



# "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](mailto: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**

\* \* \* \*

## **CITY OF CANADA BAY MUSEUM**

1 Bent Street, Concord

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

Phone: 9743-3034

**No.189**

**JUNE 2012**

## **The Parramatta River Story**

Part 3 of a series on the historic Parramatta River  
by a long-time resident, A S Mendel

### **From Spain to America for Place Names**

Upstream again and across the neck of Hen and Chicken Bay to Cabarita. Here is a right-about-face for place names.

No English accent here, but strangely enough, named after one of Wellington's successful battlegrounds in Spain.

All the territory west and south of Cabarita to the shores of Homebush Bay and Parramatta Road respectively comes under the Municipality of Concord.

Concord, contrary to the popular favour for English name places, gives a western world flavor.

Phillips temporary successor, Major Francis Grose, who commanded the New South Wales regiment, also served in the American War of Independence.

He fought at Concord, a small town near Lexington, Virginia, and when the first ten grants were made by Phillip in the Concord area, it is significant that six of these were made to officers in Grose's regiment.

Though some say the settlers, the soldiers and emancipists, lived for the first time in harmony, and that this congenial state of being suggested the name Concord, the former reason was too obvious and the latter naivety ignored.

In 1815, the 600 acres of land in the south-eastern portion of the area was known as Longbottom.

This site lay midway between Sydney Town and Parramatta and so formed the halfway stop-over for convicts *en route* to Parramatta. To contain these souls Macquarie built the Longbottom Stockade.

This land was formerly owned by Lieut. William Lawson, and later by Dr. D'Arcy Wentworth, who, in turn, traded it back to the government.

The stockade was also used as a part-time prison.

In 1840 a group of Canadian insurrectionists were transported to Australia.

They were sailed up the Parramatta river and impounded at Longbottom stockade.

Amongst them were talented prisoners who subscribed to the welfare of the developing community.

As a result, the three small bays forming the western shoreline were named Canada, Exile and France Bays. In this bi-centenary year Canada's Prime Minister unveiled a monument on Cabarita Point in remembrance of these expatriates.

The name of Rhodes was given to that area by Thomas Walker, who acted as a commissariat for the colony when he arrived in 1822. The occupied area was called Rhodes Farm, from his birthplace in Yorkshire. He was transferred to Van Diemens Land for a time, where he established a second Rhodes Farm.

On his return he enlarged his holdings to 500 acres and, together with Isaac Nichols, with 600 acres at Longbottom gradually acquired from the original 50 acre grant made by Governor Phillip, occupied most of the settled district.

Later, by coincidence, a second Thomas Walker, a merchant, arrived in the fifties and accumulated some 500 acres on the peninsulas between Major, Yaralla and Horseshoe Bays. Here he built his old mansion, "Yaralla".

The philanthropic Thomas and his daughter, Dame Eadith Walker, are irretrievably linked with the municipality of Concord.

On the next peninsula they built the Walker Convalescent Hospital.

## **DIARY DATES**

**JUNE 2:** John Fisk 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"

Today the huge Repatriation General Hospital rises from adjoining land.

The Rhodes-Concord West section, fronting Homebush Bay, embraces many well established industries.

Among the fifty years and over groups are Tulloch's, C.S.R., Arnotts, Bergers and B.A.L.M.

After passing through the narrow gap separating Abbotsford from Bedlam Point, the land assumes a more gently undulating character.

It is significant that the more expansive bays are located on the south side, testifying to a more level terrain.

Hen and Chicken Bay is the largest of these and in the past its margins were lined with mangroves, backed by wide sapphire plants and open forest country.

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

## Can our Italian Neighbours Give me Answers?

During the war my husband's siblings had sought refuge in Australia from the Nazi Holocaust. By 1947 my husband wished to join them and make a new life for us in Australia.

However, it was almost impossible to get a passage from England to Australia - the Ten Pound Migration Scheme had a 5-year waiting list. We were told we could book a passage in London to embark at Marseilles, and continue on from there. It was costly and took all our money but we were anxious to make a new start.

We joined the SS El Sudan. The other passengers were an interested group of people. Some had been in Hitler's concentration camps and bore tattooed numbers on their arm. But the ones that really caught my attention were a group of approximately 150 Italians - women and children, but no males (husbands or fathers).

They told us that their menfolk had been held in Australia as Prisoners-of-War. When the war ended the Australian government offered them a chance to stay in Australia and bring their families out to join them, or the Government would help them return to their country of birth.

These women and children on the ship had chosen to join their husbands and fathers. The ship disembarked at

## "Our" Don Bradman . . . and the Concord Connection

CRICKET may not even rate a mention in soccer-crazed Italy, but it does have a profound link to the sport's greatest champion.

Our Don Bradman had Italian blood, with his great-grandfather Emmanuel Danero (aka Neich) becoming one of the first Italians to migrate to Australia.

The revelation of the late Don's Italian ancestry, of which even the Don Bradman Museum was unaware, comes in a book on Danero's quirky life by author Lina Moffitt.

Emanuel was born in the bustling Italian port of Genoa on 20/1/1807 and, at the age of 12, joined the Italian Merchant Marine.

He arrived in Sydney in the early 1820s aboard the 'Lord Rodney' which was captained by a man called Moriarty. He boarded the ship in Mauritius and mistakenly found himself coming out to New Holland (Australia), not Holland.

Upon landing he decided to stay and assumed the name "Neich", which is what the ship's captain had called him. Here he turned his hand to hotels, holding the licence for the Old Black Dog in the Rocks and later the Bath Arms in Burwood.

He was a very astute businessman, but business was not the only thing Danero excelled at - he fathered 25 children and outlived two wives and a mistress. He was well groomed and very popular with the ladies and fathered children into his late 70s

In 1834 at the age of 27 he married Mary Comer (15), daughter of convict James Comer, in St Phillips Church, Sydney. James gave them his hotel, The Bath Arms on the corner of Parramatta Road & Burwood Road, as a wedding present. Emanuel held an unblemished liquor licence from 1830 to 1893

He built his family home, "Lansdowne House", in Burton Street, Concord, as well as the two terrace houses, "Melaleuka" and "Clewes" further up the hill in the same street. They still stand in Concord and "Lansdowne House" is

heritage-listed by the National Trust.

There they raised 14 children before Mary died at 44. Emanuel married again, Maryann Parkinson, and produced another 10 children. During his

first marriage Emanuel also produced another child with Mary Cupitt (10/2/1846) and they called her Sophia Neich. Sophia married William Whatman, and their sixth child, Emily, married George Bradman - the parents of Sir Donald Bradman.

Emanuel Neich, Seafarer, Trader, Inkeeper, Landowner and Free Settler died in Burwood on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1893, aged 86 years. His cortege extended from the Bath Arms to St John's Church in Alt

Street, Ashfield, where he is buried with his first wife Mary and four of their children in a magnificent sandstone carved vault in the church grounds.



Mary Comer



Statue of Donald Bradman outside the Bradman Museum in Bowral

Melbourne on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1948.

I have often wondered about these families over the years and would love to have some questions answered.

Did any of these families come to Five Dock? How and why did they come here? How did they cope with coming to a new land? What were the experiences of the children meeting fathers they hardly knew, or hadn't seen for years? Did the Government pay their fares? Indeed, did the Government even make this offer?

**(Ed. Note:** If any of the Italians now living with us here in Canada Bay had families who came out here under this arrangement and can give Hazel answers to some of the questions she would be most grateful.

However, on another note we'd like to get your stories for our "Faces in the Street" project at the City of Canada Bay Museum or for our Oral Histories. You are just as much an important part of our area's history as those who came as convicts, free settlers or migrants in general.)

Hazel B



## **“Our” Don Bradman and the Burwood/Concord Connection**

Bradman was born in Cootamundra and grew up in Bowral, where his father worked as a carpenter.

James Menzies, a family friend, had a farm at Glenquarry, about 11km from Bowral. When his eldest daughter, Jessie, began high school in Bowral she stayed with the Bradmans during the week so she would not have to travel along. She stayed for a year and after this drove to school each day in a buggy with her two sisters.

When the girls were ready for further education or work in the city James bought a house in Burwood and his wife and the three girls moved there in 1926. James came down as often as he could.

By this time Bradman had already shown his skill as a cricketer and, to advance his career in the sport, moved to Sydney in September 1928, staying in the Concord home of his friend Geoffrey Pearce and his wife.

Bradman renewed his friendship with the Menzies family and at the end of 1931 became engaged to Jessie.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1932 they were married at St Paul’s Anglican Church, Burwood Road, Burwood. The celebrant was Canon Ernst Selwyn Hughes, later president of the Victorian Cricket Association, who flew to Sydney for the service and while here took possession of the Sheffield Shield, which his State had just won.

The wedding caused a lot of excitement in Burwood and a great crowd of girls and women thronged the street

outside the church all through the afternoon.

The Bradmans drove to Melbourne for their honeymoon in a house lent by a friend. A few days later Canon Hughes turned up and announced: “Jessie, if you want to get out of this you can right now. Canons don’t handle many weddings and I was out of practice. There are documents you must sign in NSW which I neglected”. He then produced the papers for signature.

A month after the wedding the Bradmans left with a cricket team for a tour of North America. After their return they made their first home at McMahons Point.

Where were the houses in Burwood and Concord that feature in this story?

According to Sand’s Directory, James Menzies’ house was at 734 Liverpool Road, Burwood, on the corner of Burwood Road. This would seem to be the large house opposite the 7-Eleven store and now numbered 75. It is just a short walk from St Paul’s.

At the time of Bradman’s arrival in Sydney, Sand’s and the Electoral Roll show Geoffrey Pearce and his wife as living at 232 Concord Road, Concord West. The house presently numbered 232 is a modest brick cottage nearly opposite the former Concord Library and near Yaralla Street.

*(This article was printed in “Ancestry”, Dec. 1993, Burwood-Drummoyne and Districts Family History Group and previously printed in Nurungi Issue 19, December 1996, with permission)*



*The Bradman wedding, St Paul’s Anglican Church, Burwood*

## **Life . . . Explained**

God created the dog and said:

‘Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years.’

The dog said: ‘That’s a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I’ll give you back the other ten?’



So God agreed.

Then God created the monkey and said:

‘Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I’ll give you a twenty-year life span.’

The monkey said: ‘Monkey tricks for twenty years? That’s a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the Dog did?’

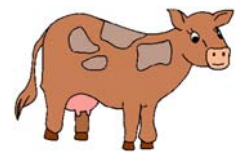


And God agreed.

Then God created the cow and said:

‘You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer’s family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years.’

The cow said: ‘That’s kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years.. How about twenty and I’ll give back the other forty?’



And God agreed again.

Thereafter God created humans and said:

‘Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I’ll give you twenty years.’

But the human said: ‘Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty okay?’



‘Okay,’ said God, ‘You asked for it.’

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family.. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you



## Royalty Display

Have you been going through your cupboards and drawers looking for anything - photographs, memorabilia, souvenirs, etc. - to support this display celebrating QEII Diamond Jubilee. It need not just be on Queen Elizabeth but any of the members of the Royal Family from the past or present?

We don't need to keep these and they will be locked up in our cabinets so quite safe.

Have you been asking your friends and neighbours for help?

Have you been writing up your stories about any of the royal visits?



We need to know what will be on loan to us as soon as possible so we can plan the display and we need to have everything at the museum by the 10th June.

## There's a War on! World War II at Home

Just a reminder if you haven't visited this exhibition yet, you have until Saturday, 16th June to do so. Your Museum Committee works hard planning and mounting different exhibitions to bring people to the museum and it is a little disappointing when many of our own members don't take time out to visit.

We have also had two extremely interesting speakers supporting this display: Stephen Carruthers, "Midget Submarine Attack on Sydney" and Brad Manera, "Australia Under Attack". We have had good attendance at both of these but, again, visitors far outnumbered members.

If what we do is not what interests you, please let us know and we'll try to meet your needs. If you don't tell . . . we won't know!

## Working Bees

It is now becoming urgent that we clean up the store room and sort through our collection so that we know exactly what we have and where it is stored so it can easily be retrieved for future displays.

We will be scheduling one for **Saturday, 26th May** and **Saturday, 9th June** - at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm.

Please let me know if you will be available to help.

## The Sandakan Death March

Australian prisoners were sent to Sandakan in 1942 to build an airstrip - by late 1944, with Allied forces advancing towards Borneo, the Japanese decided to send about 2,000 Australian and British prisoners westward to Ranau. Only six (all Australians) survived the war. The Sandakan "death march" remains the greatest single atrocity committed against Australians in war.

If you want to learn more, John Fisk, a member of the Sandakan Association, will be our Guest Speaker at the Museum on Saturday, 2nd June at 1:30 for a prompt 2:00 pm start.

## Forgetter Be Forgotten?

*My forgetter's getting better,  
But my rememberer is broke  
To you that may seem funny  
But, to me, that is no joke.*

*For when I'm 'here' I'm wondering  
If I really should be 'there'  
And, when I try to think it through,  
I haven't got a prayer!*

*Of times I walk into a room,  
Say 'what am I here for?'  
I wrack my brain, but all in vain!  
A zero, is my score.*

*At times I put something away  
Where it is safe, but, Gee!  
The person it is safest from  
Is, generally, me!*

*When shopping I may see someone,  
Say 'Hi' and have a chat,  
Then, when the person walks away  
I ask myself, 'who the hell was that?'*

*Yes, my forgetter's getting better  
While my rememberer is broke,  
And it's driving me plumb crazy  
And that isn't any joke.*

*Treat the earth well. It was  
not given to you by your  
parents, it was loaned to you  
by your children.*

*Kenyan proverb*

## From the Secretary's Desk

**ORAL HISTORIES:** We have several people willing to be interviewed for our Oral History Collection but we need volunteers willing to record these. If you would like to become an active in this phase of our work, please let me know. It's easy work and you learn so many interesting bits about our history.

**OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES:** We recently had a visit from a group of young boys. One of them, after walking around the museum, came up to me and asked "Where's the Future?" Not sure what he meant I asked for more information. He replied, "It's on your sign out there! Past - Present - Future".

**SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENTS:** If you volunteered to carry out these assessments of some of our more valuable items, we need them completed as soon as possible. If any other members can spare some time to carry out an assessment please see me. It's just a matter of researching the object, most of which can be found on the internet or at the library, or chatting to other members.

**NURUNGI ARTICLES:** We hope you are enjoying the series "The Parramatta River Story". Does anyone know who A S Mendel was, or where he lived?

We can always use more stories - if you find anything interesting or if you would like to write an article, we'd be glad to hear from you. This is your newsletter, don't leave it all up to the poor, overworked editor.



**Happy Birthday  
to our Museum  
for its  
3rd birthday**