



# "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  
and Tours Organiser**  
Sandra Elliott  
9797-1040  
[ttoille@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ttoille@optusnet.com.au)  
(See inside for details of  
meetings)

**Museum Committee**  
Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682  
Meets on 2nd Wednesday of  
the month at 9:00 am at the  
museum

**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.171**

**August 2010**

## Land Sales in Concord

One hundred and fifty seven lots were advertised for sale at Uhrs Point on 10 February 1912.

The area had been given its name to honour George Richard Uhr, a sheriff, who bought the land from Simon Donally, its original grantee, and built his home there.

The land was described in the auction brochure as being twenty minutes from the city and famous throughout Australia as the starting point of all the great boat races.

The state government was spending thousands of pounds reclaiming the swamps of Homebush Bay to the west of the estate and a proposed wharf was to be built at the foot of Llewellyn Street to make access to the city even easier.

As an added attraction, free motor launches left Fort Macquarie to bring prospective buyers to the estate, where a marquee and band provided a carnival atmosphere.

Water frontages could be bought for £5 deposit and thirty-six monthly payments at five per cent interest.

Other land could be secured for £3 deposit and balance of one pound per lot per month.

Llewellyn House, built on the waterfront in 1886 by Charles Davis, a solicitor, was also offered for sale.

The booklet advertising the sale celebrated the attractiveness of the land and the reputation of the agents in the following piece of high-blown doggerel:

*Along the sleeping banks  
Of Parramatta's shore,  
The beauty spots of nature  
Are numbered by the score.  
But if each and all attractions  
Were in one estate conjoint,  
They could not even then be said  
To rival Uhrs Point.  
For this very choice location,  
You doubtless long have striven,  
But at last the opportunity  
To buy a block is given.  
As William Francis Cropley  
(The owner of the ground)  
Has now resolved to sub-divide  
The point so well renowned.  
'Easy terms' are to be given,*

*(Thus the vendor has instructed),  
When on February the Tenth  
The sale will be conducted  
By a firm of reputation  
Since the days of long ago.  
Of course you know the name I mean  
H.W. Horning & Co.*

At the beginning of the twentieth century only a little of the land of Rhodes had been cleared for farming, most remaining in its original heavily timbered state. Industrial development in the area began soon after the original estates were subdivided and sold.

In 1911 Mary Bray sold some of her land to G. and C. Hoskins Co.Ltd. and the following year the land around Uhrs Point was auctioned.

By 1913 R. Tulloch had acquired the Bray property and the way was open for intensive development of heavy industry on the site.

Other firms snatched up land in Rhodes when it became available and the industrial development moved south along the railway line, to meet up with similar development which was moving north from the commercial centre of Parramatta Road.

(Extract from "Concord, a centenary history" by Sheena Coupe. Reprinted with permission.)

*Ed: We were recently approached by a gentleman connected with McKenzies Timber Mills, which were situated at Uhrs Point. We had no information so are appealing to any readers who may be able to help him. If you can help with information, photographs, etc. please contact us.*



### Bulletin Board

Wed. 11th August: Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers and Committee

Wed. 8th September: Hazel Bittman, talking to us about Wales, the birthplace of our first female Prime Minister.

Wed. 13th October: Miss McFadden, Head of the Police Horse Training School (to be confirmed)

Wed. 10th November: Dr. Noel Cullen, previously a Psychiatrist at Callan Park for many years. Every year, for 35 years, he did one world cruise as a ship's doctor.

Wed. 8th December: Christmas celebrations (details later)

# A Word in Your Ear

## Generations

While I was talking with a few ladies at a Legacy function the other day, one of them remarked that she found it hard to find anything in common to talk about with her great grandchild.

One of the other ladies said that she compares her childhood experiences with those of the great grandchild's current lifestyle. She said that by doing this she and the child had many a great laugh together. She said the children could not get over how she and her generation had managed to survive, and at times there are looks of awe, or comments such as "Oh my goodness! Fancy living like that!" or "Fancy having to use that thing! How old are you? You must be over a hundred!"

Another lady said she had discussed with her grandchild things such as dampening down clothes with water from a bottle, and she described the

bottle as having a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. The bottle sat on the end of the ironing board, ready to be used for "sprinkling" the clothes, because there were no steam irons.

Another said that she had been invited to speak at a school where she had described what cars were like when she learnt to drive - with ignition-switches on the dashboard; having to use hand signals before the invention of "blinkers"; no seat belts; manual transmission before "automatics"; no power steering.

She said when she had finished speaking the young people had asked many questions, such as "How did you change gears, signal and brake all at the same time?" and said how clever she was. It made her think that she was clever, for not only could she do all that but also she was a woman and not many women drove cars at that time!

My favourite part of the discussion was about the outside toilets and the

"dunny" man. When this is described the young people are horrified, making comment such as "Yuck! Who would do that as a job?" or "How could you sit on one of those?" (I had an outside toilet so now I feel really old.)

After all of this discussion the lady who had admitted to having found conversation with her great grandchild difficult said she was looking forward to seeing her soon so she could begin her comparisons of their very different young life experiences.

At the end of the conversation we all agreed that each of our great grandchildren will be relating to their own great grandchildren the things that they lived through; and that these changes will be far greater than those of the 80-years plus generation.

What wondrous changes will take place in the next two generations?

*(Written by Dianne Thomas, Manager, Family Welfare and published in "Legacy Torchlight", summer 2009.)*

## Looking for Australia's Missing Governesses

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich said that 'well behaved women rarely make history'. So perhaps it was fortunate that governesses were not always the prim and proper figures that literature would have us believe.

The larger than life Daisy Bates was a governess in Queensland before her first very brief marriage to Harry Murrant (later Breaker Morant). She led an exciting but often scandalous life.

In the nineteenth century governesses held an ambiguous position in Australian society. They were teacher, companion, servant, lady; and yet not quite any or all of these.

Governesses were to be useful without being obtrusive; often relegated to the corner of the parlour when not in the schoolroom, far from the illuminating glow of candlelight and the warmth of the hearth.

Other famous Australians had brief encounters with the profession - both Miles Franklin and Mary MacKillop worked as governesses before pursuing careers in other professions.

Governesses are fascinating on so many levels. Their uncertain status, their difficulties in gaining ongoing employment, combined with the hardships of life in colonial Australia, make them an interesting group to study. And occasionally one finds a strong woman with a particularly juicy story.

It is difficult to know how many women worked as governesses in colonial Australia. I estimate that there were probably no more than a few hundred, and it will be probably impossible to find all of them. To date I have identified over 200 by name, and I am researching the detail of their lives. Approximately one third of these were emigrants from Britain, and most of the others were Australian born. Have they left any clues?

I am looking to bring these governesses out of the shadows and into the light, but I need help to locate them. If anyone has a governess in the family tree, I'd love to hear from you.

To find out more or to share your information, please go to [www.electrichistory.net](http://www.electrichistory.net).

Kate Matthew

*(From the bulletin of the History Council, autumn 2010.)*

## Who can raed tihs?

This is weird, but interesting!

fi yuo can raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too. Can yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can.

i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae.

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JUST FOR A



A retired businessman on a world tour decided to spend a week big game hunting in Kenya. Being a conservation conscious country, he was given a booklet outlining the species he could or could not shoot.

On his third day out he went for a stroll in the morning before the day's hunting began, remembering, of course, to take a rifle with him for protection.

Entering a clearing he was surprised to find a beautiful but scantily clad female sunning herself. Not having his booklet with him, he asked - "Are you game?"

"My word I am", she replied . . . so he shot her.

## Faces in the Street

Everyone has a story to tell . . .  
please tell us yours!

- ☛ Your fifteen minutes of fame
- ☛ Something that has had a profound influence on your life
- ☛ A setback you have overcome
- ☛ A holiday experience
- ☛ A life-changing event in your life
- ☛ The worst moment of your life
- ☛ Working in times long past
- ☛ How technology has changed your life
- ☛ How I met . . .
- ☛ Sporting achievement
- ☛ An interesting incident in your life
- ☛ A chance encounter
- ☛ Your brush with fame
- ☛ About someone important in your life
- ☛ About a relative - alive or dead
- ☛ School days
- ☛ A . . . well, the list is endless - the subject is up to you.

We urgently need your help to make this project a success. What we are looking for are small, interesting snippets of someone's life - not a life history.

I'm sure all of you have had an interesting experience - we've listed some possibilities above - in your life and we'd like you to share it with us.

Please talk about this project with family, neighbours, friends, workmates. We would prefer it to be about someone who lives, or has lived in City of Canada Bay. We only need enough to fit on an A4 sheet of paper and accompanied by a photograph if possible.

Please spread the word! We need at least 100 stories to make the display worth while and it's a great way to publicise our wonderful museum.

Entries will be on display at the museum during the month of September.

Please contact as many people as you can to help us make this a really successful event.

We are asking all members to support this by entering their own contribution and contacting as many others as possible to persuade them to take part.

## How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?



**Golden Retriever:** The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb.



**Border Collie:** Just one. And then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.



**Dachshund:** You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!



**Rottweiler:** Make me!



**Boxer:** Who cares! I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.



**Labrador:** Oh, me, me!!! Pleeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeeeeeze, please, please, please



**German Shepherd:** I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, checked to make sure I haven't missed any, and make just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation



**Jack Russell Terrier:** I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture



**Old English Sheep Dog:** Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I don't see a light bulb!



**Cocker Spaniel:** Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark



**Chihuahua:** Yo quiero Taco Bulb. Or, We don't need no stinking light bulb!



**Greyhound:** It isn't moving. Who cares!



**Australian Shepherd:** First, I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle . .



**Poodle:** I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house my nails will be dry.

### How many cats does it take to change a light bulb?

Cats do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is . . .



"How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner and a massage?"

**All of which proves, once again, that while dogs have masters, cats have staff.**

## Strange but True

Morgan, South Australia: The opening of the cemetery in the town of Morgan (SA), in the 1880's, was marked by a humorous yet tragic event. The man employed to clear the site and fence the hallowed ground danced the Sailor's Hornpipe under a tree inside the main entrance, to the lively strains of a concertina. Completing his dance, perspiring and exhausted, he remarked to the small gathering of people "I wonder who will be the first to be planted here?" That night he had a heart attack, and died, to be buried under the tree where he danced.

## Rookwood Cemetery Open Day 2010

**Sun, 19th Sept. 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

Money raised from this event goes towards restoration within the cemetery and also raises public awareness of the need to preserve the wonderful history that is contained in Rookwood.

If you can spare some time to assist them on this day please contact Robyn Hawes (President) on 9889-3899.

## Walker Estates Committee

A reminder to all those interested in the Walker Estates (Yaralla and Rivendell), particularly those who are interested in helping with physical work at Yaralla, that this committee **now meets at the Dairy at Yaralla on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm.** Next meeting August 21.

Members of this committee will be able to walk around the grounds to review any proposed work that needs to be done at Yaralla and offer suggestions on the priority for each task

Its sub-committee, the **Open Day Committee, will also meet on the same day, same place, at 1:00 pm.**

With it now being almost certain we will no longer have access to the main building at Yaralla, we have to come up with different ideas for how we will conduct future Open Days so as to continue to entice visitors to come.

If you feel you can spare time for either or both of these committees please feel free to come along to any meeting. *The more the merrier!*

I would like to particularly thank those members who came along to Yaralla on Thursday (30th) to help clean up the three buildings for which we are responsible ready for a visit from members of the National Trust.

We will now be encouraging more groups to visit and we will need additional helpers for Devonshire Teas on these occasions. If you can spare time on any week days or week ends please let me know.

I would also like to thank all those who were able to help out at our recent Open Day at Rivendell. Unfortunately, a lack of tour guides limited the number of visitors we could accommodate but, all in all, it was a good day!

Sandra Elliott

## Spirit of Gallipoli

*Australia was born on the shores of Gallipoli.*

Recently Kim Phillips spoke at our meeting on this project. It is about the 7,249 men of the AIF who are buried or commemorated at Gallipoli. She has photographed every headstone commemorating Australians who fell at Gallipoli and is trying to gather information about each and every one of them.

Do you have a relative buried at Gallipoli. Or do you know someone who does? She would love to hear from you.

She has a wonderful video of her work to date which can be purchased from her.

To find out more go to [www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com](http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com) or contact Kim by email [editor@spirits-of-gallipoli.com](mailto:editor@spirits-of-gallipoli.com) or P.O. Box 706, North Ryde BC, 1670.

## Museum Committee

This committee now meets on the **second Wednesday of each month at the museum at 9:30 a.m.**

The job in front of us at the moment is planning our programme of events over the next 2 years.

Some of the projects discussed so far are:

1. Bring Your War (including the war at home) Memorabilia such as medals, badges, letters, photographs, diaries, etc. to get information on their historic value and how to preserve them. We will have an expert on hand to talk to anyone. Planned for Anzac Day 2011.
2. Travelling exhibition from Co.As.It - *The Original Italian Greengrocer*. Planned for July to Sept. 2010.
3. Travelling exhibition - *There's a War on! WWII At Home*. Planned for Anzac Day 2012.
4. National Volunteers Week and Museum's 2nd Birthday - May 2010.

Other thoughts are: Empire Day; Learn about the History of Your House; Architectural Styles and Periods; Fire Safety in the Home; French Canadian Exiles; Concord Fair; Posties Party; Who/What is That - displaying and identifying our photographic collection; Cavalcade of Fashion; Taronga Zoo Visit. Do you have any other suggestions?

If you would like to become part of this very active committee to help us with the planning please come along to the museum on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

## From the Secretary's Desk

Welcome to new member Georgia Wright. We hope to see you soon.

**Membership Renewals:** If you have not yet renewed your membership would you please do so as soon as possible. You can send it in the post or, if you are around Central Concord, you can place it in the green letterbox adjacent to the front door of the museum.

**Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Museum at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 11th August. This is a very important meeting as the various office bearers will present their annual reports, including our annual balance sheet, to let you know how the society is progressing.

At this meeting nominations are called for members to fill the various positions. We urge you to give serious consideration as to people you might like to nominate for these positions or, indeed, to nominate yourself. New blood is needed to bring new ideas to the new Society year. Why shouldn't it be you?

Places to be filled are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Walker Estates Committee Chairperson, Museum Committee Chairperson, Oral History Chairperson, Editor of Newsletter and Public Relations Officer.

We would also welcome anyone who could assist with grant applications, marketing, etc.

This is a very important meeting and all members are urged to attend.

**Pace Lawnmowers:** John Young recently visited our museum. He was most interested in both our Mowhall Mower and the early Victa Mower. His interest is in vintage lawnmowers and he's anxious to contact John Longhurst, who was connected with Pace Mowers. If you can help you can contact him on [www.vintagemowers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:www.vintagemowers@optusnet.com.au).

**Local Clubs and Associations:** We are anxious to set up a data base of all the not-for-profit, and other groups in the City of Canada Bay area, such as the Lapidary Club, Quilters Guild, etc.

We would like to work in partnership with them to showcase their work at our museum from time to time to help publicise their activities.

If you can help by giving us details and contacts for any groups you may know it would be a great help.

## For Your Diary

Wed. Aug 11 - AGM and Elections

Wed. Aug.25 - Executive Meeting

(introducing newly elected members)