



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

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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

* * * *

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.195

DECEMBER 2012

EDUCATION: The First Twenty Years (Part 3/Final)

This is part 3 (and final) of an article tracing the formation and development of the system over the first twenty years in the life of the colony in NSW. It was written by Desmond Mulcahy, Research Officer of the Division of Research & Planning in the NSW Department of Education in 1969, in the earliest days of the Fellowship's newsletters.

In order to provide for the future support of the Female Orphan Institution, King allocated thirteen thousand acres of land to the Committee. The Governor hoped that an income might be derived by letting the land out in portions. He likewise granted Grose Farm, a property of six hundred acres near Sydney. Little resulted from the larger allocation and the return from the smaller holding was less than anticipated. The former finally was broken up and used for dowries, a section being given to each girl from the Institution on the occasion of her marriage.

It had also been King's intention to build an Orphan Institution for Boys at Parramatta. The construction and administration of this project was left to the Orphan House Committee. At its meeting on 11 October, 1800, this Committee approved the proposed location of the Institution and heard Mr Marsden report that the making of bricks had commenced. The cost of construction, in accordance with the plan of Mr Barralier, would be in excess of £2,000. In his Report on the state of the Colony in 1801, King confirmed that materials were being collected for the building of a much larger asylum than the Female Orphan Institution.

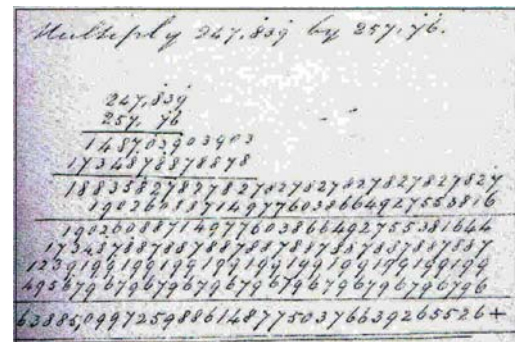
During 1802 and 1803, the revenue collected for the use of the Orphan House Committee had not been as high as anticipated and Governor King decided to use what money he had to provide additional accommodation for the girls rather than embark on the construction of the boys' project at Parramatta. Extensions were therefore made to the Female Orphan Institution and in May 1803 King, in correspondence with Lord Hobart, acknowledged, because of lack of funds, his inability to proceed any further with the Orphan Institution for Boys.

Governor King did what he could to help the boys; in particular he apprenticed convict boys to boat-builders and carpenters as quickly as he could and in this way minimised their exposure to moral danger.

King's second major contribution to education in the early colony was based on his recognition that there was arising in it a group of children who would come to know no other homeland than New South Wales.

The Governor saw these as the sons and daughters of small farmers who tilled their own soil, children who now assisted their parents but who would one day inherit their modest properties. Such children were concentrated along the flats of the Hawkesbury River.

Governor King sought to give them the opportunity of at least a minimum education. He encouraged a subscription, organised by local residents in August 1802, to build a school. The response was minimal and no-one was prepared to accept responsibility for the erection of the school building.



Typical 'advanced studies'. A page from the mathematical work book of John Campbell (circa 1808). John's multiplication of recurring decimals shows a great deal of arithmetical gymnastics, but has little practical application. He seriously needs an iPad,

King consequently constructed a two-storied building, one hundred feet by twenty-four feet, at Crown expense, and offered the lease of it and the relevant land to the local residents

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 1: Our Christmas Party, 2:00 pm

JANUARY: No Meeting

FEBRUARY: To be Advised

who had earlier agreed, in order to remunerate the future teachers and clergyman, to contribute twopence per acre per year for their current occupancy of former Crown land.

The school was to be managed by a Board of six subscribers chosen by local residents, two magistrates, one of whom was to be the colonial chaplain, and any other clergyman appointed by the Governor. A fourteen-year lease, to commence from 1 October, 1804, was signed.

The first teacher was Mr John Harris. He had earlier been picked by King to run the projected orphan school at Parramatta but, when this scheme had been abandoned, had accepted the new appointment at Green Hills. He might have anticipated a prosperous living; in actuality, the small farmers in this district were often exposed to the effects of unpredictable floods and there was consequently little stability in the financial returns they received for their efforts. Harris was to remain the master of this school for many years; his life, however, was one which often verged on the edge of poverty and destitution.

In 1805 King permitted a Catholic school to open. He gave it financial support and listed it as one of the three public and denominational schools of the colony. The first teacher was either James Kenny or Father Dixon.

The first private school had opened in 1800. In 1804, Mr Crook, a missionary who taught with his wife and two convicts at Parramatta, attempted to open in that town the equivalent of a private secondary boarding school. Financial difficulties possibly had forced Mr Crook into this position.

As a public schoolmaster, he officially was given a house and an allowance of wheat and pork from the Government Stores. His application for a convict servant had been rejected. He received little income from his public position because his pupils were mainly the children of convicts and the more established citizens would not send their children to mix with them. But his private school flourished, drawing to it the sons of the wealthier citizens.

In August 1807 Mrs Marchant established a private school; in August 1807 an Evening Academy was begun at the house of Robert Shreeves on the Rocks. George Howe, the editor of the Sydney Gazette, also pioneered adult education. There were also a number of private tutors. The Macarthur family had two, Penelope Lucas, and Monsieur de Kerilleau, a French refugee. Jeremiah Cavanagh was a tutor in the

family of Major George Johnston before 1807.

In 1805 there were fifty-four children at the Orphan School; several Sydney Academies with forty on the roll of one as well as a number of minor schools; seventy attending Crook's school at Parramatta; a government school at Toongabbie; Harris with forty to fifty children at Green Hills; and Hughes with twenty at Kissing Point. There were private tutors, both men and women. An assigned servant also might be given the task of teaching the children of one or more families.

Apart from the reports which had been necessary for the Governors to make periodically to the British Government, a flow of private correspondence had generated interest in the progress of education in the new colony.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the London Missionary Society had assisted the initial growth of education. William Wilberforce, the Member of Parliament for Yorkshire and associate founder of the Church Missionary Society, retained the closest interest in the affairs of education in New South Wales. On 7 August, 1792, he wrote to Dundas, the Home Secretary and Treasurer of the Navy, seeking to have several persons on small salaries sent to the colony as schoolmasters. He stressed *small salaries* because he considered that larger ones would tend to attract the wrong type of person. Within two years, this matter had resolved itself, for in August, 1794, Wilberforce again wrote to Dundas informing him that

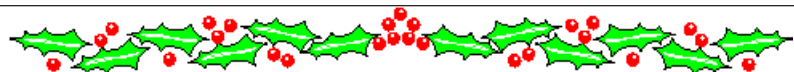
there now was a sufficient number of adequately qualified persons in New South Wales to instruct the children of convicts and natives; and a general superintendent of schools was required. Wilberforce suggested Mr Dawes, a former resident of the colony.

On this matter, Wilberforce also approached the Under Secretary. It was Wilberforce in England that the newly appointed Orphan House Committee decided to approach for advice. By October, 1805, he had acquired sufficient knowledge of conditions in the colony to enable him to write at length on its education system to Castlereagh, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In the first twenty years, the State had accepted some responsibility for the education of the children of the Colony, both on its own initiative and in cooperation with private bodies; it had accepted full responsibility for the welfare and education of those abandoned destitute girls in most dire need; and it had attempted to remove convict boys from exposure to moral danger.

A system of annual inspection of public school children by the Governor had been inaugurated and private schools had been established. An enterprising foundation had been laid for the future development of education in New South Wales.

(Reprinted with consent from the July-December 2011 issue of Founders, the magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.)



Special invitation to all members and friends to come to our

End-of-Year Christmas Function

*and to celebrate our joining with the
Drummoyne & Districts Historical Society*

to become

The City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

to be held on

Saturday, 1st December, 2012 at 2:00 pm

at the

City of Canada Bay Museum

1 Bent Street, Concord

Please bring your own liquid refreshments and glasses.

All food will be supplied

For catering purposes, please
RSVP by 24th November to
9744-8528 or
museum@canadabayheritage.asn.au

The Green Thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologised and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment."

She was right — our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilised and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had only one TV or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of WA.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to mow the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to the gym to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water.

We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the tram or bus and kids

rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service.

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerised gadget to receive a signal from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza shop.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because *we didn't have the green thing back then?*

Do you want to be on television?

Bombora Film and Music Company and Beyond Screen are producing a major social history series about the Whitlam Years.

They want to hear personal stories from people who voted in the four key elections of 1969, 1972, 1974 and 1975.

Did you change your vote between 1969 and 1975 - and, if so, why?

They want to know about the laws passed between 1972 and 1975 and how you were affected by these big changes.

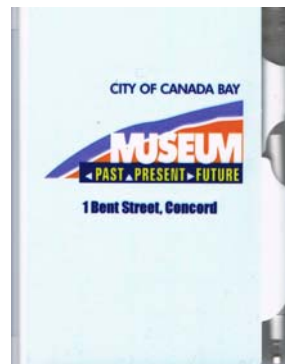
This documentary is interested in all kinds of points of view and personal stories because they want to build a picture of what the whole of Australia was like at that time.

If you have a story, or would like to find our more information, please contact Erina on erina@bomboratv.com or 0400-340-271 and leave your details so she can get back to you.

Christmas is coming!

Are you looking for some small gifts or 'stocking fillers'. If so, why not visit our museum. As well as the usual books: *The Walkers of Yaralla; Eadith, Concord's Royal Kin' Where the Blue Wattle Grows; The Parrmatta River, from Sydney Cove to Parramatta and the Pictorial History of Canada Bay*, we also have *Let's I Forget*, Lerryn Mutton's book, and *The Secret History of Nursery Rhymes*, on which our new display is based.

As well we have ball point pens and also Pen n' Pad note books with the museum name on them - a good way to remind people about our wonderful museum.



WANTED!

Volunteers to help distribute our advertising leaflets around their home area.

Can you help? Take as few or as many as you wish. We'll deliver them to you.

Please phone 9744-8528 to help

Canada Bay Library invites you to the following Author Talks:

Tony Park - Dark Heart: A well-known Australian author of several thrillers set in Africa. His latest instalment takes the reader from South Africa's Kruger National Park to Zambia, Australia, and back to Rwanda where it all began. Yesterday's merchants of death are dealing in a new currency - illegal traditional medicine and the barbaric live trade in endangered African wildlife.

Mon. 19th Nov., 7:00 pm - Concord

Deborah O'Brien - Mr. Chen's Emporium: Separated in time but united by circumstances, the stories of two incredible women are interwoven in the most poignant and timeless way. The book celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of love.

Tues. 27th Nov. 6:30 pm - Five Dock

Susannah Fullerton - A Dance with Jane Austen:

Jane Austen loved to put on her satin slippers with shoe-roses, her white gloves and muslin gown, and go off for an evening of fun at the Basingstoke assemblies. The Bennett girls share their creator's delight and go off joyfully to dance and, of course, to meet future husbands. Drawing on contemporary accounts and illustrations, and a close reading of the novels as well as Austen's correspondence, Susannah Fullerton takes the reader through all the stages of a Regency Ball as Jane Austen and her characters would have known it.

Mon. 3rd Dec. 7:00 pm - Concord

Janella Purcell - Janella's Wholefood Kitchen:

Good health starts in the kitchen and Janella Purcell, a Gourmand-awarded nutritionist, naturopath and cook shows you how - easily and deliciously. She is a vivacious and entertaining chef who has appeared regularly on Australian and overseas TV for the past 10 years, and recently co-hosting *Good Chef, Bad Chef*.

Tues. 4th Dec. 7:00 pm - Five Dock

For bookings complete on-line booking form or contact Five Dock Library.

All talks are free, light refreshments provided.

JUST FOR A LAUGH

There are two Santa Clauses coming down the chimney.

Which one is Irish?

The one with the sack of Easter Eggs.

Our latest exhibition

The Secret History of Nursery Rhymes

will open at our museum on

Saturday, 1st December

The history and origin of many of the humble nursery rhymes are believed to be associated with actual events in history, with reference to murder, persecution, betrayal, greed and to tyrants and royalty

Political satire was cleverly disguised in the wording of some, seemingly innocent nursery rhymes. These were used as safe vehicles to parody unpopular political, royal and historical events of the day.

Something for everyone, the young and the not-so-young

Come and see
Humpty Dumpty,
the Three Blind Mice
and all your other
favourites.

Torture
Deceit
Greed
Murder
Execution
Theft
Conflict
Scandal
Treason
Bribery
Death

JUST FOR A LAUGH



Two Christmas revellers, waiting for a cab outside a suburban hotel.

One of them spots a truck loaded with turf and turns to the other.

"That's what I'm gonna do when I win Lotto."

"What?"

Send my #*&%@\$ lawn out to get mowed."

Dates for the Diary

Friday, 23rd November - 6:30 pm - City of Canada Bay Council Chambers. Meeting, to be chaired by the Mayor, to launch the new **City of Canada Bay Heritage Society**. Please come along to support your society. We need your presence.

Friday, 30th November, 3:00 pm at Concord RSL for the launch of Lerryn Mutton's book, "Lest I Forget".

Saturday, 1st December, 2:00 pm at the museum - our **CHRISTMAS PARTY. EVERYONE WELCOME.**

After that, you can have the rest of the year off. See you all again in January.

What if?

What would have happened if the three wise men had been three wise women?

They would have . . .

- * asked for directions
- * arrived on time
- * helped deliver the baby
- * cleaned the stable
- * brought practical gifts
- * made a casserole.

And what would they have said as they left the manger?

- * "Have you heard that Joseph hasn't got a job at the moment?"
- * "That donkey they're riding has seen better days."
- * "That baby doesn't look anything like Joseph."
- * "Want to bet on how long it will take before you get your casserole dish back?"
- .* "Did you notice the drummer boy? He can beat my drum any time."
- * "Did you see the sandals Mary was wearing with that dress?"

From the Secretary's Desk

LAUNCH OF THE NEW CITY OF CANADA BAY HERITAGE SOCIETY: You will receive a separate invitation to this event with full details. However, we do not have to supply refreshments now as Council has offered to do this for us.

If you are coming would you please RSVP to heritage@canadabayheritags.asn.au as soon as possible so we can arrange for catering.

It is important that as many of our members - and any other interested people - as possible turn up to support us. If you know anyone who might be interested, please feel free to invite them.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Members are requested to please bring along a plate of goodies for the afternoon tea. Could you please let me know what you are bringing so we can make sure there is a varied collection of food.

INFORMATION WANTED: Does anyone know what the building at the bottom of Victoria Avenue was used prior to the Lapidary Club's use. We believe it was 2UE but can't locate any information.

OUR ROYAL FAMILY DISPLAY: If you haven't seen this yet, you need to do so soon. It will disappear on Wednesday, 28th November.

CABARITA - THEN AND NOW DISPLAY is now set up and will remain there for the next month or so. Come and see some of the very old photographs of the area.

MEETINGS: Our last meeting for the year is our Christmas Party on 1st December. The next meeting will be the Executive Meeting on Wednesday, 23rd January and the first general meeting for the year will be on Saturday, 2nd February.

MUSEUM WORKING BEES: Special thanks to all those who have helped during the year, particularly to the four gentlemen who turned up at the last one to do the heavy lifting for us - it was a real assembly line and we accomplished so much. We'll give you a break for the rest of the year . . . but watch out for next year!

"LEST I FORGET" by Lerryn Mutton. Don't forget the launch at Concord RSL on Friday, 30th November at 3:00 pm. RSVP to Trish on 0414-434-172 if you haven't already done so.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE: We will be taking down the "Royal Family" display on Wednesday, 28th November and setting up the "Nursery Rhyme" display ready to open on Saturday, 1st December. Please make a note in your diaries now. These will be the last activities for this year.

THANK YOU FROM ME: Many thanks to all those who have helped in getting "Nurungi" out during the year. You're appreciated.

