



# "Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: [chs@concordheritage.asn.au](mailto:chs@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](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**

**Guest Speaker**  
on 1st Saturday of each  
month at 2:00 pm

Phone: 9743-3034  
during museum hours

**No.191**

**AUGUST 2012**

## The Parramatta River Story

Part 5 of a series on the historic Parramatta River  
by a long-time resident, A S Mendel

### ***The days when Parramatta was Rosehill***

The hop fields of Kissing Point gave way to progress and, a little upstream, Lars Halvorsen built his Fairmiles to supplement the war effort in World War II.

Under the Ryde road bridge, passing Horse-shoe Bay and the spot where the Ryde punt once crossed to Meadowbank, then under the railway bridge with Homebush Bay stretching away southward and with Ermington, now a densely populated area leading up to Rydalmere with Dundas and the rolling "Hills district" beyond.

The level land on the western banks of Homebush Bay, once a ti-tree and mangrove flat, now forms the site of the largest plywood factory in the southern hemisphere.

On the gently rising land beyond, the State abattoirs flanked by tall broadcasting masts, is backed by the green paddocks of Flemington, giving a faint rural backdrop.

The name Ermington is slightly out of character, the Ermington of the "Old country" being located as far south as Plymouth, in the south-down county of Devon.

Dundas derives its name from the British Colonial Secretary in office during the formative years of the colony.

The last bridge at Silverwater joins Ermington to the Western Highway, and the newer suburb of Silverwater is an extension of Lidcombe and Auburn, fronting the river just as the first fresh water comes in from the south.

This Duck River or Creek is almost immediately joined by the estuary of the Darling Mills Creek coming in from the north-west, after circling the Dundas-Carlingford high country.

All the territory between these two arms was once called Rosehill.

Today Rosehill is better known for its race-course, but at one time the whole of Parramatta was called by that name, later to be changed to Parramatta, the Aboriginal name for "a good place for eels".

An interesting sidelight of the Rosehill district is that it gave its name to one of our most beautiful parrots.

These birds occurred in great numbers in the area, and were called Rosehill parrots, colloquialised to Rosehillers and later reduced to Rosellas.

Parramatta was actually the second settlement after Sydney Town.

Its old buildings tucked in amongst the cities modern development perpetuate Parramatta's past in stone.

The original St John's Church of England was established in 1803.

Recent excavations have uncovered the footings of the parent church.

Between 1817 and 1820 the twin towers were added and today they represent the oldest civic structure in this second oldest town.

Trailing this latter period by just twenty years, the Catholic church of St Patrick remains one of the show places of the early years.

Elizabeth Farm house still extant, was built in 1794 and is the oldest dwelling on the mainland of Australia.

John Macarthur, the "stormy petrel" of Bligh's and Macquarie's times, raised Australia's first Merino flocks here.

Although James Ruse was the first farmer commissioned by Phillip to pioneer the district, he sold his farm to Dr Harris in 1793, later settling in Campbelltown where he was buried.

It was Phillip's surgeon who built the Experiment Farm cottage in 1796.

## DIARY DATES

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

**SEPTEMBER 1:** Andrew Tink, "Lord Sydney: the life and times of Tommy Townshend."

**OCTOBER 6:** To be advised

This country home remains the second oldest of our colonial homes. The Kings School built in 1835, is the fourth and oldest of the greater public schools on the Parramatta River system.

Not far away from here on the Windsor Road the short-lived battle of Vinegar Hill took place.

Major Johnstone, under the direction of Governor King, succeeded in quelling the riots, led by his namesake, the rebel leader, more by diplomacy than with actual bloodshed.

The Dog-trap Road, the Western Road, the road to Windsor, the road to Wisemans Ferry and Kissing Point Road all radiate from Parramatta.

They still service these districts, so Parramatta was destined to become a city in its own right.

No legend of the river would be complete without its sporting memories.

Everyone knows the "Head of the River" was once staged on the Parramatta River. Conditions were entirely different from those on the dam-controlled Nepean.

There was no following flow nor smooth surface water. To the contrary a sudden southerly squall developing across the broad Hen and Chicken Bay or a tidal change could give the race to the strongest and not necessarily to the more skilled

Also the bends in the stream offered more difficult negotiation.

*(This series of 6 articles was printed in the "Advertiser", November/December 1971. Many of the factories and buildings mentioned in the article are now long gone. It is only through the work of people such as A.S. Mendel that the memories can be preserved. That is why oral histories and written anecdotes are so important us.)*

## Museum Committee

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 8th August at 10:00 am in the museum. This is to finalise planning for our Nursery Rhyme display which opens in December.

We also need to make plans for future displays.

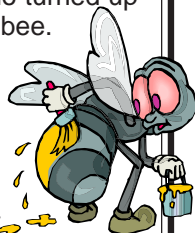
Our Royal Family display will stay on until the end of September to give everyone a chance to visit. We will then use our own objects until we need to set up the Nursery Rhyme display.

If you would like to become part of this group please come along to the meeting. New blood and new ideas are always welcome.

## Working Bees

A very special thank you to all those members who turned up for the last working bee.

(See Secretary's Desk.) A great deal was accomplished but there is more to be done.



And, if you can't manage the heavy work, we have boxes of paperwork that need to be sorted.

We will be scheduling another one for **Saturday, 11th August commencing at 10:00 am.**

If you can't manage the whole day, then please come and spend what time you can manage.

We will supply lunch and morning and afternoon tea.

Please let us know if you are coming so that we can organise the catering.

## On a Lighter Note . . . World's easiest quiz

1. How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From which animal do we get cat gut?
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hair brush made of?
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What colour is a purple finch?
9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
10. What is the colour of the black box in a commercial aeroplane?

*(You only need three correct answers to pass. Answers on page 3.)*

## Things you didn't want to know!

Shakespeare invented the words "assassination" and "bump."

The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.



We have recently received two photographs from the Harden-Murrumburrah Historical Society but we have no information about the group. The pennant reads: "Western Suburbs Convent Schools Sports" and the year "1967". Does anyone know of this group? Or of any of the children in it?



## I Remember . . .

- 1 Starched circular petticoats which stood up by themselves after being ironed
- 2 Listening to the "Argonauts" and "Yes What" on the wireless
- 3 Taking the billy can out to meet the milkman in the morning. It was filled from the huge milk cans on the back of a horse-drawn cart.
- 4 Catching the tram to school. The fare was 1 penny (1 cent).
- 5 Wearing hats and gloves when going to the city shopping or to church
- 6 Wearing a rope petticoat under a full circular skirt.
- 7 Seeing people sitting on chairs on the footpath outside the local electrical shop to watch television.
- 8 Taking a saucepan to the local Chinese restaurant to bring home our dinner.
- 9 Buying fish and chips on Friday night - wrapped in newspaper.
- 10 Visiting our local corner shop, where everything came in big containers, and having the owner weigh out our orders into paper bags while we sat on the chair at the counter. If it was a big order the grocer would deliver it later in the day.
- 11 Visiting the 2GB auditorium to watch the Jack Davey Show being made.
- 12 Chasing the iceman as he made his deliveries from a horse and cart - ready to grab the chips of ice to cool us down.
- 13 Visiting the Markets in Haymarket on a Friday. Mum would give me two shillings (20c) to buy what we wanted and we always came home with lots of goodies.
- 14 Going to the local picture show with one shilling (10c) - sixpence to go in and sixpence to spend at interval. And we always had two movies and a newsreel for our money.
- 15 Buying a huge bag of "broken biscuits" from the grocery shop for sixpence.

## What do you remember?

### Answers

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 116 years        | 5. Squirrel fur |
| 2. Ecuador          | 6. Dogs         |
| 3. Sheep and horses | 7. Albert       |
| 4. November         | 8. Crimson      |
|                     | 9. New Zealand  |
|                     | 10. Orange      |

## Some Bowls History

Bowls today could very aptly be described, particularly in the present company, as a Sport of Gentlemen.

Being bowlers, I thought you would be interested to know that in the very early days, as the game grew in popularity, it came under the ban of King and Parliament. Both feared it might jeopardise the practice of archery, then so important in battle. Statutes forbidding it and other sports were enacted in the reigns of Edward III and Richard II and other Monarchs.

Even when, on the invention of gun powder and firearms, the bow had fallen into disuse as a weapon of war, the prohibition was continued.

The discredit attached to bowling alleys, first established in London in 1455, probably encouraged subsequent repressive legislation, for many of the alleys were connected with taverns frequented by the dissolute and gangsters.

Being an unlawful game, this fact being confirmed by an Act of Parliament in 1541 – an Act which was not repealed until 1843 – artificers, labourers, apprentices, servants and the like were forbidden to play bowls at any time save Christmas, and then only in their master's house and presence.

It was further said that any one playing bowls outside of his own garden or orchard was liable to a penalty of 6/8d (68 cents), whilst those possessed of lands of the yearly value of £100.0.0 might obtain licences to play on their own private greens.

However, although the statute absolutely prohibited bowling alleys, Henry VIII had them constructed for his own pleasure and would bet when he played. In Mary's reign, however, the licences were withdrawn, the Queen

and her advisers deeming the game an excuse for unlawful assemblies and conspiracies.

Not only did the game have a colourful history, it also had early ties with the church as, when John Knox visited Calvin at Geneva one Sunday, it is said he found him engaged in a game; and John Aylmer, though Bishop of London, enjoyed a game on a Sunday afternoon, but used such language as "justly exposed his character to reproach".

I wonder how far we have progressed from those days!

An encouraging thing from the Australian point of view is that it was our country which took the lead in making serious efforts to organise the game.

The Bowling Associations of Victoria and New South Wales were established in 1880, twelve years before any similar organisations were founded in the United Kingdom.

I wonder whether Australia gained its lead in this field because Parliamentarians here, being followers of the game, were not anxious to legislate against it.

Young – chase women  
Middle Aged – chase money  
Old – Play Bowls

I believe you can do all three.

I hope you have a most enjoyable carnival, and return to your home States with a firm resolve to return to Greenlees again as soon as possible.

*(This article was found amongst some papers from Greenlees Park Bowling Club in our archives. The writer is not noted, nor is the occasion or the date for which this was prepared.)*

## Men's Shed

Would you like a Men's Shed in the City of Canada Bay?

An information session on how you can be part of this exciting new project will be held on Friday, 10th August at 10 am in the Concord Library Function Room.

A Men's Shed tour will also be held on Thursday, 23rd August from 9am-3pm leaving from the City of Canada Bay Administration Centre.

Registration is essential - 9911-6555 by 7th August

Bring your ideas about what you would like to see from your local Men's Shed.

**WANTED!** We have received a magnificent donation from Mick and Chris McGillion.

There are three reel-to-reel sound recordings made in 1980s concerning history of Cabarita. They include an interview with son of Mr. Correy (Correy's Pleasure Gardens) and an elderly resident, Mrs. Cox.

Unfortunately, we have a problem.

These need to be transferred digitally to our computer and we don't have the necessary equipment.

Do you have, or know someone who does have the equipment, who can help us get this done?

## Royal Family Display

(to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee)

from

Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth



the only two Monarchs in the history of the UK to celebrate their Diamond Jubilee

### Read about . . .

- \* Attempted assassination of the Duke of Edinburgh at Clontarf
- \* Diary of a Royal Bridesmaid (Queen Victoria)
- \* Bountiful Banquets fit for a King or a Queen
- \* Extracts from Queen Victoria's Diary
- \* and much, much more.

### See pictures of . . .

- \* Royal Weddings
- \* Royal Visits
- \* Coronations
- \* Family Photograph Album

as well as Memorabilia, Objects and Souvenirs.

Stories to tell and photographs to see  
Browse Books and Magazines  
Watch the slide show of photographs

## Luscious Lamingtons

The origin of the lamington hails from Old Government House in Brisbane during the tenure of Lord Lamington as Governor of Queensland from 1895-1901. The exact occasion is one for speculation.

The Governor engaged French chef Armand Galland to work at Government House in Brisbane as head chef from May 1900 until May 1901. This was a particularly busy twelve months of celebrator events for Australia's Federation.

The Governor's wife Lady Lamington reminisced later in her diary that so many functions took place during this time that her left-hand glove lasted out four right-hand gloves through the constant hand shaking.

One of Galland's first events as the new chef was to prepare an 'at home' afternoon tea on the 25 May for 1200 guests at Government House. The lack of a ballroom at the Governor's residence meant that large parties and afternoon teas had to be held on the lawns;

Did Galland invent the Lamington for this particular occasion simply from the need to feed so many people in a clever and innovative way?

Perhaps Armand took his French love of chocolate, mixed it with his Tahitian wife's tradition of cooking with coconut, and named it in honour of his employers for what was possibly his debut event and voila, the Lamington was born!

*Sue Finnigan, National Trust, Queensland*

*(Printed in Trust News Australia May 2012 and reproduced with permission.)*

## From the Secretary's Desk

WELCOME to our newest member, **Richard Parry**. We look forward to getting to know you in the coming months.

### SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENTS:

These are now URGENT so we can finalise the grant. If you have volunteered to do some of these please get in touch and let us know your progress.

Also, there are still other items in our collection that need to be catalogued and if you offer to assist we would be most grateful. It doesn't need an expert - you only need to choose the object and then do some research: what is it, approximate date; what was it used for; who by (if known). We have samples to show what is needed. Please help us finish off this grant.

**WORKING BEES:** Special thank you to Betty Robinson, Betty Fletcher, Trish Skehan, Alan and Lorna Wright, Margaret and Jim Lawther, Tim Heffernan, Irene Davidson and myself. All these people turned up for our Working Bee on 14th July and put in a good day's work.

All our larger bulky items have now been sorted and stored for easy retrieval.

There is still more work to be done - boxes to be opened and sorted and re-packed so items can be identified so we will call another working bee for **Saturday, 11th August from 10:00 am**. Lunch and other refreshments will be supplied.

### RAG DOLLS FOR NURSERY RHYME

**DISPLAY:** To the member who took the patterns for the "Jack and Jill" pair please get in touch. We're wondering how this is going - unfortunately I didn't make a note of your name at the time.

Special thanks to Trish Skehan, who has been very busy sewing - her dolls look wonderful.

We now need to go through our boxes in the storeroom to find objects to support the various nursery rhymes. (i.e. egg cups, lamps, candles, dishes, umbrellas, walking sticks, etc., etc.) We will have to draw up a "wish list" for other items that could support the stories.

## On Being Poor

Annie, 6 years old, gets home from school. She had her first family planning lesson at school.

Her mother, very interested, asks, "How did it go?"

"I died of shame!" she answers.

"Kate from over the road, says that the stork brings babies. Sally next door said you can buy babies at the orphanage. Peter in my class says you can buy babies at the hospital."

Her mother answers laughingly, "But that's no reason to be ashamed?"

"No, but I can't tell them that we were so poor that you and daddy had to make me yourselves!"



### More things you didn't want to know.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

If Barbie were life-size her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall and have a neck twice the length of a normal human's neck.