



"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

Phone: 9743-3034

No.178

May-June 2011

Concord Subdivisions - 1843 to 1945

Phase 1: Longbottom and Concord

Supposed to be two separate villages in 1843 - practically abutting, but separate, and both on the north side of Parramatta Road. The streets are set on radically different alignments and were of different widths. As the townships expanded over the decades and eventually amalgamated, their unmatched and uncoordinated plans resulted in the odd, narrow and cramped street arrangement at Ada, Burton and Forster Streets today.

Phase 2 - 1878 to c1886

1878: Beaconsfield Estate and the **Mount Grand View Estate** were subdivided, and encompassed Salisbury, Gladstone and Excelsior Streets.

1881: Burwood North and Hillcrest Estates were both subdivided. Burwood North Estate was bounded by Patterson, Gipps and Flavelle Streets, which formed a triangular area. Hillcrest Estate was a rectangular arrangement of Ludgate, High, Shackel and Fairview Streets.

1882: Thornleigh Estate was subdivided. It consisted of the blocks bounded by what are now Patterson, Gipps, Bell and Sydney Streets and Concord Road. These were not developed until the 1910s and 1920s.

1886: The Creewood Estate: Another small estate . . . with the fairly small allotments grouped around an L-shaped street (Creewood) with a pathway linking it with Kentwell Avenue.

Also in 1886:

Brunswick Park, around present-day Concord West Railway Station. **Powell's Estate** in South Concord, bounded by Princess Street, Queen Street, Parramatta Road and Concord Road.

Josslyn's Paddock Estate in Central Concord, taking in Bent and Spring Streets

Brunswick Park Estate comprised Station Street, Victoria Avenue, Concord Avenue, Cavendish Street and King Street.

Powell's Estate comprised the West End of Sydney Street, Princess and Carrington Streets, and George Street.

Josslyn's Paddock Estate comprised Bent Street, Majors Bay Road (perimeter), Brewer Street, Wellbank and Spring Streets.

1895 to 1915: Rhodes.

1895 (September): Thomas Walker's Rhodes Estate and part of the **Bray's Llewellyn Estate** were subdivided. On the western side (of the railway line) is a residential area bounded by Walker, Marquet and Gauthorpe Streets. On the eastern side streets followed the line of the foreshore.

1912: 157 lots grouped around Llewellyn and Croypley Streets were put up for sale.

Mortlake and Cabarita

(Subdivisions of the 1880s and 1918)

1859: MacDonald's Estate was offered for sale but took almost 10 years to sell.

1890: The **Pier and Mortlake Estates** had been subdivided and were well established by 1890. The shops standing on the corner of Tennyson Road and MacDonald Street date from this period. Also Gale Street and Tennyson Road belong to this early settlement.

George T. Nicholls, a builder of Strathfield, subdivided land at Cabarita in 1886. It was bought by the Hughes brothers but not developed. A Chinese market garden was run by Kim Loy and Chum Loy for about 20 years on the corner of Mortlake Street and Cabarita Road. The old **Cabarita Estate** in the vicinity of Cabarita Road, Waine and Grenville Streets and some adjoining land was sold as the **Waterside Estate** in 1907.

Robert Brown's market garden became the **Mortlake Estate** in 1909, covering the area around Cabarita Road near Bayview Street.



Bulletin Board

Wed. 8th June: Raymond Style will tell us about embarking on the original Queen Mary headed to the Middle East during WWII and of his Army Experiences.

Sat. 2nd July at 2:00 pm: Brian Lawrenson will be talking about "The Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors. **NOTE change of day and time**

1912: 48 blocks of the **Gloucester Estate** were put up for auction.

1913: The **High Hall Estate** was sold upon the death of its owner, John Dowsell.

During WW1 the **Allenby Estate** and the **Riverside Estate** were sold and in 1918 the **Williams Estate**.

1914: The **Gracemere Estate** was sold, consisting of land between Majors Bay Road and Brays Road, and from Anderson Street south to Smythes Street (the one-way connecting street between Majors Bay Road and Frederick Street).

(According to the Higginbotham and Robinson map of 1890, part of that area had been subdivided earlier as the **Riverview Estate**.)

The earlier subdivision of **Mortlake Village** is marked by the unparallel streets Northcote, Edwin and Bertram, which rise from Majors Bay and intersect Hilly Street and Tennyson Road at odd angles.

The contrast between the narrower allotments of the 19th century and the wider blocks of the 20th is also apparent in Cabarita and Mortlake.

Phase 3 - 1900 -1920

After the turn of the century the trend towards larger allotments and generally wider streets was adopted within the earlier framework of the rectilinear grid system.

1910: In Central Concord the first 20th century subdivision was the **Wellbank Estate**, with Arthur Street at its centre, curving along one of Concord's few undulating areas.

1913: Three years later the **Alton Estate**, encompassing Station Street, Homedale Avenue and Alton Avenue .

1915: The **Terrabona Estate** on the east side of Majors Bay Road . . . had streets named Gallipoli and Jellicoe Street. (Patriotically named.)

1908: At North Strathfield was the first subdivision of **Eadith Walker's** extensive holdings - the area bounded by Gracemere Street, Shipley Avenue, Queen Street and Concord Road.

1910: The second subdivision (**Walker Estate No 2**) sold off the land from Gracemere Street to Yaralla Street. From then on a subdivision of the **Walker Estate** occurred almost annually, progressing more or less northwards along the railway line.

Phase 4 - 1920s.

1920: The **MacNamara Estate** was put up for sale in the Central Concord

area. It included MacNamara and Castlereagh Streets.

The **Golf Links Estate** (Links Avenue and Correys Avenue).

The "**Yaralla Park Estate**" was broken into two subdivisions. The first was auctioned in 1920 as "The Sale of the Century". Nullawarra Avenue was constructed along the new boundary of the **Yaralla Estate**, passing its gates at the end of the Drive. The streets that were made to link Nullawarra Avenue to Concord Road were Colane, landra, Myall and Wilga. (The Drive obviously existed previously, as the access to Yaralla.)

1923: The second subdivision was probably made in 1923, when land between Hospital Road, Nullawarra Avenue, Colane Street and Concord Road was laid out and sold off.

Phase 5 - 1945

1945: The NSW Housing Commission resumed 9 hectares, mainly in the **Flavelle Estate**, in Central Concord. This area was laid out with sinuous streets like Trafalgar Parade, Victory Parade, and the semicircular Churchill Crescent. By 1948 the Commission had completed 48 brick houses on the Flavelle Estate and 2 timber houses at Mortlake. The project was finished in 1956 and comprised 9 cottages at Rhodes, 2 at Mortlake, 9 at Cabarita and 130 houses and 46 multi-unit apartments at Central Concord. In 1966 four units for aged people were built in Quondong Place, Concord West, and in 1979 the Commission acquired Tulloch's Phoenix Iron Works at Rhodes but failed to use this land, which was later passed over to other purposes.

The portion known as "**The Phillips site**" has more recently been acquired by the Department of Planning, and is to be converted into parkland. The "Kokoda Track" (or "Trail") that is being constructed as a National War Memorial to service persons of the Australian Forces of WW2 is to traverse this land as it will provide paved access from Rhodes Railway Station to Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

1899: The area south of Parramatta Road containing Chapman Street, Manson Road and Leicester Avenue was also annexed, as the residents felt they had been isolated from the Strathfield Municipality by the construction of the Northern Railway.

(Ed: This article was prepared by David Hayes, the then Chairperson of the Heritage Committee. 17th July, 1996.)

General Meetings of our Society

For some time the committee has been concerned about the small number of members attending our general meetings, despite always having most interesting guest speakers and subjects.

They have now decided to try holding the meetings on the first Saturday in the month.

This will commence on Saturday, 2nd July.

Meetings will commence at 2:00 pm at the Museum with the presentation by the speakers. This will be followed by a short question time and then light refreshments will be served.

Members are urged to advertise this to their friends, neighbours, work colleagues, Uncle Tom Cobley and all.

We would like to see these talks well patronised to support our wonderful speakers.

Our meeting will take place after all that is over and any visitors are welcome to stay for the meeting if they wish.

River of Life Display

This proved to be a success with quite a few people visiting because of our listing in the National Trust Programme.

However, it was a little disappointing that more of our own members didn't visit.

A lot of hard work goes into preparing these displays and the dedicated Museum Committee is very proud of the work.

The evening talk by Greg Blaxell was a great success with 31 people attending, some from as far away as the Blue Mountains and Palm Beach. Everyone present enjoyed Greg's talk and the delicious refreshments.

Thanks to all who contributed to the success.

We still have some of the booklets prepared for the display, highlighting the early history of the area - industrial, social, sporting, etc. - available at the Museum for \$7.00 each

The income from the talk covered all costs involved in producing the display and gave us a small profit, so it was a good result all round.

Coming Guest Speakers

Wednesday, 8th June at 7:30 pm

Speaker: WWII Veteran Raymond Styles who, in 1940, embarked on the original Queen Mary headed to the Middle East. He will talk about this journey and his wartime experiences.

Raymond commented: "It was a fantastic ship. It was still in its glory when we got on board but it wasn't by the time we got off - there were initials on all the railings."

The original ships were converted during WWII to carry soldiers to battlefronts in the Middle East and Singapore.

Painted grey during the war, they were nicknamed the grey ghosts.

Saturday, 2nd July at 2:00 pm.

Speaker: Brian Lawrenson, author and ebook publisher, will tell us about *The Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors*.

Brian and his wife are avid travellers and have written many books about their adventures - this is just one of them.

(Ed: Please note change of date and time for our July speaker.)

Yaralla Open Day

Despite concerns about attendance due to non-access to the main building, the day proved to be a great success.

Unfortunately there were a few problems due to this being the first one under this type of organising - but there was nothing that can't be fixed.

There were approximately 400 people through the gate, which is around the same number we used to get when the mansion was open, and everyone still seemed to have had a great time.

There was an approximate profit of \$3,520 on the day to go towards further work on the estate.

Many thanks to all those volunteers who helped in any way on the day - you did a great job and your help was greatly appreciated.

It is thought that building work on the estate will commence shortly so there will not be another Yaralla Open Day this year, but plans are in hand for continuing our Open Days at Rivedell. Currently it is thought that this will be in September, when we have much better weather than in July.

High ideals crumble



In 1917 when 'The Camp' was operating in the grounds of Yaralla, Eadith Walker lent her Leura home Shuna to the Red Cross to be used as a convalescent hospital.

This facility was also for soldiers returning from the front with tuberculosis. She paid for the maintenance and staffing at Shuna. That unit did not close until 1922 when she made it available to the Red Cross as a children's home. The property was ultimately bequeathed to the Junior Red Cross as a sanctuary for children.

In 1919, for Eadith Walker's contribution to the war effort, she was made a Commander of the British Empire. Ten years later, she became a Dame of the British Empire, the highest royal order available to women.

From 1908 to 1923, major subdivisions of the Walker Estate took place,

presumably to help fund both living costs at Yaralla and Eadith Walker's philanthropic work. The last portion of land sold was in 1940 when the Commonwealth Government purchased forty acres of land on which to build the Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

Dame Eadith Walker died on 8 October 1937. By this time, Yaralla was valued at a fraction of the fortune passed on to her by her father. In 1938, an Act of the NSW Parliament was passed to enable the estate to be dispersed. One of the outcomes involved money to be set aside for the establishment of the Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital for Men (renamed the Dame Eadith Walker Hospital). It was to be managed by Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Here is one nurse's perception of Yaralla.

"I was posted (there) in 1947 when it was a general type of convalescent home. Where I lived was a small weatherboard cottage. There were no mod cons. There was a bath (on the) back veranda but no laundry tubs. There was hot water but no cooling or heating."

The Dame Eadith Walker Hospital stopped functioning in 1988 and the building closed and was left unoccupied for some time. It then reopened as a specialist renal unit about 1993, still managed by RPAH. That unit closed in 2008.

Now, Yaralla is again empty. Many worry about its future.

Written by Gregory Blaxell for the Northern District Times and published with permission.

Museum Committee

The committee is currently planning our displays for next year.

A major one will be a Travelling Exhibition titled "There's a War On - World War II at Home", being loaned through Museum & Galleries NSW. There will be 6 large pull-up panels as well as a DVD, but we need to supplement it with objects of our own.

Some thoughts are: Uniforms (Land Army, AWAS, etc.), Signs, Posters, factories involved in the war effort (Greenpoint Naval Boat Yard, etc.), rationing, restrictions, letters, documents, Internments, War Bonds, Australia under attack, Identity cards, women in industry . . . the list could go on and on, but this should give you

some ideas of what we want.

Can you help? Do you know anyone who can help to make this display an outstanding success? It will be at our Museum during April and May 2012 and we want a wonderful display that will encourage people to visit, and visit again.

Other ideas under discussion are: The Depression Years; How to Discover your house's history; Royalty; Schools.

What are your thoughts? Do you have any suggestions for other displays.

As well, we need your help in sourcing objects to support these displays.

CAN YOU HELP?

There's Work to be Done!

As well as our displays, we have on-going work that needs doing around the museum. Can you offer some time?

- * Scanning photographs and negatives into the computer
- * Cleaning inside display cases
- * Tagging painting and photographs with an identification label
- * Check contents of our archive boxes to see that everything listed is present and also to prepare a list of contents for those not done.
- * Sort paperwork in filing cabinets into groups/types for easy reference. Larger files need to be catalogued and stored in archive boxes.
- * Transfer Oral History tapes into the computer

Please don't be frightened if the word "computer" is in the job. None of it is difficult, it's just a case of pushing buttons.

If you can help with any of this, no matter how little or how much time you can spare, just come along to the museum on any Wednesday or Saturday between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. Your help will be appreciated.

Contributions and Comments

We welcome articles and memoirs, particularly those relating to the former old Concord and Drummoyne areas. They can be about you, your family or people who have lived here - they can be personal or memories of the areas.

We also welcome brief written comments. These might be comments on published articles, corrections, requests for information or a memory of the past which you don't wish to submit as a formal article.

This is YOUR newsletter. We want to hear from you.

Articles can be posted, emailed or left at the museum. (Details on front page)

Someone out in cyberspace must have a lot of time on their hands and be a really great scrabble player. Take a simple word and re-arrange the letters - and you get . . .

Presbyterian - Best in Prayer
Desperation - A rope ends it
The Morse Code - Here come dots
Slot Machines - Cash lost in me
Election Results - Lies! Let's recount

How Much is the Sydney Harbour Bridge Toll?

When the Sydney Harbour Bridge opened on 19th March, 1932, it cost a car or motorcycle six pence (5 cents) to cross, and a horse and rider, three pence. Today, the fee is charged only on the south-bound road, and ranges between \$2.50 and \$4.00, depending upon the time of day.

You may no longer ride a horse across the bridge. But, pedestrians can walk across for free and there's a special lane for bicycles.

The bridge is 1,257 yards (1,149 meters) long. The top of the steel arch reaches about 440 feet (134 meters) above the harbour, but with changing temperatures, it may rise or fall up to 5 inches (18 centimetres).

In 1932 the average annual daily traffic was around 11,000 and now it is more than 160,000 vehicles per day.

Quote: ". . . you can see it (the bridge) from every corner of the city, creeping into frame from the oddest angles, like an uncle who wants to get into every snapshot. From a distance it has a kind of gallant restraint, majestic but not assertive, but up close it is all might . . . This is a great bridge."

- Bill Bryson, in his book *Down Under*.
(From 'Today in History', Answers.com.)

Are you interested in learning about the different parts of Museum Management?

Shortly we will be holding some mini-workshops dealing with subjects such as: marking objects; storing different materials; handling different objects (paper, material, metal, etc.); significance assessment; making the objects tell a story.

These will only take 30 to 60 minutes but will give you some insight into the work that needs to go into running a museum.

If you would like to take part, please call the secretary on 9744-8528 to put your name down. This is not limited to members only. If you know anyone else who might be interested please invite them.

Astronomer - Moon starrer
The Eyes - They see
Dormitory - Dirty room
Animosity - Is no amity
Snooze Alarm - Alas! No more Z's

From the Secretary's Desk

MEETING DAYS CHANGED: Please note that, commencing in July, we will be holding our regular monthly meetings on the 1st Saturday in the month at 2:00 pm, in the Museum.

It will start with our guest speaker, followed by question time and light refreshments. The meeting will start after that. Visitors may stay if they wish or leave after the refreshments.

This is an experiment to see whether attendance can be improved and will stay on Saturdays for at least three months to judge the response.

GUEST SPEAKERS: We have two very interesting speakers booked for June and July. Please let others know and invite them to come along. (see details page 3)

AUGUST IS OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This will be on Saturday, 6th August where the various officers will present their Annual Report to members. This is your chance to learn exactly what goes on with the various groups within our Society.

It is also the time to elect the various Office Bearers and Committee for the ensuing year.

The work of a committee member is not hard, but it is very important. The future planning for our Society and its Sub-Committees is in your hands and we need your thoughts and ideas to make it happen.

We will need to elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Publicity Officer, Speaker Organiser, Museum, Oral History and Walker Estates Chairperson, and floor members.

Please consider coming along and offering your services to fill one of these positions. If the Society is to progress it needs to bring in new blood, not just rely on the same old people.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE: This committee needs more members to help us plan our activities for the future and to research and mount the displays. Why not pop into the museum on one of the days it is open to see us and have a chat.

How True!

The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.