



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

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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 10:00am 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.187

April 2012

The Parramatta River Story

Part 1 of a series on the historic Parramatta River

by long-time resident of Drummoyne, A S Mendel

When the Steamboats Plied

From the high ground above Abbotsford's old jetty, I watched a small ferry nosing west-erly towards Cabarita.

On a dead calm tide, there was scarcely a ripple feathering from her bows.

Beyond her modest wake, a little upstream from Bedlam Point, the easy sloping approaches of Looking Glass Point, backed by the suburbia of Putney stretched out to Kissing Point, presented a pleasant aspect.

There was history here, but the past was coming to life again. This small craft may cause a right-about-face in the inexorable march of change.

With the traffic lanes of the inner city taxed to capacity, that small ripple may become a wave.

With nostalgic memories crowding in, I was prompted to tell a story – the Parramatta River story.

Forty years have passed since the ebb-time of passenger traffic found the old *Bronzewing* and *Lady Rose* huddled together for the last time at No.6 Circular Quay.

These ancient steamboats, with extremely foreshortened funnels designed to clear the low levels of Gladesville and Ryde bridges, plied between Sydney Cove and Meadowbank, the latter vessel continuing on to Parramatta.

It was a picturesque stream in the old days, with bold headlands wooded to the peak, their prone edges probing into the reaches and the protruding points intersticed with small sandy beaches, as yet unblemished by modern industry's effluent.

The Parramatta is not a river at all in the true sense, but rather an elongation of the harbour estuary, deep in many places and tidal.

A map will show the Parramatta beginning at Longnose Point, but to the traveller, when his craft rounds Dawes Point, beyond where the Harbour Bridges arches towards Milson's Point, he is in "the river".

Let us take a bearing: from a point in North Sydney, just above Lavender Bay, the

southern terraces of the Sydney Church of England Grammar School look out across the western face of the Harbour Bridge.

The school itself, built in 1889, is one of the four greater public schools gracing the river's environs.

It houses a unique feature: one of the stained glass windows depicts the famous 650 pound (300 kilo) "nugget" found by Holterman and Beyers at the Hill End gold-fields.

This commemorated incident, in a wider view, represents the second great era of colonial development.

To the right of the south-western pylon, beyond Millers Point, you are looking obliquely up Lower Fort Street with its historic terraced cottages.

Here the son of our first merchant, Robert Campbell, built Bligh House with its beautiful cedar interiors.

A little further on the Hero of Waterloo remains the oldest hotel still trading on the mainland of Australia.

Beyond and across the street the Garrison Church, resplendent with beautiful stained glass and embellished with regimental arms, faces the delightfully-old Argyle Place.

Above on the higher ground, the Observatory, built in 1858, marks the site of Phillip's first fort erected in 1804 and nearby the first mill of Sydney Town.

Between the Garrison Church and Observatory Hill the Argyle Cut slices through to Sydney Cove.

DIARY DATES

Sat. 14th April, 1:30 pm - Official Opening of our Museums & Galleries NSW Travelling Exhibition, "There's a War On! World War II at Home"

Sat 14th April, 2:00 pm - Steven Carruthers, "Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney"

Sat. 5th May, 2:00 pm - Brad Manera, "Australia Under Attack"

In your mind's eye you may look down on Cadman's cottage built in 1816 – the oldest dwelling in Sydney, with Phillip's first landing spot just a stone's throw away.

The shoreline directly fronting the northern margin of the area is contained by Walsh Bay, which, together with the long sweep of Darling Harbour, the indentations of Pyrmont and Blackwattle Bays, plus the much altered perimeter of White Bay, service the majority of shipping tonnage to berth in Port Jackson.

Two personalities linked with the Pyrmont-Ultimo area were Dr. John Harris, surgeon and farmer, who built his much-patronised Ultimo Place there, and Simeon Lord, who amongst his many ventures, established the first glass industry at Pyrmont.

Adjoining Blackwattle Bay is the inner suburb of Glebe. Now, all the Anglican dioceses in England had their rented housing projects and these were called the "glebes".

For the same reason, the Glebe of Sydney Town retained the similar name.

Old-timers still refer to the suburb as The Glebe, but today the definite article has been dropped and it is generally known as Glebe or Glebe Point.

The island offshore was naturally called Glebe Island and was once the site of the city's abattoirs.

Under pressure from expanding commerce, a causeway was built across, separating Blackwattle Bay and White Bay.

A railway line linked the island to the Darling Harbour goods line, and a powerhouse and a bulk storage area was established.

Today a major container-cargo terminal on White Bay has added to the commercial turnaround of this busy shipping section.

Blackwattle Bay was once fed by Blackwattle Creek. Today, like the tank stream, the creek has been relegated to the underground but there is still evidence of its use as a one-time fresh water supply.

Tooth and Co. operating on the same site since 1835, have wells reaching down to where the water flows freely.

In fact, there are great round columns, with water cocks still attached, bearing mute evidence of an old supply system.

From our vantage point at SCEGS we note that the suburb at Balmain adjoins Glebe. Balmain takes its name from Dr. Balmain, one of Phillip's first surgeons.

A ferry used to run from Darling Street wharf to Erskine Street but today only services a work force at certain hours.

In the television series "My Name's McGooley" you are actually travelling over the same course at the conclusion of each performance.

Balmain is linked territorially, industrially and in sporting activities with Birchgrove, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Annandale and Leichhardt.

(This series of 6 articles was printed in the "Advertiser", November/December, 1971.)

Ed. Note: How the area has changed in the intervening years. Do you remember?

Letter to the Editor

Apropos the article in Nurungi in January 2012 about the submarine attack on Sydney . . .

The Japanese Midget Submarine on display outside the War Memorial in Canberra is a composite of the two wrecks that were retrieved from Sydney Harbour.

They were given to the Apprentice School at Cockatoo Island Dockyard as part of their training course - to be re-assembled as possible.

My husband, John Burgess, was at that time a senior member of the island staff and was closely involved with the work.

At the time of the attack he was living in Manly so his interest tended to be quite personal and immediate.

As a result we, his family, felt very interested too, and on frequent visits to the War Memorial, have explored the midget submarine with great interest and delight.

It is a marvellous piece of reconstruction and we feel very proud of the "boys" who made it happen - and in a small way we feel it is a part of our family history.

Sheilagh Burgess

Sharing the Memories



Wed. 21st and
Sat 24th
March
at 10:30
and
2p.m.
each day

*Everyone welcome:
Women, Men, Children;
long-time residents, new-
comers. Everyone!*

Please spread the word about this event. It will be a great opportunity to gather oral histories.

We would like to put on a delicious spread of home made cakes, slices, biscuits. etc, (preferably able to be stored in the fridge if not used on the day) to make this a special occasion.

Can you help? If so, please phone and let us know what you will be bringing.

We also need members to come along and mingle with the people to listen to the stories and get the conversations moving. Again, please let us know if you can be there.

Speakers still to come . . .

APRIL 14 (note change of date due to Easter): Steven Carruthers, author of "Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney". This will be part of our "War at Home" display.

MAY 5: Brad Manera from the ANZAC War Memorial, "Australia Under Attack". (This is also part of our display)

JUNE 2: John Fisk or Murray Goldberg from the Sandakan Association, "Sandakan POW Camp".

JULY 7: Beryl Mason, Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, "The History of the Botanic Gardens"

AUGUST 4: John Oakes, Railcorp NSW, "Mortuary Stations"

Please note these dates and speakers in your diaries now so you won't miss any of the talks.

WANTED!

For future displays:

The War at Home: Any memorabilia, uniforms, letters, posters, etc.,

Royalty: Souvenirs, photographs, anything to do with Royalty, past and present.

The True History of Nursery Rhymes: old nursery rhyme books, physical objects to support the displays. (i.e. egg cups for Humpty Dumpty; lanterns, candlesticks for Jack be Nimble.) You get the idea?

We also still need help to sew up some dolls to accompany the rhymes. It's just simple sewing, nothing too difficult.

Suggestions: Have you any ideas for future displays to demonstrate the history of our area.

Working Bees

Saturday, 17th March

If you can spare some time, either morning or afternoon, to help with this work we will be most grateful. We particularly need some able-bodied souls as there is some heavy lifting involved.

The work that needs doing is:

- * Move our boxes of objects from the parking bay onto our new shelving system.
- * Move a showcase into museum
- * Move our Organ and a fretwork overmantle from the museum into storage.
- * Set up our "Walker" display in the vacated area
- * Finish installing the hanging lines for our gallery hanging system.

All of these things need to be finished by 11th April so that we can set up our "War at Home" display ready for the opening on 14th April.

Thursday & Friday
12/13th April

All the banners and other objects for our "War at Home" exhibition will be arriving at the museum on the 12th and we will need to have it all set up, including any of our items, by Friday evening ready for the opening on Saturday.

This is a major display and we need "all hands on deck" to get it set up.



Please phone me on 9744-8528 to let me know which days/times you can come to help.

Volunteers Needed

The Walker Estates Committee urgently needs more guides to assist with Group Tours. These will be our only means of raising money for work on the Estate for the time being.

We don't know how long it will be before we are again able to hold Open Days at either Yaralla or Rivendell so we need to encourage smaller groups to visit. However, to do this we need more guides who would be available on either weekdays or weekends.

We have books and documents giving you all the information you would need - you just have to be able to talk to the public.

Helpers are also needed for the Devonshire Teas. Please help!



The Concord Heritage Society

invites you to the

Official Opening of "There's a War On! World War II at Home"

at the

City of Canada Bay Museum
1 Bent Street, Concord

on Saturday, 14th April at 1:30 pm

followed by our
Special Guest Speaker

Steven Carruthers

"Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney"

RSVP: 7th April, 2012

9744-8528 or chs@concordheritage.asn.au

A Museums & Galleries NSW touring exhibition

A Museums & Galleries NSW touring exhibition



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



SHP

Where I have and have not been.

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

But one place I don't ever want to be is in Continent.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

- * Realising that their home just wasn't big enough with the new baby in the house, Little Johnny's parents discussed moving to a bigger one. Little Johnny sat patiently listening to his parents, then piped in, "It's no use. He'll just follow us anyway."
- * A new neighbor asked the little girl next door if she had any brothers and sisters. She replied, "No, I'm the lonely child."
- * A mother was telling her little girl what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"
- * A little girl was diligently pounding away on her father's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."
- * A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus: the Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

You're Invited:

Amazing Stories: Innovation + Invention with an exhibition "**Perfecting the Aussie Home**". The display celebrates local innovations which helped to create the ideal suburban home. It includes Goddard's camerated concrete home, Victa Mower, Toyne's rotary clothes hoist and other local industries.

In 1905 Henry Goddard, later a Mayor of Concord, patented a method of home building called camerated concrete. The method allowed for the walls of the house to be constructed as one jointless cavity wall. Exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Show, it was claimed to be practically indestructible, absolutely damp proof and better and cheaper than either brick or stone. Homes built using this method still survive in Ada Street, Concord

Date: 2-29 April during Library hours. Admission FREE

Workshop: Future Sense: writing for new information technologies". A demonstration of the Dictionary of Sydney: an inventive use of new technology for collecting and disseminating historical information and the stories that have made Greater Sydney what it is. This will be followed by an introductory workshop on the fundamentals of writing for digital, online history projects such as the Dictionary.

Date: Wed. 18 April

Time: 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Cost: Free

Contact: Bookings essential, phone David Sansome on 9911-6310.

Both events will be held at the Five Dock Library, Garfield Street, Five Dock.

Japanese Submarines in Sydney Harbour: A special display in the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park. Among objects on display there will be the tail assembly from Lt Matsuo's submarine, Japanese flying suit, etc.

The Memorial is open every day from 9:00 to 5:00. Entry is Free.

Carisbrook House Museum, in conjunction with The Traditional Tool Group, presents Perspiration, Inspiration Innovation, a NSW Heritage week exhibition of tools of yesteryear.

Dates: Weekends April 14 to May 27, 11:00 to 4:00 pm

Venue: 334 Burns Bay Road, Lane Cove

Cost: \$8 adults, \$4, concession.

Roses From The Heart

Sew a bonnet and be part of history - 25,266 bonnets made with empathy for convict women who endured much and received so little recognition.

Christina Henri is a conceptual artist from Hobart, Tasmania. Her unique approach towards unveiling convict heritage stories through the creation of unique installations, images and paintings, positions Christina as an international centerpiece for a new wave of cultural heritage understanding that will inevitably bind the tattered fabric of convict history as we know it today.

Her *Roses From The Heart*(tm) installation examines the exploitation of mainly white 'slaves' - convict women - and considers the contemporary exploitation of humans, especially female workers, via sweat shops in the manufacturing industry.

The artist conceived the cloth bonnet symbol as a signifier of the convict women's worth - their economic value to Australia's prosperity. Contemporary industry now often chooses to remain competitive through the use of 'sweat shop labour'. The artist raises the notion of exploitation and poses the question has society learnt from past mistakes.

Christina invites people throughout the world to make a bonnet tribute to commemorate the value of a convict woman's life. The artist deliberately chose to invite personal tributes to be made rather than mass orders so that each bonnet is a testament to the individuality of the lass for whom it is created.

The artist chose to use a servant's bonnet for the template bonnet as many convict women were assigned to work amongst the community in private residences as domestic help. The choice of white or cream cloth is also important. From a distance the bonnet Memorial will give the impression that all the bonnets are identical. On closer inspection every bonnet will be different. Continued research identifies that the convict women were far more than a bunch of 'damned whores' as they were so often referred to.

For more information and to get a pattern Google "*Roses from the Heart*".



From the Secretary's Desk

WELCOME to our newest member, Roz Miller from Concord. We hope you will be able to come to our meetings and take part in our events, and we are looking forward to getting to know you better.

WORKING BEES: We have called a working bee at the Museum for Saturday, 17th March. We desperately need good attendance, especially some able-bodied men for some heavy lifting. (See article page 3.)

MUSEUM SIGNAGE: At long last our signage has been erected and visitors can now find us. Many thanks to the Council for organising this.

SOUND SYSTEM: We are in the process of installing a sound system at the museum and this will be a great help for some of our older members who have difficulty hearing our speakers.

OPEN DAYS: There will be no Open Days at either Yaralla or Rivendell for the rest of 2012 as they are both undergoing renovation work.

CONCORD FARMERS' MARKET: Congratulation to Concord Rotary on the fantastic launch of this project. It will be on the first Sunday of each month so please go along to support them and to avail yourself of wonderful home-grown produce.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: These are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 at the museum. If you are unable to attend would you please telephone me on the morning of the meeting so we know if there will be a quorum.

BOOKS MISSING: Two of our books on the French Canadian Exiles seem to have gone astray. If you have borrowed them can you please let me know ASAP.

WAR AT HOME DISPLAY: So far the call for local objects to support our display has been disappointing. We need items of local significance to support the display to make it more personal. We would dearly love to have a wedding dress from that era, but we are happy to have anything. We do not want to keep the items, just have them on display for the period. They will be secure.

YARALLA GROUP TOUR: Help is wanted to clean the dairy from 10:00 am on Thursday, 15th March to get it ready for a tour group. Please contact Sandra Elliott on 9797-1040 or email ttoille@optusnet.com.au