



"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.173

November 2010

Business grew to Meet Needs

CONCORD took a place in early colonial history as a link between Sydney town and Parramatta settlement.

It was named in 1795 by an acting Governor of New South Wales, Major Francis Grose, who established a military oligarchy in the area with land grants, convict servants and trading monopoly rights for his officers.

One theory behind the name was that he remembered his first taste of battle in Concord, Massachusetts, during the American War of Independence 20 years earlier.

For the first 50 years Concord was a rural district. It was the home of poor farmers, some ex-convicts who made good, such as Isaac Nichols, and the temporary home of 58 French-Canadian political exiles transported there by Britain.

By the mid-1830s the Nichols' holdings in Concord covered around 600 acres, extending from Yaralla, south to Parramatta Road and west to Homebush Bay.

Parks

Many of these acres were to survive the period of industrial development and were retained as spacious parklands.

As the colony moved towards the era of self-government, a change to a mixture of rural and urban living was evident in Concord.

Governor Macquarie's time saw carriage roads from Sydney to Parramatta and the importance of Concord as a first link out from Sydney grew rapidly.

Concord had arrived socially and the poor farmers in mean habitations gave way to the new breed of financier, merchant and speculator.

One of the richest men in Australia, Thomas Walker, took over the Nichols' Yaralla lands.

Concord was proclaimed a council in 1883 and by that time the industrial movement along the shores of Hen and Chicken Bay had begun.

Farleigh Nettheim brought to life an old disused tannery and for 80 years produced quality leather for the Australian and overseas market.

The Australian Gas Light Company opened its Mortlake works at Breakfast Point in 1884.

With other industrial establishments moving into the same area, the council was faced from the outset with problems in subdivisions, roadworks, drainage and planning.

There was no underground drainage and water was supplied from wells and tanks. Lack of transport was a problem that faced council in the closing stages of the 19th century.

The nearest train link on the Sydney-Parramatta line, opened in 1855, was Strathfield – and when the line was extended to Hornsby there were no regular trains to Concord.

Because the road, rail and river transport facilities circumvented Concord, commercial and industrial development was grafted on to the perimeter and the municipality remained at heart a scattered residential suburb.

In 1901 steam trams started a service connecting Mortlake with Burwood stations, extending to Cabarita Park in 1907. The steam trams were replaced by electric trams in 1912.

Transport

On the western boundary of Concord, rail and water transport attracted big industries. Arnotts Biscuit Makers, Tullochs, John Darling Flour Mills and other heavy industries moved in with their wharves on Homebush Bay and rail-sidings in close proximity to Parramatta Road.



Bulletin Board

- Wed. 10th November:** Dr Noel Cummings, former Director at Callan Park, "Travelling the World as a ship's doctor."
Wed. 8th December: Christmas Party at Museum - from 6:30 pm
January: There is no general meeting in January.

Central Concord had few houses until it was gripped with a building fever in the boom years that followed the first World War.

Meanwhile Yaralla had been inherited by the "grand lady" of Concord, Dame Eadith Walker, who lived along in genteel splendor on the estate.

After her death in 1937, the Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital was established to match her father's memorial hospital on the opposite shores of Yaralla Bay.

At the turn of the century the municipal population was only 2500. It had increased to 8000 by 1916 when the changing economic climate enforced the subdivision of some of Concord's larger estates, including a section of Yaralla.

Diggers

Land releases attracted Diggers returning from the Great War and home builders embarked on a boom which was to increase the population to 22,560 by the Jubilee Year in 1933.

There were still a few cattle at Yaralla, and two large dairies operating on the flats towards Cabarita, but the scene was one of wide streets lined with dark brick red tiled cottages.

The council held conferences with paint manufacturers, tannery, gas works and other large industrial establishments polluting the atmosphere with fumes.

Regular clean-up campaigns were held and compacting of garbage in land reclamation was carefully screened.

"Concord for Cleanliness" became a familiar slogan.

Recovery

Concord rapidly recovered from the slump in the '90s. An improvement in

transport services, roads, sewerage and drainage facilities encouraged more builders and industrial expansion on Hen and Chicken Bay and Homebush Bay-West Concord enhanced the prospects for local employment.

In the garage of his home in Bray Street, Mortlake, Mervyn Victor Richardson married the rotary principle of the electric mower to the petrol engine and in 1952 produced the first petrol driven rotary lawn mower.

The factory-cum-sales room moved to a church shed at Mortlake and in 1954 to a modern factory and showroom on Parramatta Road, Concord, when Victa were producing 5000 motor mowers per year.

In 1957 the full 18-hole golf course at Massey Park was opened after 30 years of reclamation work by the council. One hundred acres of mosquito infested swampland on the foreshores of Exile Bay had been transformed into a picturesque golf course and playing fields.

By 1958 Concord had become a major industrial centre with 132 factories employing 7669 people.

There were still spacious grounds which were not available for subdivision for residential or industrial development and the large industrial concerns embarked on a policy of buying homes for future demolition in zoned factory areas.

In more recent years the council has improved Concord as a residential suburb with thousands of trees planted in streets and parks.

(This was printed by the Courier Newspaper in a special supplement *Concord 100 years of local industry* on 24th May, 1983. They acknowledged *Concord – a Link with the Past* by Paul Ife Horne in providing material for the supplement.

Nostalgia

While we're in a nostalgic mood . . .

Can you remember when . . .

- * Sydney's skyscrapers were few and far between and, in the early sixties, one of the tallest buildings was the AMP Building at Circular Quay. Its roof provided a good vantage point from where sightseers could view the harbor and its surrounds.
- * In the city, pedestrians were encouraged to keep to the left with yellow lines painted down the middle of footpaths.
- * Martin Place was a traffic thoroughfare.
- * Swains in Pitt Street sold books and stationery and babies' clothes could be bought at Margery Daw's. In nearby George Street was McDowell's department store and a David Jones store was situated on the corner of Barrack Street. "Upmarket" goods could be purchased at Beard Watson's while in the basement of Anthony Hordern's was the store's saddler department.
- * Anyone wishing to try their luck playing two-up could venture along to Thommo's. As two-up was illegal, Thommo's had a colourful history changing venues from time to time in the inner city area.
- * Crowds in their hundreds flocked to the Sydney Domain on Sunday afternoons to hear speakers voice their politically correct or incorrect views. From their soapboxes, those budding orators had to be prepared to not only acknowledge applause, but to take the jeers and interjections in their stride.
- * Market gardens were situated throughout Sydney. Sometimes they seemed to appear 'out of the blue' in built up areas.

Any 'convicts'?

Any volunteers for a "convict" party to march from Sydney Cove to Concord Oval on August 13 as part of the Concord centenary celebrations?

The Longbottom Stockade was sited at the oval. So 12 volunteers are asked to make up a party to make the march. They will carry leg chains – in plastic.

Concord Mayor, Ald M Clucas, at the request of Concord Historical Society, has asked volunteers to telephone the centenary committee at the council chambers.

The above item also appeared in the special supplement and, as you can see, they had no trouble getting the volunteers.



Your Invitation

Shopping for Fashion at Home

You are invited to a Posties Fashions Presentation

where you can see and try on the latest fashions from the Posties Collection
on

Thursday, 18th November, 2010

at 6:00 for 6:30 pm

at

City of Canada Bay Museum, 1 Bent Street, Concord

Your Hostess: Beryl Robinson

Your Fashions Consultant: Judy Clegg, 9816-5488

Cost: \$5.00

Light refreshments served

R.S.V.P. 12th November to 9743-1154

You are welcome to bring along family and friends to join in the fun



Garage Sale

We need people to help during the week commencing Monday, 1st November at 10:00 am.

We particularly need some help from our male members on Monday 1st to move some of the heavier objects and the tables around so we can separate the items we are keeping from those that will be in the garage sale.



We will then need ongoing help to sort all the items into their various categories and look at pricing, etc. Let us know what days you can come.

Then, of course, helpers are wanted - as many as possible - on the Saturday and Sunday to supervise and handle the sales. If you can spare an hour or two - or three or four - let us know you will be available and for what times.

This is one of our major fund-raisers to bring in money to help us with our future projects.

Museum Matters

Things are moving with our museum.

Friday, 5th November - 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.

Saturday/Sunday, 6-7th November:
Garage Sale

Wed. 10th November at 9:30 am -
Museum Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 17th November -
Aurora Seniors visiting at 11:30 am

Wednesday, 18th November -
Posties Fashions Evening

Wednesday, 8th December - our
Christmas Party

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

We are calling all members, not just the Museum Committee members, to become more active with the museum if possible. If we are to stay the best we need more people to contribute suggestions and ideas as well as physical help.

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. Visitors are always welcome.

If you are coming please let the secretary know as soon as possible and also let us know what you will be bringing.



Yaralla Report

A very successful day on a recent Saturday helping the Green Options gardener mulch the rose beds that had been weeded. It was quite hot but we stood up to it, setting Kathy up to be able to finish it, weather permitting. She was most pleased with this assistance.

We also felt obliged to clean up the champers bottles left by some (unauthorised) wedding party after they had finished taking their photographs. We also cleaned up the horrible foil confetti thrown all over the New Dawn rose swags.

Sincere thanks to those who managed to come along.

Sandra Elliott

Wise Words

When a friend is in trouble, don't annoy them by asking if there is anything you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it. - E W Watson

Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results. - George Patton

Why not go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is. - Will Rogers

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.



Garage Sale

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

**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.**

Projects for 2011

The National Trust Heritage Festival in April next year has the theme: "Amazing Stories".

Our historic places, landmarks, collections and sites mark tangible connections to our history. Without them the stories of our past would be lost.

There are stories that connect the present to the past, that bring us insight and enjoyment and help us share experiences - these are all amazing, powerful stories!

The National Trust Heritage Festival is designed to empower community residents across the state to express their unique sense of place through their stories.

History Week in September next year has the theme "East History"

History Week will bring to the table the Edible, Appetising and Tasty history of food. Who ate what and where in the past? How did we cook and where did our food come from? History Week will be a smorgasbord of delectable delights!

They have suggested a few ideas to inspire us: recreate an historic menu; a cooking demonstration using historic methods; explore cookbooks from the past; how did people eat during the great depression.

Members, please put your thinking caps on and let us have suggestions and ideas for how we can celebrate both of these events. Come to a meeting to discuss ideas, write us a note or email us.

We need your help to come up with events that will encourage people to visit our museum.

Do you remember a time when...

Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-mo"?

"Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest?

The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was "boy or girl bugs"?

Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a 'shanghai'?

Saturday morning cartoons weren't 30-minute commercials for action figures?

The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team?

Playing cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle?

Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin?

Water balloons were the ultimate weapon?

From the Secretary's Desk

Jackie Hennerson, our Museum Studies Intern, is still doing a fantastic job at the museum. At this stage all our clothing and fabrics have been listed, researched and tagged and she's just waiting for our new computer to be up and running to start entering the details. Your dedication is much appreciated, Jackie.

Membership Renewals: There are still a few outstanding. If this applies to you could you let us have your dues as soon as possible or else notify us that you no longer wish to continue with the membership so we can adjust our records.

Executive Vacancies: There are still a couple of vacancies if you'd like to volunteer. We also need someone to take over the position of Archives Chairperson. Please, can you help?

Faces in the Street: If you haven't seen this yet you need to visit soon. It will be taken down after our Garage Sale.

Posties Fashion Party: Don't forget this function on Thursday, 18th November. Please come along, and bring your family and friends, for a fun evening. The more the merrier and the better our commission. They also may have some stock from previous seasons that will be on sale on the evening so don't forget to bring some money with you.

Members are asked to bring along something towards the supper if possible.

Garage Sale: It's still not too late to drop of any of your unwanted items for us to sell on the day. Wednesday or Saturday would be the best days - otherwise during the week prior to the sale, but call us first to make sure someone is there.

Put Your Thinking Caps On: Two events coming up in 2011 are:

National Trust Heritage Festival in April when the theme will be "Amazing Stories" and History Week in September with the theme "East History".

We need ideas on how to present these topics at the museum

For Your Diary

Wed. 10th November - General Meeting

Wed. 17th November - Executive Meeting

Wed. 8th December - Xmas Party

Please see elsewhere for Museum activities.