



"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
9797-1040
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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.168

April 2010

North Strathfield's Empire Day

The Empire Day celebration, which is a real "Gala Day" for the children attending the North Strathfield Public School, occupied the whole of the day. A large staff of workers arrived at the school before 9 a.m., and about 25 lady workers got busy preparing the lunch. The lunch, consisting of sandwiches, fruit, cake, pastry, sweets and nuts, was placed in bags similar to those noticeable at the recent Royal Show. Some 300 children (the lower classes) received a toy of some description in their bags, besides their lunch, while the older scholars had to compete for 40 odd prizes in various events on the day.

While the ladies were preparing the lunch, the teachers and a number of other willing workers carried out a programme of sports (no records broken) and putting the finishing touches to the decorations.

The distributing of the bags of food and supplying the drinks is a job of no mean order, and requires a large number of assistants to complete the work in a reasonable time.

The method adopted was an improvement on previous years, and the job was completed before one o'clock.

The workers, after a hurried lunch, turned their attention to prepare to receive the Governor and Lady de Chair and other guests.

In common with other schools in Concord, a timetable was prepared by the Mayor, Alderman S.G. Lee, and the time set down for the arrival of the Governor at the school was 3:25 p.m.

Shortly after 2 p.m., the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's Band, 30 strong, marched with a swing down Concord Road to the school, playing that splendid old march "Old Comrades", which simply filled the people with enthusiasm. After light refreshments and "smoke oh" the band rendered "Songs of England", with most pleasing effect.

Their Excellencies arrived ahead of time, and were received by the headmaster, Mr. Bridekirk, and the executive officers of the Parents and Citizens' Association.

Mr. Bridekirk escorted their Excellencies through the school to a huge dais, which was erected and decorated under the supervision of Mr. H.M. Webb.

After the National Anthem was played, a warm welcome was extended to their Excellencies for the honour conferred upon those present by their visit

on such an appropriate day. The scholars gave a splendid demonstration of flag drill and Maypole dancing, accompanied by the band. The drilling and dancing reflects great credit on the teachers, Miss Pennington and Mr. Graham, for their painstaking efforts.

His Excellency expressed himself very pleased indeed with the display, and then delivered a brief address to the children on ancient English history, which was much appreciated.

Little Diana Farmer, Queen of the Maypole, after a short speech of a few well-chosen words, presented Lady de Chair with a handsome wax-finished glove box, made of Queensland maple, with a silver and enamel kangaroo and boomerang let in on the lid, on behalf of the Parents and Citizens' Association and children.

Lady de Chair said she felt she must say a few words of appreciation, and said she would treasure it very much, and upon noticing the boomerang on the lid, commented on the fact that it comes back, and expressed the wish to come back and see the children on another occasion.

The President of the Association, Mr. H.A. Wall, called for three cheers for their Excellencies, and the response was three ringing cheers from hundreds of voices. For the send-off the band struck up "Sons of the Sea" which was sung with plenty of vim by all present.

The sports being over, a determined attack was made upon the three ice cream stalls, while Mr. Wall presented the prizes, quarterly, as well as those won on Empire Day.

(Printed in Concord & District News, June 6, 1924)

Empire Day - for Queen and Country!

Empire Day was first celebrated in 1901.

Conservative Australian and State Governments, in 1905, reinforced its role by instituting Empire Day, 24th May, the birthday of the late Queen Victoria.

In 1958 it was renamed Commonwealth Day



Bulletin Board

Wed. 14th April - Roy Gould, Sydney
Truck & Bus Museum

Wed. 12th May - to be advised.



When sorting through or archives we came across a document headed **Information for Ratepayers and Residents dated 1953** and we thought you might find some of the contents interesting.

The Mayor was Ald. Stan Shrimpton and Aldermen were P.J. Bartley, B.F. Downer, A.H. Nicholas, E.N. Prowse, Geoff H. Saunders (Deputy Mayor), A.J. Slee, H.F. (Ray) Stanton and K.A.F. Wilkes.

Estimates 1953

Unimproved Capital Value of Lands in Concord	£3,737,956
Less Value of unrateable properties	291,412
Value for rating purposes	£3,446,544
Improved Capital Value of Lands in Concord	19,500,740

Limit of Rating:

General Rate - 7.46 pence in the pound on Unimproved R.V.	107,164
All Rates - 9.28 pence in the pound on Unimproved R.V.	133,312

Income:

From General Rate, fixed at 7-1/4 pence in the pound	£104,114
From Special Main Roads Rate, fixed at 7/16th pence in £	6,283
From other sources	22,977
TOTAL	£133,374

Expenditure:

General Purposes	
Administration, Elections, etc.	£10,595
Public Works	
Roads, footpaths, kerbing & guttering, drains, street trees and general works	47,870
Contribution to Department of Main Roads	6,307
Control of Paspalum	5,500
Health Administration	
Sanitary and garbage services, parks, health clinics and other services	24,848
Public Services	
Baby Health Centre, street lighting (£7,000), Fire Brigade contribution (£3,400), etc.	12,064
Municipal Property - Council Chambers and other property	2,340
Miscellaneous	
Loan repayments, Town Planning (£2,800), etc.	6,876
Capital Expenditure - inc. Public Golf Course construction, etc.	18,974
TOTAL	£133,374

PUBLIC WORKS: In 1951 Mr. L.H. Webber, Engineer to the Council for many years, relinquished his position and subsequently Mr. J.R. McClelland, formerly of Holroyd, was welcomed to the staff.

The Council's Works Committee will view works considered necessary, and these will be listed and carried out in their respective degrees of urgency, regardless of location. Over the years 1951 and 1952, 106 streets were resealed with tar, as compared with 66 streets in the 1949-1950 period. A special gang is continuously employed on the REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF ROADS, PATHWAYS, etc.

The Council will continue its representation to the Department of Main Roads for the reconstruction in concrete of the central section of Concord Road from Wellbank Street to Parramatta Road.

Construction of the Public Golf Course

in Exile Bay is proceeding and it is anticipated the first nine holes will be ready for play in 1953. This work has been carried out from ordinary revenues.

PASPALUM CONTROL continues with mowing, grading and carpet grass seeding and THE COUNCIL IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE SEED TO THOSE DESIROUS OF TREATING THE GRASS VERGES OPPOSITE THEIR HOMES.

HEALTH SERVICES:

Sanitary Services: With the falling off in the number of services, due to connection of properties to the sewerage system, the amount payable to the Contractor has risen to 4 shillings per service. The ratepayer has been charged at the net rate of 2 shillings and six pence per service where applicable.

Garbage Removal: One free service is provided each week to each prop-

erty but additional services (at 6 pence per standard tin - 2 cubic feet) may be arranged with the contractor.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Anti-T.B. X-Ray Campaigns. These are to be conducted at times advertised by leaflet and through the local press. It is worthy of note that the incidence of infectious disease within the Municipality is at the low rate of .4 per thousand of population. No cases of Diphtheria occurred within the area during the last twelve months, a record attributable to the Council Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign.

Parks: The Council maintains Parks and Playing Fields at a cost of £7,500 per annum, the income derived therefrom being in the vicinity of 2,000. Over the 1942 period continuous attention was paid to park area - notably Concord Park, Cabarita Park and Bayview Park, where a free swimming enclosure has been provided. At Concord Oval, the pavilion has been reconditioned as a matter of necessity.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The Concord Baby Health Centre, maintained by the Council, at the corner of Wellbank Street and Clermont Avenue is open for consultations, Mondays to Fridays from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Subsidies to the Western Suburbs Hospital and the Western Suburbs Ambulance have been budgeted for in the current estimates.

The Cabarita Park Swimming Pool is open to the public from September to March, 6 am to 6 pm each day, and to 9 pm on warm evenings, lighting restrictions permitting - admission 9 pence adults, 3 pence children, with concession rates for schools. Tuition in swimming may be arranged for at the Baths (Mr Lorenz, UF 2326.)

The Concord Band, sponsored by the Council, performs on Sunday evenings during the summer, 8 pm to 9:30 pm, and on Sunday afternoons during the winter, 3 pm to 4:30 pm - twice monthly - on the first Sunday, Cabarita Park, on the third Sunday in parks as advertised. All are cordially invited to attend the recitals.

STATISTICS

The number of major buildings within the Municipality at 31st December, 1952, totalled 7,330, whilst the population approximated 31,300.

Annual Regatta: The second annual regatta will be held off Cabarita Park on Saturday, 21st February, 1953. A varied programme of aquatic events will be presented by speed boats, water skiers, sailing boats, athletes and other sporting groups.

The Victoria Cross

The Victoria Cross (VC) is awarded for 'conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy'.

For a medal that is awarded for supreme gallantry, it is a singularly plain, a variable dark brown in colour and relatively unadorned object. It is also quite small, only 35mm by 35mm, weighs about 25 grams.

All this simplicity and gravitas only adds to its eye-catching appearance and mystique. Once one has seen it, or a coloured illustration of it, it is readily recognised even amongst a whole chest-full of military medals.

The VC is made from scrap metal cut from the terminal bosses (cascabels) of two Chinese-made brass cannons captured from the Russians at the Battle of Sevastopol in the Crimean War, over 150 years ago. These boss-less cannons stand outside an Officers' Mess in Woolwich, on the River Thames, in London, England.

All the VC medals made to date, were cast and hand chased by the London Jeweller Messrs. Hancocks (now Hancocks and Company).

The designer of the VC is said to be Mr. A.H. Armstead, who was commissioned by Messrs. Hancocks. There is thought to be enough gunmetal remaining in safe storage to make another 85 VCs. Of course, there are still the two remaining barrels of the Russian guns as a further source of supply were it ever needed!

The form of the VC is roughly that of a Maltese cross, more properly described as a Cross Patté, i.e. with feet or paws: in actuality, the ends of the four ridged-edged arms of the cross just taper outwards. The suspender bar, which is adorned with a Roman-type laurel leaf cluster, is connected to the hole in the semi-circular lug at the top of the cross by a circular, or oval, link; all in the same gun-metal as the medal itself.

In turn, attached to the suspender bar is a crimson red monochrome ribbon, from which the medal is suspended when worn above the pocket of the uniform on the left upper chest of the holder of the medal.

In the centre of the medal is depicted the regal lion astride the royal crown. Below this, on a swag, draped across the two horizontal arms of the cross, are written two words - For Valour.



Hidden on the reverse, are engraved, in capital letters, the recipient's regiment or unit, name and rank and the date of the deed that earned the award. These inscriptions are located in the circle at the centre of the crossed arms. If the inscription is long, abbreviations are used. No woman has yet received the medal.

When the VC ribbon is worn alone, a miniature VC is attached to centre of the ribbon.

In the rare event when the medal has been awarded more than once - only three times from June 1857 until June 2004 (the time of the writing of this article) - another simple bar is attached to the ribbon on the reverse of which are the details of the second award. In 1917, to accommodate the award of a bar, two miniature VCs, side by side, were authorised when the ribbon is worn alone.

Of the three bar awards, two were for British Medical Officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Surgeon Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel) Arthur Martin-Leake (1874-1953) and Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse (1884-1917). The other bar was awarded (in the Second World War) to a New Zealander, Second Lieutenant Charles Hazlitt Upham (1908 - 1994). Co-incidentally he was a distant relative of Captain Chavasse.

Captains Martin-Leake and Chavasse both earned their VC bars in the Great War. The former earned his first VC in the Boer War in 1902 and his bar on the Western Front in 1914 and the latter earned both his VC and bar on the Western Front in 1916 and 1917 respectively; Captain Chavasse's bar was awarded posthumously. He was also awarded the Military Cross (MC), in 1916.

The intrinsic value of the medal is a few tens of Pounds Sterling - not as frequently stated, a few pennies! Of course, it is priceless to the individual concerned, though many have been sold over the years by the recipients during their lives - often due to poverty or illness - and many more after their death.

Today there is a very strong collector's market for any VC that is put up for sale; the current record being, in 2003, the sum of 155,000 for the amazing array of a VC plus DSO and MC with bar, all awarded to the same person.

Many VC's are safely preserved in museums and collections - national, regimental and private - and, presumably, will not come on the market again except for very exceptional circumstances.

Such is the awe, respect and interest generated by this medal that few discussions by professional or amateur war historians about a particular Western Front battlefield, or action, take place without reference, at some point, to any VCs that were awarded, or recommended, in association with the location in question.

Lest We Forget Those Who Died

*In park and in street once more we meet
for another Anzac Day.
And folks will say "Lest We Forget"
or bow their heads to pray.
They'll hear the tramp of phantom feet
at the eerie hour of dawn,
And later see the veterans march
with colours proudly borne.
But what of those of the old brigade
who cannot make the grade?
No chat for them with pals they knew
or a place in the grand parade.
Perchance they'll hear the radio
or view the TV screen,
And recall the scenes of long ago
and things that might have been.
They'll see their mates go marching by,
but aren't they getting few?
And wonder where old Snowy is,
or what's become of Blue.
And as the sun sinks in the west
and the notes of the bugle swell,
Will they wonder was it worth the cost
of the days that were just Hell?
But then there'll come that happy note,
their doubts and fears to stem,
As they think of those who can truly say
We do Remember Them!*

(This poem was published in the Aero-Press on Wednesday, 21st April and dedicated to those who still suffer, and those who remember them. Author not named.)

Yaralla Open Day, 2nd May:

We need some help to clean up the area around the stables complex.

Can you spare a little time on Friday, 31st April at 9:30 a.m? If you can bring a pressure washer and leaf blower/vacuum, this will make the work that much easier.

If you can help, please phone Sandra on 9797-1040.

Tickets are still available, so please spread the word.

Progressive Dinner

Twenty one members and friends enjoyed this event, held on Saturday, 13th March.

Thankfully the weather held off, with only a slight shower whilst at the Durances.

\$610 was raised on the night to help our museum - \$550 from admission and \$60 from a raffle.

Special thanks to our hosts, and hostesses, who very kindly opened their homes for the evening: Merrilyn & Mark, Margaret & Errol, Julia & Peter.

Thanks also to the members who contributed the food - which was plentiful and delicious.

A special thank you to Lola Sharp, who donated the lucky door prize (won by Errol) and to John & Lynne Danby (guests) who donated a bottle of vintage port for the raffle (won by Phil Lantry).

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

In conjunction with our Bushells Display we will be hosting a morning tea on Saturday, 29th May at 10:30 am.



Please make a note of the date now and arrange to bring your friends and neighbours along to visit the museum and join us for morning tea.

All donations received on the day will be given to the Cancer Council. Please help us to make this a great success.



Our long-forgotten Garage Sale is now back on the agenda. It will be taking place in the near future.

If you have been saving things for us - or if you want to have a clean-out now - then it's time to get things organised.

We will let you know when we want them brought down to the museum - OR if you need to get rid of them now you can bring them to the museum any Wednesday or Saturday.

March Guest Speaker

If you did not attend our May general meeting you missed a fantastic speaker. Vic Grant, the president of the Matthew Flinders Society of Australia, kept us enthralled with his talk on this great explorer. His talk was filled with many facts about this great explorer which were never taught to us in our history lessons and made us realise just what a wonderful legacy he left for Australia.

He recommended several books if members wanted to look further into his history and we list them here for you.

Matthew Flinders, Personal letters from an extraordinary life, 1774-1814, edited by Paul Brunton. State Library of NSW. 2002. ISSN 1446-2478

Matthew Flinders, private journal, 17th December 1803, at Isle of France, to 10th July 1814 at London. ISBN 1 876154 46 2

Matthew Flinders, a biographical tribute to the memory of TRIM, Isle de France 1809, previously published 1977. ISBN 0 9091 34 707; reprinted 1985

My Love Must Wait by Ernestine Hill (a novel, including facts from Flinders' log books), first published 1941, recently republished by the NSW State Library. Old copies are sometimes available online for about \$25. Contact the State Library Bookshop to see if any new copies are available.

The 2009 Winter edition of the Heritage Magazine by Anthony Brown, an excellent article by Australia's expert on Matthew Flinders.

Log on to www.sl.nsw.gov.au/flinders/timeline Flinders' Voyages.

Vic will return later to talk about the Life of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, Australia's Greatest Business Man.

Don't miss it!!

Museum Matters

We have several plans in the pipeline for coming museum displays as well as day and evening events in our function area.

These will all take time and effort but we need them to raise awareness of our museum, as well as raise money so we can continue to present the museum in a most professional manner.

We are appealing to all our members to try to spare some time. We can arrange meetings daytime, evening and weekends to suit volunteers.

From the Secretary's Desk

New Member: Welcome to Kerry Feldman, who has now joined our Society. We look forward to getting to know you.

Seniors' Week & Oral History Project: This was a great success with a good increase of visitors and several names for our Oral Histories. Thanks to all those who turned up at the museum to help.

Yaralla Open Day: This will be on Sunday, 2nd May. Please contact Sandra Elliott if you would like to help on the day. If you are thinking of becoming a guide why not come along on the day and join a couple of our tours to see how it's done.

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? This display is being planned for the month of May. This will be launched on 1st May and will support **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea** at the museum

Guest Speakers: If you are not attending our regular monthly meetings you are missing out on two counts. Trish Skehan arranges wonderful guest speakers who talk on wide and varied subjects and there is also the fellowship following the meeting where members have a chance to get to know one another.

Why not come along to our next meeting on the 12th May and see what we mean.

ID Photographs for our volunteers at our Yaralla Open Day on 2nd May. If you don't already have a photographic ID Badge can you please supply a passport-type photo to me as soon as possible so that these badges can be ready for the Open Day.

Willoughby Historical Society. Some of our members will be visiting the Willoughby Museum on Sunday, 18th April and then be given a tour around the area. This will be an all-day event so please bring along a packed lunch and some refreshments. If you will be joining us please telephone me as soon as possible so that we can arrange transport.

Museum Volunteers: We still need more volunteers to do museum duty and to become part of the committee planning events and displays. Can you spare some time?

For Your Diary

- Wed. April 14** - General Meeting
- Wed. April 28** - Executive Meeting
- Sun. May 2** - Open Day at Yaralla
- Wed. May 12** - General Meeting
- Wed. May 26** - Executive Meeting