



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

www.concordheritage.asn.au

EDITOR
LOIS MICHEL
9744-8528

PRESIDENT
MARK DURANCE
9743-0583

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Vacant

SECRETARY/TREASURER
LOIS MICHEL
3 Flavelle Street
(P.O. Box 152)
Concord 2137
Phone: 9744-8528
Fax: 9744-7591

MEETINGS
General Meetings

1st Saturday of month
(except January)
at 2:00 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
This position is vacant

Tours Organiser
Sandra Elliott, 9797-1040
ttoille@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

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**CITY OF CANADA
BAY MUSEUM**

1 Bent Street, Concord

**Open Wed & Sat
10am to 4pm**

Phone: 9743-3034

No.183

November 2011

A Century of Caring for Boats - Sanders Boatshed

Cabarita Point was originally called Hen and Chicken Point and represented the western extremity of Hen and Chicken Bay, so named because of the cluster of rocks just off the point and alongside where the now abandoned Cabarita Wharf once stood.

The largest rock, always partly above high water, was known as 'The Hen' and the smaller ones 'The Chickens'.

They were submerged at high tide. The name Cabarita Park was given to a large reserve between Hen and Chicken Bay and Kendal Bay.

It was generally believed that the area was named by the Surveyor-General, Sir Thomas Mitchell, in remembrance of a locality in Spain where he fought under the Duke of Wellington. Another possible derivation is that 'Cabarita' is an Aboriginal word meaning the 'meeting of the waters'.

There are three inlets in Hen and Chicken Bay and each is named. All show a connection with a group of French-Canadian rebels who were transported to New South Wales in 1840. Canada Bay is near the head of Hen and Chicken Bay and the nearest point to where the Longbottom Stockade was located. Concord Oval (aka Waratah Stadium) is approximately where the stockade was built.

North of Canada Bay and still on the west side of Hen and Chicken Bay, is Exile Bay and beyond that, towards Cabarita Point, is France Bay.

It was at the entrance to France Bay where Charles Sanders first established a boatshed in 1906. Charles' father was a lamplighter who worked for the nearby AGL Company [established in 1886] at Mortlake.

Charles and his family lived at 128 Cabarita Road, not far from the entrance to the park. His family was made up of his wife and six children – five boys and one girl. The youngest of those was Hector Sanders who was born in 1926. Initially, Charles built rowing boats in a shed behind the family residence.

In 1906, Charles Sanders opened a boatshed on the northern entrance to France Bay. This had the disadvantage of being

subject to the southerlies that often roared up Hen and Chicken Bay. During a severe storm in 1920 the Sanders boatshed was severely damaged. But the boatshed's position also had another disadvantage.

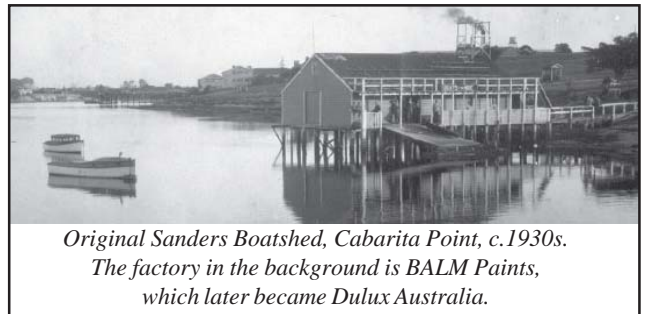
When these 'southerly busters' came through, boat hirers found it difficult to return their rowing boats as they had to row at least 500m into the strong wind. They often left their hired boats on the beach fronting the Parramatta River in Cabarita Park. These had to be collected and returned to the boatshed when conditions calmed.

After the damage to the boatshed, Charles Sanders decided to move it to Cabarita Point and a 99-year lease was negotiated with the Maritime Services Board and Concord Council.

The new Sanders Boatshed was originally a shed built on wooden piles in close proximity to the Cabarita Ferry Wharf. Between that wharf and the shed, the major slipway was eventually built. Two smaller slips were located on the southern side of the building.

During the Depression, the Sanders ran a 'ferry' service between the northern shore and industry on the southern shore. Hector recalls that his father picked up men working at the AGL Gasworks from the wharf at Looking Glass Point.

Also, Ernie Sanders and then Hector picked up men and women at Towns' boatshed on



*Original Sanders Boatshed, Cabarita Point, c.1930s.
The factory in the background is BALM Paints,
which later became Dulux Australia.*



Bulletin Board

Sat. 6th November at 2:00 pm. Ken Bock, "Radio for the Print Handicapped"

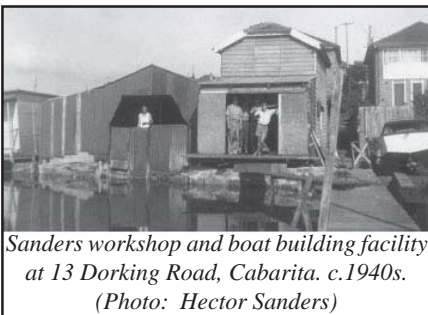
Sat. 3rd December at 7:30 pm Our Christmas Party at the museum. Visitors welcome.

First meeting for 2012 - Saturday, 4th February

the Gladesville shore and took them to the Cabarita boatshed from where they walked or caught the tram to jobs located on the southern shore of the river.

In 1940 when Hector was 14, the family moved to a house at 15 Dorking Road, Cabarita. By then, WWII had begun. The adjoining block at 13 Dorking Road was vacant except for a substantial waterfront shed intended for use as a boat building workshop. The family had just moved when Charles died. The sons took over the business with Wally Sanders running it until he went into the army. For the rest of the war period, the boatshed only operated at weekends.

Hector began his apprenticeship at Gus Green's boatshed, located at what is now the Sydney Boys' High School rowing and cultural complex.



Sanders workshop and boat building facility at 13 Dorking Road, Cabarita. c.1940s. (Photo: Hector Sanders)

The original boatshed on the site was Kemp's Boatshed, owned and operated by Peter Kemp who won the World Rowing Championship in 1887.

Gus Green's boatshed was kept fully occupied by building lifeboats, workboats and tugs for the war effort.

Hector worked there for five years until he finished his apprenticeship.

In 1946, Hector returned to the family business to assist his brothers, Wally and Ernie who had enlisted in the 2nd AIF. Hector spent most of his time working at the workshop at 13 Dorking Road but assisted at the boatshed at weekends and whenever he was needed.

Building boats for the boatshed and for individual owners was the major function of the workshop. They built open boats, half-cabin boats, workboats, pontoons and cruisers.

They also handcrafted oars and wooden fittings.

They had Lawrence Hall develop a small two-stroke marine engine for their launches. The engine was known as the Hall Marine. It was Lawrence Hall who developed the concept of the petrol driven rotary mower that later was manufactured and promoted as the Victa Mower by Mervyn Victor Richardson.

A wharf was added to the Cabarita Point boatshed in the 1960s. This became the first marina. Fuel was also available at the boatshed. Moorings were located in Hen and Chicken Bay. Sanders Boatshed had a large scow that was probably built at the Slazengers yard at Kissing Point Bay, Putney.



Sanders Boatshed with fuel wharf but no marina. c.1950s. (Photo: Hector Sanders)

They used this as a workboat for the laying of moorings.

Sanders Boatshed originally focused on hiring river fishing boats. As the needs of those using the river changed, the business began to focus on boat repairs and maintenance.

The slipways became even more important. The boatshed initiated a ships chandlery, and a marine engineer established a workshop there.

The Sanders brothers sold the boatshed around 1980 to Roy Pedemont, who was the owner of a large furniture removal business. Roy took an active role in the management of the boatshed, assisted by Wally and Hector Sanders and two other employees. Hector was employed to carry out the shipwright's duties.

When the marina was sold to Pedemont, the MSB decreed that the 99-year lease would not apply to the new owners. They were to be placed on a three-year lease. This significantly decreased the capital value of the business and made investment by the new owners impossible. Hector believed that the Sanders brothers sold the business for next to nothing. Eventually, because of opposition from around the waterfront, there was a change of policy and the leases were extended to 20 years.

Roy Pedemont sold the marina to Terry Murphy around 1985. Murphy had no experience on the waterfront, having come from a business that manufactured hospital beds.

However, he ran the marina and offered fuel, general repairs and the chandlery. Hector only worked for Terry Murphy for a short time.

During 1992, there was a devastating fire at the boatshed. The fire meant rebuilding with considerable capital investment.



A fire in 1992 destroyed the boatshed and some boats at the Marina. This photo was taken from the bridge of the fire float, "Shirley Smith", that was called to fight the blaze. (Photo: Graeme Andrews, Skipper, "Shirley Smith" on that night.)

Murphy sold to interests who planned to expand the complex by re-designing and re-building the core, removing the dilapidated wooden-pile wharf and replacing it with floating concrete pontoons. The facility, in the hands of the new owners, became Westport Marina.

The only remnant of the original Sanders Boatshed was contained in the name of the newly established restaurant – Sanders.

In 2002, an extensive expansion program was undertaken by Westport Marina Developments. The very experienced d'Albora Marinas took over the facility in January 2004. They offer marina berths for vessels up to 150ft in length, have a 24-hour fuel outlet and, at their safe and environmentally friendly marina, offer a free-of-charge pump out service.

On Saturday, 25th November, 2006, d'Albora Marinas celebrated the centenary of the establishment of a boating facility at Cabarita with a display of historic photographs and wooden oars and boathooks made by master craftsman, Hector Sanders.

This article was written by Gregory Blaxell and published in "Boating" magazine. It is reproduced with permission.

Gregory Blaxell is an historian and author. He has been boating offshore and in the harbour for more than 25 years. His latest books are The River: Sydney Cove to Parramatta and City of Canada Bay, a Pictorial History



Sanders Marina on 18 May 1970, decked out waiting for the arrival of Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, who was to unveil a memorial to the Canadian Exiles. The memorial is now located in Bayview Park. (Newspaper cutting supplied by Hector Sanders. Origin unknown.)

Museum Committee Report on the year 2010-2011

First and foremost I would like to thank the following volunteers, whose names I retrieved from the Volunteers Sign In Book, for their help in so many ways - from Museum Rosters to organising displays, archiving, sorting, packing and cleaning - and many other small ways - to keep things running smoothly:

Lois Michel, Betty Robertson, Terry Robinson, Alan & Lorna Wright, Meg Bean, Betty Fletcher, Mark Durance, Marjorie Hogan, Trish Skehan, Len & June Kelsey, Harry Kimble, Pam Kubyk, Elizabeth McEwen, Irene Davidson, Beryl Laws, Yvonne Williamson, Judith Hughes, Jeanette O'Hara, Val Hill, Hazel King, Sophie Jerapetritis, (Betty Robertson granddaughter) and Pauline Tyrrell,

Special mention must go to two special non-members:

Gwyneth White, you are very much appreciated for your support on Saturday morning cataloguing our collection; and

Jackie Henrison, thank you for all the work you put into cataloguing our clothing collection as part of your Museum Studies at Macquarie University.

These are not just names but very special folk, who front up to vacuum, dust, plan and arrange displays, photocopy or scan photos, and take part in working "Bees". Not to forget attending discussions with Council.

One example, was a very interesting meeting with Martha Jabour regarding the Council's Riverside Project. There are many other Council projects in which we have had special input.

Between us 'volunteers' we have put in a total of 9951.45 hours at the Museum during the year.

Throughout the year we had a total of 995 visitors - 830 adults and 165 children. Of these, 468 came in bus tours or with organised groups.

It is very rewarding discussing the museum with the visitors and groups. We are the lucky ones meeting such great folk and they all have their stories to tell. The 'Early Kooka' stove can start yarn or two as well.

The Business Plan and Memorandum of Understanding, have now been finalised and signed off by the Council.

On two Sundays in January we had a Children's Event, which was organised by the Council. The parents accompanied the children for an afternoon of entertainment, and the lucky dip there was fun for all.

Karen Coote is guiding us with a Significance Assessment of our more important items. This is well under way. Each item has had to be photographed and given a number, then a description is written up on the accession sheets ready for the next step ... entering details into the computer.

In August last year a grant of \$1000 was received to erect a 'Gallery Hanging System' so we may have art shows at some time in the future. It is now installed and ready for use.

Speaking of hanging, we now have our 'City of Canada Bay Museum' sign for the outside of the building, but putting it up is not as easy as placing a stamp on an envelope, but all is in hand.

Our gratitude to you, Terry Robinson, for the skills and efforts you have graciously rendered with this most important project.

Faces in the Street—the challenge was to collect stories of everyday people, famous people, folks from all walks of life, local events past or present. The response was exceptional, we now have a wonderful collection of short stories, all interesting, informative and, shall I say, intriguing. This is an ongoing project so please keep these 'Faces in the Street' stories coming in.

Posties Fashion Presentation: Hosted by Beryl Robinson, the Posties Fashion Collection, with light refreshments served on arrival to 30+ people, was a great success. The evening proceeded with interesting fashions at affordable prices.

Our Garage Sale raised \$804.35, not bad for a wet week end.

Have you seen the Mural in Fred Kelly Place, Five Dock? It is something different, you could spend much time looking for the items that came from our museum - there are quite a number of them, even our little cow which we keep on the fridge is there, just free to wander.

Currently we have two programmes on the go for 2012

1. The War at Home - WWII, is a 'Travelling Exhibition' organised by Museums & Galleries NSW, which we are hiring for two months. We are now gathering information on how the 'people at home' were affected - home life, shopping, travelling to and from work, working in the factories, attending school, weddings, etc.

Photos from that time, stories, weddings, old newspaper cuttings - in fact anything which tells of how the

war affected us on the home front - all would be most welcome. We would be happy to copy these if you do not want to part with them.

If you lived through those times, why not drop in to the museum, have a cup of tea with us, and tell your story.

We would be interested in borrowing any artefacts - uniforms and other items - which you might still have to augment this display.

2 Another is 'The Royal Family', in conjunction with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Did you have or know someone who has a story of a brush with royalty, photos or paper clipping (these can be scanned and returned to you if you wish).

Guest Speakers: Ray Stiles spoke about leaving home for overseas duty at the beginning of WWII. He sailed on the Queen Mary. He also gave an insight of his time in the army.

'The River of Life Display' was very successful, bringing many people into the museum. But especially to hear Gregory Blaxell talk on the influence of the Parramatta River on the development of the City of Canada Bay

We had another great speaker, when we were honoured to have Brian Lawrenson speak on the "Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors". He spoke with such clarity and knowledge that his photographs were brought to life

We also had a surprise donation from one of our members - a very welcome addition to our collection - a Framed Polly Waffle Bar from the last run of these at the Nestles factory.

Lorraine Holmes

Chairperson, Museum Committee
Just a Little Additional Information

The total number of hours our volunteer have worked at the museum in the last financial year is 9,951.45. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the hourly monetary value of volunteers is now \$24.63 p.h. So, we have contributed \$245,104.00 in monetary value to the running of our museum.

To all our dedicated museum volunteers, a great big **THANK YOU**. Give yourselves a pat on the back, you deserve it. Not a bad effort for a small group.

Why don't **YOU** come along and join this happy and dedicated band of volunteers. There are a lot of things happening in 2012, why not be a part of it!!

Our most dedicated and loyal supporter is the Aurora Bus Company. They have brought seven groups from Gosford way to visit. Many are former residents of Concord, who really enjoy the outing.

We are regularly asked about the wills of both Thomas and Eadith Walker and we recently came across the following newspaper articles

The Will of the Late Mr. Thomas Walker

In our last issue we gave a brief extract of the will of the above deceased gentleman. Following is a fuller epitome.

The will bears the date 26th August, 1873, and the codicil bears date the 6th August, 1886. The testator appoints his only sister, Miss Walker, his cousin, Mr. James Thomas Walker of Brisbane, and Mr. Thomas Buckland of Sydney, his executors and trustees and he directs his trustees to distribute among the charitable institutions of New South Wales, £20,000 in such proportions as they may determine, and he bequeaths £100,000 for the building and maintenance of a hospital for convalescents, to be built upon a site of about 60 to 80 acres devised by the testator for that purpose at Rocky Point, on the Parramatta River.

To his sister, Miss Walker, he leaves £20,000 and the use of his mansion and estate at Yaralla for life, with an annuity of £1,000 per annum for maintaining the same in good order. To his sister's adopted daughter, Miss Masefield, he leaves £20,000. To five of his cousins £5,000 each, and to other cousins small legacies to enable them to procure keepsakes.

To his friend Thomas Buckland, £1000, and to his man-servant John McIntyre £500, and to four of his female servants £50 each.

Subject to the above legacies, he leaves the whole of his estate to his daughter Eadith Campbell Walker for life, with powers of appointment in certain circumstances; and in the event of his daughter dying without leaving children, then one half of the property is to go to the testator's next-of-kin, and the other half is to be distributed among the charitable institutions of Australia.

The testator's estate is estimated to be worth about a million and a quarter pounds. We understand that necessary proceedings for probate are being taken by Messers Robertson, Fisher and Ralf

The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser. (NSW: 1843-1893), Saturday, 18 September 1886. Page 18

Thomas Walker Bequest

£400,000 for Charity - Distribution Details

Details of the bequest of £400,000 made by the late Thomas Walker for charitable purposes were announced by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Martin, to the Legislative Assembly last night.

Moving for leave to introduce a bill to enable the trustees to give effect to Mr. Walker's intentions, Mr. Martin said that Mr. Walker provided in his will that if his daughter, who became Dame Eadith Walker, died without leaving issue, which she did, his residuary estate should be divided

into equal parts and one part, now amounting to £400,000 should be held by his trustees as a trust to be divided among charitable institutions, not religious, in Australia.

By codicil to his will, said Mr. Martin, Thomas Walker stated that he had long contemplated establishing a convalescent hospital on his land at Yaralla, and he enjoined his daughter and trustees, if in his lifetime he had not realised his intention, to set aside £100,000 for the purpose.

In compliance with that direction, his trustees had set aside a portion of testator's land at Yaralla, together with £100,000 and had established the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital.

Some years ago Dame Eadith Walker had, by deed, established the trust known as the Yaralla Homes for charitable purposes. She had assigned to the trustees (the Perpetual Trustee Company) certain lands and had endowed the trust with certain moneys. Dame Eadith Walker died a little over a year ago. Part of her estate consisted of the Yaralla homestead, together with a large area of land and cottages. These were valued at £86,000.

Eadith Walker Hospital

The trustees of the will of Thomas Walker, said Mr. Martin, had proposed to the Government that they should purchase from the trustee of Dame Eadith Walker's estate the Yaralla homestead land and cottages for £66,025 and give to the Government the Yaralla homestead and a large area of land valued at £65,000, while a small area valued at £1,025 should be added to the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital. They also proposed to give the Government £33,075, making a total of £100,000, and they asked that the Government should accept the land and money for the purpose of establishing the Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital for men.

As to the remainder of the charitable fund, said Mr. Martin, the trustees of Thomas Walker proposed that it should be created into a perpetual charitable trust fund and that the net annual income should be divided into three equal parts. Two parts would, so far as necessary, be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital and the Yaralla cottages, and the other one-third would be devoted to the maintenance of the Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital for Men. Any surplus of the income would be divided in equal shares between the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, except that a sum of £10,000 out of the capital fund should be paid to the trustees of the Tenterfield Hospital.

The motion was agreed to and this second reading was fixed for today.

The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842-1954), Wednesday, 30th November 1938, page 15.

From the Secretary's Desk

SPECIAL THANKS to John Harding, who put his hand up to carry out some of the carpentry work needed at the museum. He has already completed one job and is working on another. Thank you, thanks you.

MORE THANKS: We have been fortunate to receive a community grant from **City of Canada Bay Council** which has enabled us to purchase more Pallet Racking to erect two additional substantial shelf units for the storage of our objects. Each year we receive a grant through this scheme, which has enabled us to make many improvements to our museum. We are most grateful to Council for this support.

We will now need help to move articles stored in temporary shelves, remove that shelving and erect our new ones. We'd like to organise a working bee soon on either a Saturday or Sunday if you can spare some time to assist. Please let us know.

MORE GRANTS: We are currently pursuing two more grants which should make the museum facilities even better. We'll let you know more if we are successful.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: Several members have not yet paid their fees. We hope this is only an oversight. However, we will be sending a letter shortly advising of this. If you do not wish to continue membership, please let us know. If we do not received your dues by mid November we will assume you do not wish to stay with us and we will cancel your membership.

NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER: Mr Ken Bock telling us about Radio 2RPH (radio for the print handicapped). We hope you will be able to attend to learn more of this very worthwhile service. We will be sending a flying with this newsletter and would be happy for you to pass this information on to any others who might be interested.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS: Our last event for the year will be our Annual Christmas Party, to be held on Saturday, 3rd December at 7:30 pm in our museum.

Please mark the date in your diary now so you won't forget and feel free to bring family and friends to join us in this informal social evening.

Members are asked to bring something for supper if possible. If you can help please let the secretary know what you will be contributing so we can make sure there is a varied selection of food. BYO liquid refreshments.