



“Nurungi”

Remembered

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

email: heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au

www.canadabayheritage.asn.au

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The Catalina Flying Boat

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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
or email

museum@canadabayheritage.asn.au

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The **Catalina** was an American flying boat of the 1930s and 1940s. It was one of the most widely used multi-role aircraft of World War II. They served with every branch of the United States Armed Forces and in the air forces and navies of many other nations.

During World War II they were used in anti-submarine warfare, patrol bombing, convoy escorts, search and rescue missions (especially air-sea rescue), and cargo transport. It was the most numerous aircraft of its kind and the last active military ones were not retired from service until the 1980s.

Even today, over 70 years after its first flight, the aircraft continues to fly as a waterbomber (or airtanker) in aerial firefighting operations all over the world.

It was originally designed to be a patrol bomber, an aircraft with a long operational range intended to locate and attack enemy transport ships at sea in order to disrupt enemy supply lines.

With a mind to a potential conflict in the Pacific Ocean, where troops would require resupply over great distances, the U.S. Navy in the 1930s invested millions of dollars in developing long-range flying boats for this purpose. Flying boats had the advantage of not requiring runways, in effect having the entire ocean available.

Catalina airmen called their aircraft the “cat” on combat missions and “Dumbo” in air-sea rescue service.

An Australian Catalina made the first trans-Pacific flight across the South Pacific between Australia and Chile in 1946, making numerous stops at islands along the way for refuelling, meals, and overnight sleep of its crew.

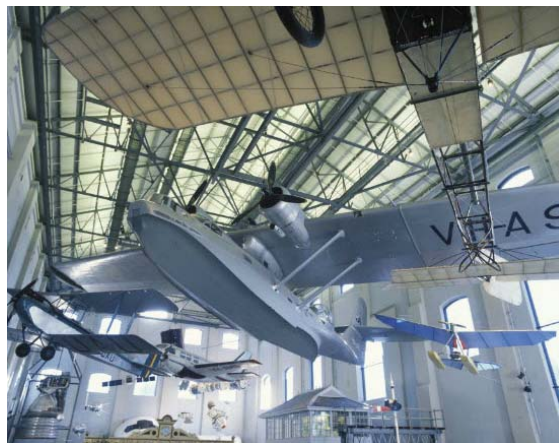
Chilean Air Force Captain Roberto Parragué in his Catalina, called “Manu-Tara”, which means *Lucky Bird* in Rapanui language, undertook the first flight between Easter Island and the continent (from Chile) and the first flight to Tahiti; making him a national hero of France as well as of Chile. The flight was authorised by the Chilean President in 1951, but a

second flight he made in 1957 was not authorized, and he was dismissed from the Chilean Air Force.

By 1951 the final ocean to be traversed for air travel was the South Pacific between Australia and South America. In this aircraft, renamed *Frigate Bird II*, famous Australian Pilot P.G. Taylor pioneered an air route by island hopping across the Pacific from Sydney to Valparaiso.

Taylor won fame in 1935 as the crew member on Sir Charles Kingsford Smith’s flight in the “Southern Cross”, when he transferred oil from one engine to another by climbing out of the cabin and balancing on the struts in mid-flight.

In 1961 Taylor presented the Catalina to the Powerhouse Museum and in 1985 it was restored structurally and cosmetically and, in 1987, it was hoisted 10 metres above the floor of the Boiler Hall, where it formed the breathtaking centrepiece of the Transport Exhibition.



DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY 2nd: Patricio Parrague, “Catalinas: the Australia/Chili Connection & Roberto Parrague

MARCH 2nd: Pierre Marcoux, “The French Canadians - from the other side” (to be confirmed)

APRIL 2nd: John Fowler, “Dr. Menzies of Seacombe Private Hospital, Drummoyne”

February Guest Speaker

This will be our own member, Patricio Parrague, a member of the Catalina Flying Memorial organisation. He will be talking about the Catalina Flying Boats, the Australia/Chili connection and his uncle, Roberto Parrague.

The talk will be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. He will also be bringing models of the plane.

For more information on Catalinas, go to:

<http://archive.org/details/gov.archives.arc.12990>
(Movie)

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2011/s3242792.htm> (Movie: Catalina Association)

<http://catalinaflying.org.au/>

A Kangaroo by any other name

If you were seeing a kangaroo for the first time, having never before seen anything comparable, how would you describe it?

The earliest explorers were equally bamboozled!

William Dampier, in 1699, referred to it as a racoon, and noted the short forelegs and mentioned the jumping. Captain James Cook described it as "something less than a greyhound, of a mouse colour, very slender made and swift of foot". Joseph Banks recorded: "What to liken him to I could not tell, nothing certainly that I seen at all resembles him".

Francis Pelseart, a commodore of the East India Company, was on the 'Batavia' when it hit a coral reef in the Abrolhos group off what is now Geraldton in Western Australia, in 1629. He called it a cat.

It was Pelseart who left the first description of the kangaroo. "On these islands there are large numbers of Cats, which are creatures of miraculous form, as big as a hare; the head is similar to that of a Civet cat, the fore-paws are very short, about a finger long where there are five small nails, or small fingers, as an ape's forepaw, and the two hind legs are at least half an ell (c.32cms) long, they run on the flat of the joint of the leg, so that they are not quick in running. The tail is very long, the same as a meerkat; if they are going to eat they sit on their hind legs and take the food with their fore-paws and eat exactly the same as the squirrels or apes do".

(Reprinted, with permission, from the 1788-1820 Pioneer Gazette, October 2012.)

Nursery Rhyme Display

In conjunction with this display we will be holding a raffle. Tickets are \$2.00 each and there will be 3 prizes.

1st - Handmade Nursery Quilt supplied by Stitching Hearts

2nd - Choice of 2 framed sketches of the Yaralla Estate by local artist Terry Robinson

3rd - Appliqued Patchwork Cushion by Beryl Robinson

The raffle will be drawn at our Museum on Saturday, 2nd March at 2:00 pm. Results will be published on our web site and in the March newsletter.



Special Note:

We need YOUR help selling raffle tickets. There are three great prizes that I'm sure many would like to win.

We will be enclosing a book of ten tickets in this issue of Nurungi and hope you will be able to sell these. Of course, we will be happy to send you more tickets if you wish. This money will be of great assistance in planning for future displays.

Money, butts and unsold tickets need to be returned to the Museum or to PO Box 152, Concord, 2137, **no later than Wednesday, 20th February.**

You Can Learn Something New Every Day

When I first came to Sydney in 1969 as a student I lived here in Concord with my grandparents for four years. My grandmother used to mention "Dear old Dr Pain who lived on Concord Road". Well, tonight I watched an old version of "Who Do You Think You Are" and it was the family tree of Jack Thompson (the actor) and, surprise, surprise, Dr. Albert Pain was Jack's grandfather (died 1946). Jack was adopted and Thompson was the name of his adoptive parents.

Dr. Pain lived in the 2-storey house on the corner of Wellbank Street and Concord Road (opposite Woolworths). Jack's father Harold went to North Strathfield Primary School (my son's old school).

Small world, isn't it? Kay Dawson

(Ed. Thank you Kay for this interesting snippet - I hope it encourages more members to send in interesting bits and pieces. We can use all you want to send.)



The story of Advance Australia Fair and Peter Dodds McCormick

Peter Dodds McCormick was best known for the patriotic song *Advance Australia Fair*. Written in the 1870s, it was first performed for the public at the Highland Society's St Andrews Day Concert on 30 November 1878.

McCormick described how he had come to write the song after attending a concert at which national anthems were sung. He said he: "... felt very aggravated that there was not one note for Australia. I concocted the first verse of my song, and when I got home I set it to music... And tried it over on an instrument next morning, and found it correct. . . . It seemed to me to be like an inspiration, and I wrote the words and music with the greatest ease."

He composed the song under the pseudonym 'Amicus,' meaning 'friend' in Latin. As Amicus, he had the music and four verses of the song published by W.H. Paling & Co. Ltd. It was sung by a choir of 10,000 voices at the inauguration of the Commonwealth in 1901. In 1907 McCormick was awarded £100 for his composition by the Australian government, even though he did not formally register his copyright for the song until 3 September 1915.

McCormick's work increased in popularity throughout the years until, in 1933, the NSW Opposition Leader, Jack Lang is reported as having: "... chastised a group of people at Lidcombe for not removing their hats and not standing to attention when *Advance Australia Fair* was being played."

A man of many talents, McCormick was first apprenticed to a joiner in

Scotland. He emigrated from Glasgow to Sydney in 1855, reaching Australia on 21 February. Subsequently, he became a school teacher, a musician, an author, and eventually a church elder.

When he retired as a teacher in 1885, McCormick was still heavily involved with the local schools.

Described as: "...a God fearing man and so great was his zeal that he attended public schools five days a week to give religious instruction." He was also devoted to the expression of music, in particular Scottish music, and was the conductor of some of the largest children's choirs ever organised. In 1880 at the Robert Raikes Sunday School centenary demonstration, he conducted a choir consisting of 10,000 children and 1,000 teachers.

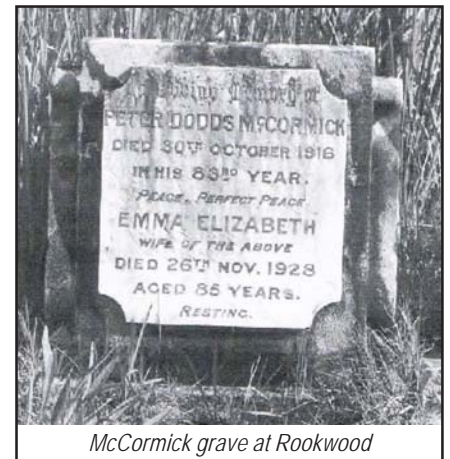
There has been some controversy over a 'missing' verse of *Advance Australia Fair*. This particular verse was apparently written to be the third verse of the song. The verse was first sung at the 1998 March for Jesus rally in Canberra. It has since been discovered that the verse is not authentic. Peter Dodds McCormick never actually wrote this verse. However, it has never been revealed who did.

There have been a series of alterations throughout the years to McCormick's original lyrics. There are lines that were felt to be too sexist or politically incorrect to stay as originally written. Also, three of the five verses were cut, as the song was felt to be too long for an anthem.

In 1893 McCormick was appointed an elder of the Grahame Memorial Church in Victoria Street, Charing Cross. He

was also involved in missionary work in Dover Heights, and in extending the churches influence in Rose Bay and Randwick.

There are records of McCormick living in the Waverley area since 1889. His first address was at 5 Virgil St, Waverley (now 20 Yanko Avenue) in an appropriately Scottish-sounding house named Clydebank. In 1902 he moved to what was then 103 Birrell St, Waverley (now 87 Birrell Street) in a house also named Clydebank. This is the house in which he died on 30 October 1916 aged 83 years. Just before his death he willed the royalties of *Advance Australia Fair* to the Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately for the Church the copyright ran out in 1966, long before the song was officially declared to be Australia's national anthem in 1984.



McCormick grave at Rookwood

This article is from the Waverley Council's Local Studies Fact Sheets and printed with permission. For a lot more interesting stories go to http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/library/local_studies/local_history_fact_sheets

Memorial Plaque

Peter Dodds McCormick was employed for many years by the Education Department, becoming the second Headmaster of the Five Dock School when it operated under the control of the Trustees of St Alban's Church of England, Five Dock. Students recalled that Mr McCormick 'could wield the baton to some purpose'.

As a last gesture before becoming part of the new City of Canada Bay Heritage Society the Drummoyne & Districts Historical Society liaised with the Council to erect a memorial plaque at the School to honour him.

A personal invitation from Humpty



Dear Friends,
Won't you please come and visit me at the museum, and bring your children and grandchildren. I'd love to meet you all and so would my friends, Little Jack Horner, Little Boy Blue, the Queen of Hearts, all the Mary's and the rest of the gang.

We'd like you to buy some raffle tickets, too.
Lots of Love,

Humpty Dumpty

Unearthing lost Indigenous art from Western N.S.W. at Concord Library, 10-28 January, 2013

In an Australian first, images of traditional carved trees from western NSW will go on display in public libraries across NSW. You can have the chance to see the exhibition at the Concord library during January.

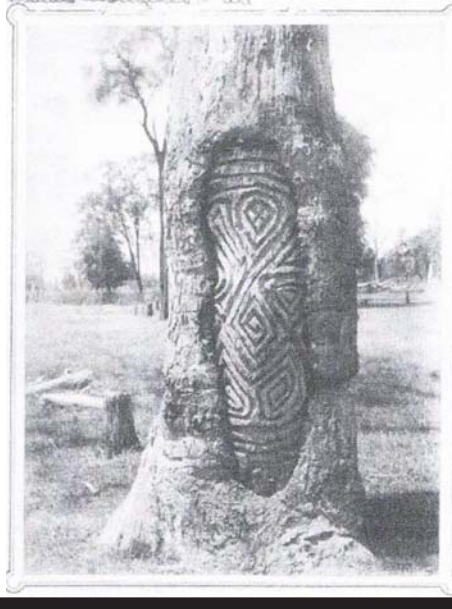
Intricate patterns were carved into trees by the Wiradjuri, mostly to mark the burial sites of significant people. Further north, trees were used "like chalkboards" by the Gamilaroi people and carved at sites where boys were initiated into manhood. However, trees have not been carved ceremoniously for at least 100 years.

These carvings are tangible evidence of our past, which has changed much over time.

Only a handful of trees remain at their original sites. Unknown hundreds have been destroyed by farming, fires and forestry. During the 1930s and 40s many anthropologists campaigned to save the remaining trees by collecting and sending them to museums.

Passionate amateur anthropologists of the time were determined to conserve and document the Indigenous heritage in central and north-western NSW.

The Carved Trees travelling panel display presents an inspiring selection of images reproduced from the State Library's extensive Clifton Cappie Towle collection of over 1,000 images of Aboriginal objects and sites in NSW, from 1920s to 1940s.



The Innocence of Children

A 1st grade school teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first-graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

Don't change horses . . . until they stop running.

Strike while the . . . bug is close.

It's always darkest before . . . Daylight Saving Time.

Never underestimate the power of . . . termites.

You can lead a horse to water but . . . how?

Don't bite the hand that . . . looks dirty.

No news is . . . impossible.

A miss is as good as a . . . Mr.

You can't teach an old dog new . . . math.

If you lie down with dogs, you'll . . . stink in the morning.

Love all, trust . . . me.

The pen is mightier than the . . . pigs.

An idle mind is . . . the best way to relax.

Where there's smoke there's . . . pollution.

Happy the bride who . . . gets all the presents.

A penny saved is . . . not much.

Two's company, three's . . . the Musket-eers.

Don't put off till tomorrow what . . . you put on to go to bed.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you,
cry and . . . you have to blow your nose.

There are none so blind as . . . Stevie Wonder.

Children should be seen and not . . . spanked or grounded.

If at first you don't succeed . . . get new batteries.

You get out of something only what you . . . see in the picture on the box.

When the blind lead the blind get out of the way.

A bird in the hand is going to poop on you.

And the WINNER and last one!

Better late than . . . pregnant.

(Ed: And they probably make more sense than the old versions.)

PEN N' NOTEBOOK:

These handy little notbooks are easy to carry in purse and pocket, always ready for that quick note, and they only cost \$4 each from our museum.



From the Secretary's Desk

ABELATED WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER - John Morgan. John has been a regular attender at our monthly speaker meetings and has now decided he should become more involved. Welcome, John.

MUSEUM WORKING BEES: Our next working bee will be held at the Museum, from 10:00 am on Saturday, 19th January. If you are not on holidays and are looking for something to do, please spare us an hour or two to get our storeroom into some sort of order.

ROYAL FAMILY DISPLAY: If you loaned us something for this display it can now be collected at the museum.

MEETINGS: Until the Steering Committee presents our new Constitution for approval, its final report, and the election of officers is held, we will continue to meet on the 1st Saturday of each month, with a guest speaker, light refreshments and updates from the Committee. Please come along - and bring your friends.

NURSERY RHYME DISPLAY: Your Museum Committee has put a tremendous effort into producing this display. It is not just for the children, although they will enjoy the various characters and rhymes, there is something for the adults as well. Nursery Rhymes weren't just funny little poems, they were a means to tell of the many atrocities carried out by governments and people in high places.

Please tell your family, friends and neighbours about this - especially those with children and grandchildren. We do not charge so it is a cheap and easy way to spend a few hours - particularly as we have airconditioning. Think of those hot, hot days to come!

IT'S A NEW YEAR . . . A NEW SOCIETY - Why don't you make a New Year's resolution to become more involved with our Society and Museum? You might find it's fun!

Songs help babies learn

Singing to babies helps them rise up the charts of development, an early childhood education expert says.

University of South Australia Associate Professor Susan Hill said babies are born with a natural ability to appreciate music and early exposure can help "wire" the brain for future learning.

She said nursery rhymes, songs and chants helped babies relax and be receptive to learning.

"Singing and dancing not only increases vocabulary but also helps our memory develop", she said. "Singing songs and nursery rhymes may be just as important as talking and reading to your child."