



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.auwww.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
(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
9797-1040
ttoille@optusnet.com.au

Museum Committee
meets irregularly at the
museum
For details contact
Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682

Oral History Committee
Betty Fletcher, 9713-1384
Julia Stewart, 8765-9067

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CITY OF CANADA BAY MUSEUM

1 Bent Street, Concord

Open Wed & Sat
10am to 4pm

No.166**February 2010**

Concord Road

I can recall sometime about 1913-14 walking to Concord West from Strathfield along a dirt road.

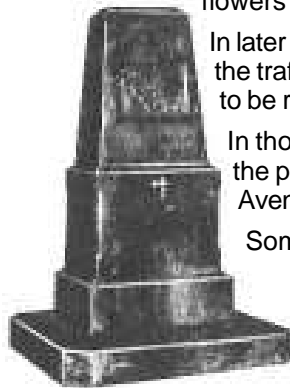
The next time I saw Concord Road was late in 1919. I had alighted from the train at the new North Strathfield Station and by that time the road had been sealed with tar. I remember that it was a hot day and the tar was running and I got it on my tan lace-up boots, which at that time were very smart.

The bitumen was on the centre with only a dirt strip on either side.

In 1920, when we came to live in Concord, trees had been planted on both sides of Concord Road in memory of soldiers killed in the 1914-18 war and each tree bore the number of a soldier.

It was not uncommon to see a wreath or bunch of flowers on the wire guards.

There was a memorial fountain on the corner of Concord Road and Patterson Street and flowers would be placed there on Anzac Day.



In later years, with the opening of the vehicular bridge over Parramatta River the traffic increased so much that, owing to the traffic hazard, the trees had to be removed.

In those early days Concord Road commenced at Parramatta Road and the portion from Parramatta Road to Strathfield Station was called Swan Avenue.

Some years later Concord Road was concreted.

Near Strathfield Station on the Concord Road side, part of a vineyard still remained but my mother told me that when she was young it was a very large vineyard.

Gladys Plant
(from our archives)

Speaking of Archives

We are in need of someone to volunteer to take over the task of trying to get our many documents and photographs into some sort of order where we can finally know what is in our collection and how to access items quickly.

We don't need a trained Archivist (although if there is one out there willing to put their hand up, we'd love to have you), just someone with a general knowledge of filing and cataloguing.



If more than one person volunteers, so much the better. More hands make light work.



Bulletin Board

Wed. 10th Feb - our first meeting for the new year. We will be showing a DVD of "The Lost Gardens of Heligen", which are in Cornwall.

Wed. 10th March - to be advised

Wed. 14th April - to be advised

Doris at 92 recalls life downstairs

Life downstairs in Edwardian Concord was a lot of fun, including the use of a private swimming pool, when the lady of the house was absent, Mrs. Doris McOrrie related this week.

It was as a 16-year-old Doris Evers that she joined the staff of Dame Eadith Walker at "Yaralla" and began the promotional climb from servants' hall to kitchen maid.

Now, at 92 on December 7 this year, she remembers that Dame Eadith had a pre-World War I staff of 25, nine of them maids. She was the most junior.

"I loved every minute of it", she said this week. "The scenery, the swimming pool, the dogs' graves with each one's name on stone. But I've heard these are no longer there.

The pool was part of the Yaralla estate and the staff could use it when Dame Eadith was out for the day.

Since she spent many days at work for the Red Cross in Sydney, young Doris learned to swim.

She had not had the opportunity at her home in Molong.

Her grandfather, Titus Evers, had come from England and had taken to the bush.

Doris broke tradition and entered service in the city.

"A real lady's life", she described it. "The delicious food, after coming from a small country town - it was a life of luxury."

Certainly there was luxury on her days off.

She would inform the housekeeper, Mr. Fanny Fairless, who in turn informed one of the two coachmen.

The girls would be driven along a beautiful avenue lined with trees to Concord railway station.

"We always were to catch the 20 to 10 pm train back from the city and the coachman drove us home", she said.

Young Doris records that kitchen maid Mary Hinton eventually married coachman Ned Allen.

She was promoted to the kitchen then and learned the art.

She certainly learned! She gained 21 "cards" - 9 first and 11 seconds - for cooking cakes, scones and the traditional dampers. And on a wood range.

It was not all hard work.

Dame Eadith often held garden parties for charity and all the staff shared "a floor upstairs where each of us had our nice sleeping apartments."

But the Edwardian patina came to an end.

When Doris was 18 Dame Eadith took a two-years trip to England and the staff was cut back, so she took a position at the Garcia School of Music at Potts Point.

(This article was published in what appears to be a magazine, but the person who handed it to us did not take note of either the date or name of the publication.)



Museum Committee

The next meeting of this Committee will be on Wednesday, 3rd February from 10:00 am at the Museum.

This is a very important meeting as we need to start making plans for the year. We would like as many as possible to attend as the more input we get the better will be the results.

We need to decide on the displays we would like to start planning so that we can carry out the necessary research and collection of photographs, memorabilia, etc. to support them. If a display is to be mounted professionally then there is a great deal of work to be done beforehand.

We also need to plan various activities to make use of our meeting area and, hopefully, bring in some funds as well as introducing people to our facility.

We have now purchased, through a grant from Museums & Galleries NSW, a digital recorder as well as another tape recorder so our two Oral History Chairpersons should be ready to start work.

Thanks to another grant obtained by City of Canada Bay Council, many of our large photographs have been digitised. However, we still have many small ones which we hope to be able to scan for ourselves, with your help.

Our Library books are being catalogued, thanks to Betty Robertson's granddaughter.

Please make a note of the date in your diary and come along on 3rd February.

The Museum Committee



is not an elected committee, it is made up of people who are interested in the City of Canada Bay Museum.

Anyone is welcome to come along and share their thoughts and ideas - or put their hands up for one of the many jobs that need doing.

You are free to give as much or as little as you are able.

Why not come along to our meeting on 3rd February and see what it's all about - with no obligations.

We need people with various skills - marketing, public relations, writing skills, research - or with no skills at all, just a willingness to pitch in and help in any way they can.

If this describes you, we'd love to get to meet you at the meeting. Come and join us for a "cuppa" and a chat.

Drinking Fountains (front page)

There were two of these fountains, one at Patterson Street and one at Rhodes. The inscription on each tablet read as follows:

MEMORY AVENUE

This avenue of trees was planted as a memorial by relatives and friends of the Nurses, Soldiers and Sailors of Concord who enlisted in the Great War, 1914-1918.

Dedicated August 3rd, 1918

More on the Sinking of the Centaur

The survivors

Years later Seaman Morris recalled that the Centaur sank quickly. Morris found himself alone in the water, eyes full of salt and oil. He found a small raft and then spotted his mate, Bobbie Teenie, whom he hauled aboard. In their loneliness and fear he remembers they made a great fuss of each other. As day dawned they spotted a bigger raft on the horizon and pulled over to it as their own was slowly sinking. Sister Savage had also found her way to this bigger raft.

This larger raft was part of the Centaur's wheel-house. The senior surviving officer, Second Officer Rippon, encouraged all those clinging to smaller rafts and debris to make for this so-called 'survival island'. Little food and water was available; many, including Sister Savage, were lightly dressed; and medical supplies for the injured were non-existent.

So, huddled together, the survivors spent the daylight hours of Friday 14 May. In this crisis individual example engendered optimism and hope. Seaman Morris led them in vigorous singing of 'Roll Out The Barrel' and

'Waltzing Matilda'. Captain Salt, a Torres Strait pilot, despite his severe burns, kept assuring everyone that rescue must be on the way. Lieutenant Colonel Outridge and Sister Savage did what they could for the wounded. Sharks circled them and occasionally nosed the rafts. On the raft Seaman Morris was crammed up next to the badly burned Private Walder. Morris recalls Walder's death:

He'd died next to me and his burns just stuck on my arm ... And I said to Sister Savage who was practically opposite me, I said: 'I think this young chap's dead'. And she said: 'Are you sure?'. And I said: 'Well, I'm pretty sure'. As she felt over she said: 'He's passed on'. So I took his identification disc off him and his name was John Walder, New South Wales army man. I gave his identification disc to Sister Savage and she said: 'Will you answer the Rosary?'. And I said: 'Yes, I'll do my best'.

She said the Rosary and I answered it and we buried him at sea.

On the afternoon of Saturday 15 May, 32 hours after the Centaur had slipped to the bottom, the Naval Officer in

Charge Brisbane, Captain E P Thomas, received a message from the USS Mugford. The American destroyer was picking up survivors from the hospital ship Centaur 40 miles east of Cape Moreton. It was the first Australia knew of the nation's worst loss from submarine attack during the war.

So quickly had the Centaur sunk that no SOS message was sent. The Mugford had been escorting the British steamer Sussex clear of Australian coastal waters when a lookout spotted an object ahead in the water. An RAAF Avro-Anson providing air cover dived on the object and then headed back towards the destroyer signalling 'Rescue survivors in water ahead'.

Of the 332 who had sailed from Sydney only 64 were found clinging to rafts and debris. The 2/12th Field Ambulance had virtually been wiped out. Sister Savage was the only nurse to survive. For her inspiring example on the raft she was awarded the George Medal.

(For more information on the Centaur visit the Australian War Memorial web site.)

More Aviation Antics **Raymond Whitehead & Rex Nicholl.**

Raymond Whitehead was born in 1910 in NZ, and dreamed of one day beating Charles Kingsford-Smith's record flight between Australia and New Zealand. Little did he dream how much trouble this flight would become.

In 1934, with his Australian-born friend Rex Nicholl, they set out in a single-engine Dehavilland DH80A Puss moth. However, their preparations were incredibly foolhardy as the plane had not been adapted for long distance flight. There were no extra fuel or oil tanks fitted on board, and the Gypsy 120hp engine was considered a notorious oil-burner.

The plane carried 100 gallons of additional fuel tanks in the cockpit, fitted with a rubber hose leading from the engine and sealed with a wooden plug. This left only space for a narrow plank in front on which the pilot could sit. It became obvious that two men would be needed, one to fly and the other to top up the fuel and oil tanks. The only available space was a small gap in front of the pilot's legs.

After Aviation Inspectors inspected the craft and immediately withdrew its Certificate of Airworthiness, Whitehead and Nicholl decided to defy the

law and make a secret crossing in their plane, named 'Faith in New Zealand.'

In November 1934 the plane was moved to Gerringong beach in the dark. About 2 o'clock in the morning, with Nicholl squeezed between Whitehead's legs, they took off, clearing the waves by inches. They carried no radio or navigational aids, except a compass, which proved to be faulty.

Twice during the flight, the men changed positions, performing a contortion-like act in the cramped conditions. The flight was supposed to take 10 hours but the day passed with no sight of land. As sunset approached, the increasingly concerned pilots spotted a small group of islands, the Three Kings Group, located over 250 miles north of New Zealand. Turning south, they managed to land on a deserted mainland beach as night fell. They decided to sleep beside the plane and head for Auckland the next morning.

Meanwhile, authorities had learned of the clandestine flight from concerned friends and set up a rescue plan. Next morning, many search planes scoured the seas for possible landing sites or debris. Unaware of the drama

they had caused, the pilots flew to Auckland the next day, but were not prepared for the unwelcomed reception they received.

Charged with making a flight in an un-airworthy aircraft, both were convicted, but released without penalty. The flight took over 14 hours, so did not break the record.

Ray Whitehead became the first New Zealander to cross the Tasman Sea by air, but lost his leg in an aircraft crash in China years later.

Trish Skehan

Moments in History - January

1622: January 1st was adopted as the beginning of the New Year instead of March 25.

1960: Australian's highest temperature of 50.7c was recorded in Oodnadatta, SA.

1907: Bondi Surf Life Saving Club (Australia's first) made its first two rescues, one of whom was famous future aviator, Charles Kingsford Smith.

1908: 100 years ago Arnotts produced their first biscuit in a factory in Sydney.

1907: MORTEIN insect spray trademark was registered.

Time Management and Team Building

Time is the most precious commodity that we possess, we all have the same amount of it allotted to us – one breath at a time. Let's not waste it.

Managing our time may well be the single greatest challenge that we face in our life, be it career, volunteer or private. Let us live our lives so that the time we have is well-spent and we are functioning in the most effective manner, not that we won't have some setbacks, but that we will know how to respond to these unusual situations and to evolve as winners.

Here's a short but very vivid comparison of what separates the winners from the losers.

The winner is always part of the answer,
The loser is always a part of the problem.

The winner always has a programme,
The loser always has an excuse.

The winner says: "let me do it for you",
The loser says: "That's not my job".

The winner sees an answer for every problem,
The loser sees a problem in every answer.

The winner sees a green near every sand trap,
The loser sees two or three sand traps near every green.

The winner says: "It may be difficult, but not impossible",
The loser says: "It may be possible, but it's too difficult".

BE A WINNER!!!

JUST FOR A LAUGH



A man sees a sign in front of a house advertising: "Talking Dog, \$50". He knocks on the door and asks the owner if he can see the dog.

"Sure", says the owner, who calls the dog and then leaves the room.

"So, you can talk?" says the man to the dog.

"Yeah", says the dog.

"Wow, that's amazing. Where did you learn how to talk?" the man asks.

The dog replies, "Well, I used to work for the CIA and they trained me to sit in and spy on various conversations".

The owner returns and the man says, "How come you only want \$50 for him? A dog of this calibre and skill must be worth millions".

The owner replies in disgust, "Oh, he hasn't been feeding you that rubbish about being in the CIA, has he?"

This is a beautiful message about growing old with dignity. It's well worth a read as it will happen to all of us some time ...



Damn!!!!

I've forgotten what it was.....

Elephant Stew

1 medium sized elephant
1 ton salt
1 ton pepper
200 bushells carrots
500 bushells potatoes
3800 sprigs parsley

Method: Cut elephant into bite size pieces (this will take 2 months).

Cut vegetables into cubes (another 2 months).

Place meat in a pan and cover with 1000 gallons of brown gravy. Simmer for 4 weeks. Shovel in the pepper and salt to taste.

Simmer slowly for 4 weeks. Serve garnished with parsley sprig.

This will serve 3,800 people.

But, if more people are expected, add two small rabbits (preferably skinned).

For Your Diary

Wed. Jan. 27 - Executive Meeting

Wed. Feb. 3 - Museum Committee

Wed. Feb. 10 - General Meeting

Wed. Feb. 24 - Executive Meeting

Wed. Mar 10 - General Meeting

Sat 20 to Sun 28 March - Seniors Week and Oral History Project (see details in Secretary's column)

Wed. Mar 24 - Executive Meeting

Wed. April 14 - General Meeting

Wed. April 28 - Executive Meeting

Sun. May 3 - Open Day at Yaralla

From the Secretary's Desk

Next General Meeting will be held on 10th February. Please mark it in your diary now.

Special Thanks to Roger Saliba and his two friends and Bob Jones who all turned up to help Ray Lane tidy up and organise our things out in the parking bay. It now looks much better and we can access things we need.

Garage Sale: As a bonus of the clean-up we will now be able to go ahead with our planned garage sale. If you have anything you'd like to donate towards it we'd be most grateful

Seniors' Week & Oral History Project: Our museum will be open for two week-ends and one Wednesday from 20th to 28th March for this event. We plan to show our old photographs of the area as well as show visitors around the museum. In this way we hope to be able to jog their memories. It will be our aim to capture these memories on tape for future generations. Morning and afternoon teas will also be provided.

We will need several people to be on duty at all times to help with this, so if you can spare some time we would be most grateful. Please let me know if you can help.

Yaralla Open Day: This has been set down for Sunday, 3rd May. We have kits for the guides, house as well as garden, and you can see these at the museum to make sure you have all the information you need in case your kit is not complete. Please make a note of the date in your calendar now.

More Guides Wanted: If you think you would like to become a guide for these open days please contact Sandra Elliott (her details are on the front cover) and she can make sure you get a kit and any information you might need.

Museum Committee: We need more people to come aboard for this committee. There is still much to be done and decisions to make and the more input we can get from our members the better the museum will be.

Bushells Display: Do you have any memorabilia or photographs you can let us have for this. Do you know anyone who worked or still works there? We like to hear

Diary Dates: Please mark these in your diary now

PassionART, organised by Council - at twilight on Sunday 14th February -along a section of the Bay Run from Iron Cove Bridge to either Rodd Park or Timbrell Park. We will be mounting a display and if you can help man it please let me know