



"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 at Yaralla on the
3rd Saturday of month
at 2:00 pm

Chairperson

Graham Ferguson, 9300-9657

Tours Organiser

Sandra Elliott, 9797-1040
ttuille@optusnet.com.au

Museum Committee

Meets on 2nd Wednesday of
month at 9:30 am at museum

Chairperson

Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682

Oral History Committee

Betty Fletcher, 9713-1384

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CITY OF CANADA BAY MUSEUM

1 Bent Street, Concord

Open Wed & Sat
10am to 4pm

No.172

September/October 2010

Drummoyne Through the Decades

Drummoyne was a suburb in the central west of Sydney, about eight kilometers from the GPO, which was first settled in 1792. It separated from Five Dock in 1902 and remained a separate municipality until 2001, when it merged with Concord to become City of Canada Bay.

The state electorate of Drummoyne is one of the five oldest electorates in NSW and dates from 1913. It encompasses a similar area to that of City of Canada Bay.

The first land grants were made in 1792 when Drummoyne was known as the district of York Place. In 1806 John Harris was granted the whole of the Drummoyne peninsula – almost 600 hectares – as a reward for his service as a military surgeon and magistrate. Harris went back to England in 1809, marrying a woman 36 years younger than he was, but returning with Eliza in 1814 and devoted himself to raising stock. (Harris' main land grant was at Ultimo.)

Harris erected a house on his Five Dock Farm in 1826 but ten years later sold the property to Samuel Lyons for \$8,000. Harris died in 1838.

Convict tailor Samuel Lyons wasted no time in putting roads through Five Dock and auctioning 133 lots. Lyons, who had been convicted of theft, was sentenced to transportation for life, and arrived in Sydney in 1815. Before receiving a full pardon in 1832 he made two escape attempts – one taking him to Cape York! By 1825 he was operating a business as an auctioneer and trader in George Street.

Great North Road was surveyed by John Oxley in 1826 and was the principal road north. At Bedlam Point (so called because of the nearby lunatic asylum) you had to cross the Parramatta River by boat. A punt later operated at this spot for 60 years until the first Gladesville Bridge was opened in 1889.

A land boom continued to hit Drummoyne in the 1840s as speculators continued to carve up Five Dock Farm. New townships were established – Bourke Town and Gipps Town were named after governors of the day. People who bought land were varied: retired businessmen, lawyers, market gar-

deners and merchants. They built mansions, laid out gardens and lived as country gentry.

It was the merchant William Wright (1807-1890) who gave Drummoyne its name. In 1853 he bought a lot of land on the Parramatta River which reminded him of a place in Scotland. 'Drum' in Gaelic means means 'ridge' and 'Moyne' a 'plain' or flat. Drummoyne, then, is a ridge along the riverside. He called his estate Drummoyne Park and built Drummoyne House on it. Made of stone, it had a secret room where Wright hid his valuable possessions. It was not until the house was renovated years later by a new owner that this room was discovered!

Abbotsford was named after a village on the banks of the Tweed River in Scotland. Abbotsford House was built by a doctor, Sir Arthur Renwick. It later became the offices of the Nestle company in 1918 and still stands in the housing estate created when Nestle moved.

Five Dock derived its name from the five natural crevices in Five Dock Bay, which looked like small docks at high water. Some were destroyed when the Gladesville Bridge foundations were built in 1889.

Brent Clements Rodd (1809-1898) was a solicitor who built Barnstaple Manor on 22 hectares of land at Iron Cove. This was a copy of an old manor house in his native country of Devonshire. A windmill was built to pump water while an avenue of pines was part of a very large garden. Rodd had a library of 3000 books on a variety of subjects. One of his 12 children was later Mayor of Five Dock in 1888.

Birkenhead Point has a history of its own



Bulletin Board

Wed. 13th October: To be advised

Wed. 10th November: To be advised

Wed. 8th December: Christmas Party at
Museum - from 6:30 pm

January: There is no general meeting in
January.

dating from 1839. It was first the site of a brickworks owned by William Dutton, then of a boiling-down plant established by Charles Abercrombie from 1844-1853.

In 1868 Gladesville Road was completed. This was renamed Bridge Road in 1891 when the first Iron Cove Bridge was built. It was renamed Victoria Road in 1901.

In 1899 Henry Perdriau established a rubber factory at Birkenhead Point. It passed into the hands of the Dunlop company in 1928 but not before it had turned out thousands of rubber dolls, mackintoshes and galoshes.

When Dunlop stopped production at the site in 1977 it was acquired by DJ's Properties and operates mainly as a factory outlet and boating complex.

Before the bridges people commuted by ferry or road. The first ferry, the Emu, operated as early as 1843 and by 1885 an extensive service was operating along the Parramatta River.

Following a petition by 65 residents, Five Dock was proclaimed a municipality, separate from Drummoyne, in 1890 but the two were reunited in 1902 through the efforts of Thomas Henley.

At the turn of the century the horse bus from Drummoyne did the trip to Circular Quay via Parramatta Road in 50 minutes. Steam trams ran from Five Dock to Leichhardt Town Hall from 1890 and the electric tram came to Drummoyne in 1902.

Towards the end of the First World War private buses made their appearance. These were similar to motor cars with larger bodies and extra seating. These omnibuses were replaced by Government bus service from 1933.

The First World War claimed the lives of 70 local men and women. However, the 1920s saw the first regular motion pictures in Five Dock. The 1,600 seat Victory Theatre was built in 1928 and was one of the first with 'talkies'.

During the 1930s a world-wide depression stripped many local families of their savings and they had to depend on the government for food and clothing. Many fought for Australia in other countries during the Second World War. Those who stayed at home kept essential services going.

By 1945 Drummoyne municipality was almost all residential. The population itself began to change. Migrants from southern Europe, Italy, Greece, Spain and Yugoslavia were welcomed. About 30% of Drummoyne residents were born outside Australia. Some of the older houses were replaced with high

rise buildings.

Several important industries were started in the municipality at the end of the Second World War. A large box factory operated at Chiswick (named in the 1850s by Dr. Fortescue after a village west of London) until the 1960s.

The Lysaght Bros Factory, known as Australian Wire Industries, manufactured wire at Chiswick from the 1920s until its recent redevelopment. In Lyons Road the Compton Parkinson factory was redeveloped as an industrial estate and later a housing estate. It was one of the main electrical manufacturers in Australia.

The Aboriginal name 'Warrembah', meaning a place where fresh water meets salt water, was originally given to Drummoyne, a claim made by Clements Tremayne Rodd (1843-1927), who lived at 'Warrembah', 100 St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne.

The world's largest petrol station, in 1940, stood at the corner of Parramatta Road and Great North Road. It was an 'all cars' station which sold all brands and had more than two dozen pumps!

The first crest of Drummoyne Council shows an aboriginal and a farmer supporting a shield which shows the Iron Cove Bridge and Parramatta River. It was later replaced by a simpler design showing the new Gladesville Bridge.

Cabarita is an aboriginal word for 'by the water'. It was named by its first inhabitants, the Dhurag people.

In 2000 Drummoyne and Concord Councils were merged as City of Canada Bay. This initiative was part of attempts to make smaller council areas more effective.

Canada Bay got its name after Britain deported some French-Canadian rebels following the uprising in Canada in 1838.

Russell Lea was named in honour of Russell Barton, who had been a shepherd, stockman, horsebreaker, farmer, miner, butcher, fell-monger, wool sorter, carpenter, wheelwright, contractor, blacksmith, stonemason and builder before becoming a squatter and Member of Parliament. He built an imposing mansion on his 60 acre estate there. 'Lea' means 'field'. His estate was subdivided in 1913 and was advertised as being 'between two trams'.

In 1883 the resident of Drummoyne, whose mail was delivered from Ashfield by a postman after his normal delivery, petitioned for a post office in Drummoyne.

On September 1, 1884, William Bulfin,

owner of the Oxford Hotel, established a small shop next to it and was appointed Postmaster. In 1890 it moved just down the road.

On March 31, 1898 a newly constructed Post & Telegraph Office was opened with a residence attached. A telephone exchange was added in 1902 with 60 subscribers. It was converted to an automatic exchange in 1941.

Drummoyne Post Office is now a Post Shop. The original southern entrance has been bricked up and more post boxes added. Two original coil stamp vending machines (obsolete since 1975) are still in the northern vestibule.

Did you know that a ride on a tram across the original Gladesville Bridge was the only free tram ride in Sydney? This was because there was no pedestrian footpath and, provided you got off on the other side, it was free. The tram was extended to Ryde in 1910 but curtailed to Drummoyne in 1952 and replaced by buses in 1958.

The present Gladesville Bridge is a concrete arch bridge with a clear span of 1,000 feet and was opened for traffic in 1964. Several streets, including most of Cambridge Street, were demolished to make way for it.

Cockatoo Island was handed back from the Navy as part of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore National Park as a gesture during the Centenary of Federation in 2001.

(Ed: Taken from a book, Drummoyne through the Decades – a case study in the integration of philately and local history - researched and written by Richard C Peck and kindly donated to our museum. Reprinted with permission.)



***This will be held on
Saturday & Sunday
6th & 7th November
in the
Parking Bay***

***We will need as many members
as possible to give us time on
these two days so please let us
know if you can help.***

***If you have anything to donate it
can be left at the museum on
any Wednesday or Saturday.***

Postie Fashions Party

(like a Tupperware party only with clothes)

**Thursday, 18th November
6:30 for 7:00 pm
at the Museum**

If you're tired of traipsing the shops looking for the sizes, styles and prices you expect, it's time for a change.

Come along to our Postie's Party and enjoy the exciting discounts, prizes and surprises.

Their consultant will bring a wide range of stylish and affordable fashion garments to our museum.

There will be something to suit every taste and every size, from 6 to 28.

You will be able to see and feel the garments, try them on for style, colour and size. Almost everyone will find something they like.

Invite your family, friends and neighbours - the more the merrier - and come along and have a fun night while raising money for our museum.



You're Invited

The Royal Australian Historical Society will be holding their 2010 State History Conference, "Leading from the Past to the Future", on 23-24 October at The Richmond Club in Richmond.

This is 3 days packed with interesting talks and workshops. Cost is \$110 per person for our members and includes lunches and morning and afternoon teas. For more information please see the secretary.

Museum Matters

Things are moving with our museum.

We have several visits booked for the rest of this year:

Monday 20/9/10 - Nuffield Village - 18 people at 2:00 pm.

Saturday 25/9/10 - Marrickville Historical Society at 2:00 pm

Sunday 17/10/10 - Concord Carnival - we will be showing our Power Point presentation of old photographs in the museum and Lorraine and her Wildlife Rescue team will have some of their animals out the front of the museum. Help will be needed during the day.

Also, we will need some people out in the street. We have been invited to share the Library booth and publicise our museum.

Friday, 5/11/10 - Illawarra Historical Society will be visiting our museum at 10:00 am and following that they would then like a tour around some of the historic sites in Concord.

Wednesday, 17/11/10 - Aurora Seniors at 11:30.

If you can help with any of these we'd like to hear from you.

Christmas Party

Wed. 8th December from 6:30 pm at the Museum

This is our usual end-of-year celebrations and everyone enjoyed last year's party at the museum so it was decided to do the same this year.

Members are asked to bring finger food for our supper.

We don't have any means of heating food, other than in a microwave oven, but if you bring the food hot from home we have heated trays which will keep food hot.

Please note the date now and bring along family and friends for a pleasant fun evening.



Faces in the Street

a display of stories by and about everyday people, some who have a claim to fame and others who have just passed us by as we've walked the streets of the City of Canada Bay.

This is at our Museum on Saturdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.



There are all sorts of stories, some funny, some strange, but always interesting.

This has been proving very successful and we have had many very favourable comments.

We have decided to leave it on display for the months of September and October, to be there during Concord Carnival, to give everyone a chance to see it.

Make sure you come along - and please bring your family and friends. Make sure you have enough time - there's such a lot to read and you don't want to miss any.

You'll learn all sorts of interesting things about our suburb and its people, much of which you probably don't know.

Maybe it will enthuse you to write your own story to add to the interest.

Information Wanted

Does anyone have any information on the milk bar that used to be beside the Ritz theatre. It was run by the O'Hara family? Any information or photographs would be appreciated.

Canada Bay Connections

Council has launched their web site showing old pictures of the area. The site is . . .

<http://imagelibrary.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/Library>

This is a great collection showing the history of our area. Please feel free to add any additional information that you might have about the photos. You can also contact David Sansome, Local Studies Librarian, on 9911-6317 if you wish.

If you have any photographs you would like to share with us please contact the secretary or take them to the museum. If you do not wish to part with them we would be happy to scan them and return the originals.

Congratulations

Trish is again a proud grandmother.

Daughter Kris had twin boys on
7th September.

Grandmother, mother and father
doing well, as are the twins.



Never Argue With a Woman

One morning, the husband returns the boat to their lakeside cottage after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap.

Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, puts her feet up, and begins to read her book.

The peace and solitude are magnificent.

Along comes a Fish and Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, 'Isn't that obvious?')

"You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading.."

"Yes, but I see you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you," says the Game Warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am," and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.

Executive Committee for 2010-2011

President Mark Durance
Vice-President Alan Wright
Secretary/Treasurer/

Newsletter Editor Lois Michel
Assistant Secretary Jill Austin
Public Relations Officer
Committee Chairpersons

Museum Lorraine Holmes
Walker Estates Graham Ferguson
Tours Organiser .. Sandra Elliott
Oral History Betty Fletcher
Executive members Bob Jones
..... Anne Griffin
..... Irene Davidson
..... Jann Ogden

We still have two vacancies on the Executive. We need someone to volunteer to take on Public Relations, which involves seeking publicity and sourcing guest speakers. We also have a vacancy for a general member of the committee. Please let the secretary know if you would like to stand for either of these positions.

We sadly farewell Trish Skehan, Pat Corbitt, Harry Kimble, Ray Lane and Beryl Law, who did not seek nomination and we thank them for their services in the past.

We also welcome new members to the Executive: Jill Austin, Graham Ferguson, Anne Griffin and Irene Davidson, and look forward to their fresh input to our activities.

From the Secretary's Desk

Welcome to new member Jill Austin, who has not only joined our society but has also taken on the job of Assistant Secretary. Welcome! Welcome!

Jackie Hennerson, who is doing Museum Studies at Macquarie University, is currently helping in our museum. As part of her studies she needs to undertake an outside activity in connection with the course, so she is currently cataloguing our clothing collection. She then intends to set up our data base on the computer so the rest of our collection can be catalogued as well. She is doing a wonderful job and we are sincerely grateful.

Membership Renewals: If you have not yet renewed your membership there will be a reminder with this newsletter. You can send your renewal in the post or bring to a meeting or, if you are around Central Concord, you can place it in the green letterbox adjacent to the front door of the museum.

Local Clubs and Associations: We are still looking to gather details of other 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.

Executive Vacancies: As you will see elsewhere, we still have two vacancies on the committee. We particularly need someone to take over Trish's position as Public Relations Officer. This is a most important, and very necessary office. It involves seeking as much publicity as possible to bring our activities to the notice of the public as well as finding guest speakers for our general meetings.

Trish has done a wonderful job over many years but now feels that, because she lives so far away, it would be better to hand over to someone locally. She is quite happy to help you until you find your feet, if necessary.

Faces in the Street: Don't forget to visit our museum to see this wonderful collection of snippets of life.

The Versatile Age

*The old rocking chair is empty today,
For Grandma no longer is in it.
She's off in her car to visit the shop,
And buzzes around every minute.*

*No-one can shove Grandma back on
the shelf;
She is versatile forceful, dynamic.
That's not a pie in the oven, my dear,
Her baking today is "ceramic".*

*You won't see her trundle off early to bed
From her place in a warm chimney nook.
Her computer goes on through the night
For Grandmas is writing a book.*

*She's not content with the crumbs of old
thoughts,
With meager and secondhand knowledge.
Don't bring your mending to Grandma to do,
For Grandma has gone back to College.
Anon.*

Did You Know?

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, Rhodes.

This was built in 1995 as part of the Australia Remembers program and was funded by both Council and Rotary.

The track covers more than 800 metres from Rhodes Station to Concord Hospital. It contains 22 stations or plaques which describe significant places on the track or events during the Kokoda campaigns in World War II.

The walkway is planted with tropical vegetation to simulate the actual Kokoda Track itself.



For Your Diary

Wed. Sept. 22 - Executive Meeting
Wed. Oct. 12 - Museum Committee
Wed. Oct. 12 - General Meeting
Wed. Oct. 26 - Executive Meeting