturday, 16th May was a great success with over 200 people coming through the doors.

The compliments were music to our ears after all our hard (and I do mean HARD) work in getting it ready for the occasion.

It is a pleasure to walk through the door and be welcomed by such a spacious and professionally presented display.

Our whole committee is very proud

of the museum and we hope all our members will be able to come and see what an asset we now have - particularly when compared to our previous home.

We now have the space and storage facilities to be able to make regular changes in the displays and to invite other groups, whether they be sporting, craft, arts, social or any other interest, to come and put on a display to advertise themselves.

We also hope to be able to rent out the

meeting area to other groups to bring in some income for us.

We are also planning to invite special speakers from time to time as another means of bringing the general public to visit us.

If you know of any groups or people who would be able to help with these plans, then please let them and us know.

But, most important, please come and visit - you won't be disappointed.

## The Importance of Walking and other Exercise

I have to walk early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60 . . . Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 dollars. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

We all get heavier as we get older, "cos there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Every time I hear the dirty word "exercise", I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country

*Legacy Torchlight, Autumn 2009 (reprinted with permission)*

# Sydney's Earliest Burial Grounds

When Sydney was first settled in 1788 there were no official regulations governing the burial of the dead. The government did not record the setting apart of ground for burials until the second half of 1792.

There is evidence that two burial grounds existed at or near The Rocks. On 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1788, a convict woman is said to have referred to the first one as "at the extremity of the lines (four rows of convict huts) where, since our arrival, the dead are buried". This is the area bounded by Essex, Gloucester, Grosvenor and Harrington Streets.

Another ground is thought to have been further north, on Dawes Point, near the area now called Atherton Place, at the rear of the Overseas Terminal at Campbell's Cove. That burial ground was for sailors and marines. A headstone of George Graves, who died on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1788, was dug out of the ground there in the early 1870s and is reported to be now in the Coach House of Vaucluse House.

Sydney's third cemetery was at the rear of the Military Barracks. The area today would be at the corner of Clarence Street and York Lane, near Margaret Street. Rev. William Cowper is recorded as saying that soon after his arrival in Sydney in 1809, he saw a headstone bearing the date 1792 in that burial ground. Maybe that ground was started when the death rate increased after the arrival of the Second Fleet in June 1790. It is believed that some bodies were interred in the North Shore at that time also.

In 1792, for the first time, ground was officially appropriated for the burial of the dead, quite a long way out of the town. Later this was called the George Street Burial Ground and later still the Town Hall Cemetery. It was not until 1810 that Governor Macquarie called the main street of the town George Street after the King. Before that it had been High Street, Spring Row and Sergeant Major's Row. The settlement did not extend beyond what is now Market Street for many years. Even in 1815 someone described this George Street Burial Ground as "without the town" and "in a bad situation, the ground is of hardish clay, in some places white and fit for making pipes. In wet weather the place is very offensive from the stench rising from the bodies, some of which are not far underground." This cemetery closed in 1819 when the Sandhills opened.

The Sandhills Cemetery, or Old Devonshire Street Ground, was Sydney's fifth cemetery, where the first interment was on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1819. Approximately 5,000 memorial stones of all varieties were erected in the Sandhills Cemetery during the 50 years 1819 to 1868. It was the first cemetery to have sections for the different religions. The General section, or oldest part, became the Church of England portion in 1825; the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian portions were also laid out in 1825 and then sections for the Wesleyan, Methodist, Congregational (Independent), Jewish and Quaker religions were set apart.

The Sandhills Cemetery was closed in 1888 and by 1901 had become very deserted and neglected. In that year the area was resumed to make way for Sydney's Central Railway Station and the NSW Government invited descendants and relatives of those buried there to relocate the monuments and remains. Many went to Botany Cemetery, which had opened in 1888, but some also went to other cemeteries which were set aside during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, viz. Petersham (1863), Rookwood (1868), Balmain (1868), Gore Hill (1868), South Head (1869), and Waverley (1877). Only a very few went to Camperdown Cemetery, which was Sydney's principal Church of England cemetery from 1849.

The oldest known undisturbed grave in the Commonwealth is in St. John's Cemetery at Parramatta and is a flat slab of river sandstone with the inscription H.E.Dodd 1791. Henry Edward Dodd was Governor Phillip's butler, who was buried on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1791.

St. Philips register has three entries referred to as Rose Hill (Parramatta) burials. The first was James Magee, buried on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1790, the baby son of two First Fleet convicts, Christopher Magee and Eleanor (nee McCabe).

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century people were normally buried in the nearest cemetery to their home, though there were a few exceptions.

Audrey Barnes

*Ref: "10,000 Years of Sydney Life – a Guide to Archaeological Discovery" edited by Peter Stanbury – pub. 1979 by The Macleay Museum – page 22 – "The Historical Grave" by Keith Johnson.*

*This was printed in the Jan/Feb 1992 issue of The 1788-1820 Gazette, and printed with permission.*

## More Aviation Antics

### Death staring him in the face.

#### Charles Learmonth 1912-1942.

A Flight Lieutenant in the RAAF during WWII, Charles was a flight instructor in Sale before being transferred to WA. At the time there were a series of unexplained crashes of Beaufort airplane, all of them fatal. So many trainees and experienced pilots were killed that it became evident there was a fault in the aircraft itself.

In 1942, while flying an anti-submarine patrol along the WA coast, Learmonth found his plane dipping towards the sea. Although he struggled for control, the plane's nose would not come up. With a crash inevitable and 'death staring him in the face', he described in detail over the radio all that was happening with the controls.

Killed in the crash, his brave actions were invaluable in solving the Beaufort's construction fault, and minor tail modifications resulted in a stable aircraft.

## Odds & Ends

**One fell swoop:** The following announcement appeared in a Long Island, New York, newspaper: "Important notice. If you are one of hundreds of parachuting enthusiasts who bought our course titled "Easy Sky Diving in One Fell Swoop", please make the following correction – on page 8, line 16, change "state zip code" to "pull rip cord".

**Nix for Norway:** Norwegian pop singer Jan Teigan has an unbeatable record in the Eurovision Song Contest. In 1978 his rendition of a song called "Mile After Mile" scored a unanimous zero from the judging panel. Jan became an instant celebrity. "I've got lots of offers for TV appearances, tours and interviews. I've never known as much interest taken in me", he said.

**Les Miserables:** French author Victor Hugo, who wrote one of the longest sentences in literature, also wrote the world's shortest letter. One sentence in "Les Miserables" is 823 words long and takes up more than three pages. While on holiday, Hugo wrote to his publishers in Paris to find out how the book was selling. His "?" was answered by "!".

**Days of their lives:** Absolutely nothing happened in London between September 2 and 14, 1752. Britain lost 11 days overnight when it adopted the Gregorian Calendar, 170 years after the rest of Europe. There were riots in the street because people thought their lives had been shortened.



**From the Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1942**

**No Gas today in big area of Sydney – Strike at AGL Works – Quick Federal Move sought.**

*In this edited extract, we are reminded of what wages were like in the 1940's*

There will be no gas in the greater part of Sydney this morning, as announced last night by the General Manager of the Australian Gas Light Company, Mr. H. Tindale. Production of gas, he said, had stopped yesterday because of a wages dispute at the company's Mortlake Works.

The Australian Gas Light Company regrets to inform the public that it has no alternative but to immediately cease the manufacture and supply of gas owing to a strike of employees engaged in the retort houses at its Mortlake works, said Mr. Tindale last night.

As the result of a recent new Federal award, members of the Gas Employees' Union employed by the company received increased wages, sick leave and annual leave. The company employs 12 oilers and greasers on shiftwork in the retort houses. These employees are dissatisfied with the rate prescribed for them by the new award.

Their present wage is £6/5/9 a week, made up of £4/17/-, total basic wage for Sydney, 6/- industry money, 14/3d margin money, 5/6d shiftwork allowance and 3/- war loading. They

consider the Court should have awarded them the rate of wage granted to operators and firemen working in the retort houses, namely £6/12/6 a week, made up of £4/17/-, total basic wage for Sydney, 6/- industry money, 20/- margin, 5/6d shift work allowance and 4/- war loading.

*(Ed: £1 = \$2; 1/- = 10c; 6d = 5c)*

Under the heading Serious Effect on War Plants, the article details such things as:

- \* Power under the National Security Statutory Rule 77 because gas is an essential public service;
- \* Effects on war industry links of a wide range of inter-dependant trades;
- \* Boarding houses and city restaurants inability to serve meals;
- \* Effect on major hospitals serving meals, etc.

On a lighter note, the article advised that:

"Today, the annual meeting of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children was to be held and as well as providing meals for the children patients, arrangements have been made to supply afternoon tea for about 600 persons who are expected to attend the meeting. More than 600 scones were to have been made for these guests, but if no gas is available, biscuits and cakes will comprise the fare".

**Editor's note:** *The scone makers of our Yaralla Open Days might well have a giggle at this catastrophe! On a more serious note, this article in full has been retained in our Archives, if anyone is interested.*

## From the Secretary's Desk

**Rivendell Open Day:** This will be on Sunday, 5th July. Please let your friends and neighbours know. We have leaflets which we can give you for letterbox drops if you would like to assist.

**Museum Building:** We are hoping to source extra income by inviting other groups to use our meeting area at the museum for activities or meetings. If you know of anyone seeking such an amenity, please ask them to contact us.

**Museum Committee:** Over the coming months there is still much work needing to be done. We need to unpack and sort properly all of the artefacts that are not currently on display. They then need to be photographed and entered into the computer data base ready for future use. None of this needs very special skills, even two-finger typists and computer illiterate people can easily handle the work. Please put your hand up, we need you!!

**Membership Renewals:** A dues notice is included in this issue. If there is not notice then your fees are in advance.

**Questionnaires:** We are also enclosing a form seeking information from our members. It would be greatly appreciated if you would take a few minutes to fill this in and either return with your membership renewal, send separately to the secretary or drop it in to our new museum.

One of the things we are trying to ascertain is if you have any expertise - in any field at all - with which you would be prepared to offer assistance to our society or to the museum. We also need your email address so that we can get news out to you quickly without having to spend money on postage, or we can use it to send your monthly newsletter if you are willing. Postage is a very big cost to our society and we need to find ways of saving money.

**AGM & Elections:** These are coming up fast - please give consideration to putting your name forward for the Executive Committee.

**For Your Diary**

Wed. May 27 - Executive Meeting  
 Wed. June 3 - Standards Committee  
 Wed. June 10 - General Meeting  
 Wed. June 24 - Executive Meeting

## Walking Tall

*Yesterday's steps you can't retrace,  
By slowing down or quickening the pace,  
Changing course, or turning back –  
You'll still be on the same old track.  
The only change worthwhile, you'll find,  
Will be a change of heart and mind,  
Leading and directing you –  
On towards the lovely view.*

*Keep to the rules and bear your load,  
Along the long and rutted road.  
On the wayside seat awhile –  
Gather strength for the second mile.  
Keeping an eye on that distant height  
That draws you on by day and night,  
Walking tall and walking straight –  
The better world to recreate.*

Patience Strong

## American Intelligence

American Intelligence have just found a letter written to George W. Bush by Osama Bin Laden to let him know he was still around. It contained a single line of coded message 37OH-SSV-0773H.

Completely baffled as to the message they sent it on to the Secretary of State, but no result. Then tried the FBI, then CIA, then M16 and Mossad, but no one could solve it.

Eventually they asked ASIO for help. Within a minute ASIO emailed the White House with this reply: "Tell them they're holding the message upside down!"