



"Nurungi" (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society
email: heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au
www.canadabayheritage.asn.au

EDITOR
LOIS MICHEL
9744-8528

No.202

JUNE, 2013

Growing up in Concord West

Memories of Graeme Senior by his mate John Watson (final)

I only went sailing once with Graeme. The Skate was a fast boat. It also took great skill to keep it upright. Graeme explained this to me. We sailed into the middle of the Parramatta River. Graeme remarked about sharks that would swim through the fleet heading to Hen and Chicken Bay where the meatworks dropped offal. He told me to move out on the swinging plank to steady the boat. "Further, a bit further, put your feet on the side of the boat, bit further, put your feet on the plank," he cajoled. Then he let go of the rudder, the boat flopped on its side, I fell in. He instantly righted the boat and laughed as he sailed off. He sailed around for a bit and then returned to pick me up.

A few days later he did the same thing to my brother Tom!

Along the way, between rugby league, sailing, golf, ten pin bowling and anything else that needed co-ordination, Graeme became a high tower diver at North Sydney pool at Milsons Point. He was good at it. He explained to me that a hose was sprayed on to the pool's surface to both break the surface making for a softer entry and so the diver on the tower could see the surface. He didn't wear glasses when he dived and honestly, I don't know if he could see clearly to the water below. The times I saw him dive he was graceful ... falling as if in slow motion and, to me, scoring 10 on every dive. Just looking up gave me a crick in the neck. I told him he would never make it to the Olympics ... his shoulders were too big and he would never be able to disappear into a tiny hole in the water! Maybe that's why he gave it up!

Thinking back so many years I cannot recall Graeme ever throwing a punch. There were times when he would get angry but it lasted only a second or two. There were times when confrontations occurred. While the Graeme I knew never threw a punch I never saw him back away. Then again, there were always two of us. Had a fight occurred I would have been able to keep score ... I not only never threw a punch, I never learned how to. I think Graeme gave the

impression that if riled too far, he would finish whatever someone started. (I read this paragraph to our friend Sandra Donovan and she agreed about smoking, drinking and drugs but hesitated: "There was one time, after a race at CRSC, when Graeme and another sailor resorted to fisticuffs. I think it was over something that happened in a race that day. There was a bit of a to-do among officials but I don't think anything came of it." I felt better for hearing that. My portrait of Graeme was starting to sound as if he was too perfect.)

Graeme was not big on swearing. I can't recall any outbursts of bad language.

I only ever knew him to drink alcohol when a doctor suggested he drink white wine after his 1990 heart attack. When we were kids we didn't drink, didn't smoke and wouldn't have known drugs if they had been put in front of us. I still don't drink.

I started smoking at age 19 or 20. Graeme never did but he was not anti-smoking. I cannot even imagine him taking an illicit drug or something like steroids. Yet he was never "square". He was always popular with boys and girls, men and women, Mums and Dads. Graeme was always willing to help. If I was mowing the lawn at home he would pitch in so we could go out bike riding. If he had sixpence it meant two three-penny lollies, one for me, one for him.

He was good at pinball. Actually, we both were. We used to put sixpence into the pinball machine at our local fish shop and rarely failed to get the "bang" of a free game before the fifth ball. In fact, we used to get enough games to fill our time while we drank Coke and ate hot chips. Sometimes it was hard to hit the flippers correctly with the fat and grease on our

DIARY DATES

JUNE 1st: Mark Dunn, "Henri L'Estrange, the Australian Blondin who walked across Middle Harbour"

JUNE 1st - following guest speaker: A Special General Meeting to discuss our new Constitution.

JULY 6: to be advised

* * * * *

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

Lois Michel
9744-8528

Betty Fletcher
9713-1384

Mark Durance
9743-0583

Margaret Barbalet
9717-1306

Lorraine Holmes
9743-2682

Alan Wright
9743-4869

Terry Robinson
9743-1154

Jeanette O'Hara
9743-3409

Trish Skehan
4369-4172

fingers from the chips but that was why teenage boys wore shirts and shorts ... we wiped our fingers then took our turn at the machine.

We didn't play separate games. One of us played the first ball and then we took it turn about. We never fought over such things. We didn't compete with one's score better than another's. The idea was to win free games to keep playing. When it was time to go we usually left a game or two on the machine for anyone who followed.

Back in the 1950s crackers were legal and fun. Cracker night was May 24 (Empire Day first, then re-named Commonwealth Day). During one May school holidays Graeme and I made cracker guns using pipe just right to hold a penny bungler. Graeme, already showing carpentry skills made a bottler. It looked like a machine gun with two handles pointing down. I made a revolver, about six inches long. They were held together with tin strips. We loaded them with a bungler, pressed against a block of timber and a glass marble. Graeme held his away from his body. I lit the fuse. The marble shot through a sheet of fibro in our garage making a perfect hole. No cracks, no other damage. My pistol did the same. A few shots later my pistol blew apart in my hand. We resumed bike-riding and my father often wondered aloud why there were round holes in the garage walls.

A funny thing about Graeme was his driving: he was a good driver but when he bought the Morris he brought it to our place and took me for a run. It had four on the floor, which was pretty cool back in 1964. He asked me if I would change gears. We were so much in sync that we drove all over Sydney, at night, in peak hours, on weekends with me pulling the stick through the gears while he hit the clutch. We laughed and joked as we drove along. There was no talk about "change now". He would know when to change gears and as his foot went to the floor on the clutch I put the stick into the next position, up or down. I don't know whether he continued that when he took out girls and they occupied the front passenger seat.

Life in Queensland from March 15, 1967

On March 15, 1967, I was transferred to a newspaper in Surfers Paradise called the Surfers Paradise Mirror. About 10 weeks later Graeme rang to say he was lonely and wanted to come up. He stayed in a house I was renting in Ferry Road with another bloke and the three of us enjoyed the Surf-

ers Paradise lifestyle. I married Suzy there in 1968; about 1969 Graeme and Pam married there.

We lost touch when Graeme went back to Sydney, then returned, then went back to Sydney while I moved to Brisbane. We later moved to Kinka Beach on the Capricorn Coast, near Yeppoon.

In 1990, while Suzy and I were producing the Capricorn Coast Mirror, which we had started, a bloke came in one day and asked if we knew a Graeme Senior because he had just spent a few days in Intensive Care at Southport Hospital with him. Graeme had what I understand was his first heart attack.

We got in touch. Graeme came to stay and we heard of a Concord West Primary School reunion. We gave Suzy names we could recall from school days and she looked them up in a Sydney phone book. Suzy discovered many of our old school mates either still lived in Concord West or their parents did. She arranged for many to attend the reunion and our class had a reunion within a reunion. It was a great weekend. Graham Wescombe, Graeme and I stayed at Darling Harbour and our crew came back to the room, staying until dawn. David Cadwallader couldn't make it but his brother Bruce was there, as was Lorraine Pont and others whose names escape me. Graeme came back to Yeppoon staying with us for about a month then headed back to the Gold Coast. The next we knew we attended Graeme's second wedding there, to Wendy. He stayed with us again, then we lost contact until I heard he was living in Townsville after a stroke and, I think, another heart attack.

Going back over the years, Graeme and I spent a great deal of our young days riding to the Walker estate at the end of Hospital Road. We used to ride around and around a roundabout there under a huge tree, probably a fig. On the way, riding down Hospital Road, we would stop off at "Tommy's" place, a kiosk that sold flowers, fruit, drinks and ice cream for people visiting the then military hospital.

During that 1990 reunion, Graeme and I walked from the school down Hospital Road to the end sitting in the sandstone entrance to Thomas Walker estate. As we walked back we spotted Tommy's place and decided to have a Coke. Behind the counter was a much older, but otherwise unchanged Tommy. As we walked in he spotted Graeme, reached under the counter, pulled out two bottles of Coke, flipped the tops off and handed them to us ... "No charge," he said. He beamed as

he shook hands with Graeme. He sort of remembered me but Graeme was the attraction, having all questions directed to him. There was a warm parting. Graeme had that affect on people.

Suzy went on the internet after Blake phoned on Tuesday and found a four-page CRSC article on a Skate Reunion dated October 2008. It was all about the early days of Skate sailing and on the third page was a great photo of Graeme skipping his boat, *Interlude*, with Bob Chapman as for'ard hand.

I rang CRSC secretary Sandra Donovan to see if I could get a copy of the photo and when we spoke we realised we had spoken to each other years ago when I had been trying to track down Graeme in one of our periods when we lost touch. She said Graeme had been groomsman at her wedding to Les and they, too, had lost contact with him.

She said the reunion for Skate sailors had been held with about 150 attending, some from interstate. She said so many of them were disappointed that Graeme was not there. They all wanted to meet him again. She said Graeme had meant so much to so many. She was sorry they had not kept contact but Graeme used to call, say hello, never seemed to have a phone number or address at the time and he would drift in and out of people's lives.

Sandra wanted further details as to Graeme's progress so the sailing club could send a tribute. She said she had a hard copy of the Skate Reunion in which Graeme was mentioned and would be sending it with Blake. Sandra was also contacting friends to let them know that Graeme had died.

As we talked together we had Graeme as our common bond. As I recalled something she would laugh and say, "That was Graeme" and so on. Death is a difficult message to convey and yet our common bond made it so much easier. We shared our grief, openly, and spoke for close on two hours.

Graeme, they were good times. Thank you so much for your warm friendship. You have never been forgotten. A friend like you comes along but once in a lifetime.

When we were kids the park we played in was part of a paling-fenced camp topped with barbed wire. It was apparently left over from World War II. There were about a dozen quonset huts (we were never allowed to go near them) housing migrants who used to kick soccer balls about. We kicked real "footballs" with our mates, held pick-up games and generally enjoyed the

space. There was a half-size concrete cricket pitch closer to the Parramatta River and it taught bowlers control because we marked out a full 22-yard pitch and had to make balls bowled land on the concrete. Outside this fenced area was paddock right up to Concord Road, the river and to the hospital. What a great place to grow up!

(Ed: This was John Watson's Eulogy to his best mate Graeme Senior. I hope his memories have brought back memories for some of you.)

The Bushranger & Flavelle Jewellers

Below is an extract from *Robbery Under Arms* by Rolf Bolderwood.

'I promised you a trifling present when I was here last, didn't I, Bella?' says Starlight. 'There.' He handed her a small parcel carefully tied up. 'It will serve to remind you of a friend.'

'Oh, what a lovely, splendid duck of a watch!' says the girl, tearing open the parcel. 'And what a love of a chain! and lots of charms, too. Where, in all the world, did you get this? I suppose you didn't buy it in George Street.'

'It was bought in George Street,' says he; 'and here's the receipt; you needn't be afraid of wearing it to church or anywhere else. Here's Mr. Flavelle's name, all straight and square. It's quite new, as you can see.'

Jim and I stared. Dad was outside, seeing the horses fed, with Warrigal. We made sure at first it was Mrs. Buxter's watch and chain; but he knew better than to give the girl anything that she could be brought into trouble for wearing, if it was identified on her; so he'd sent the cash down to Sydney, and got the watch sent up to him by one of father's pals. It was as right as the bank, and nobody could touch it or her either. That was Starlight all over; he never seemed to care much for himself. As to anything he told a woman, she'd no call to trouble herself about whether it would be done or not.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

"Save the Horses at Yaralla" Group

No doubt you are all aware of the publicity being generated by this group in an endeavour to keep their horses agisted at Yaralla.

They are fighting for a cause, which is commendable. However, the way they are going about it by suggesting that Yaralla is under threat, that the two paddocks will be sold to developers, that the public will no longer be given access to the estate, is entirely incorrect. It is a way of getting support from lovers of Yaralla who might be led to believe the above rumours are actually true.

We were advised that the horses had to be removed to allow Area Health to remedy the ground area and build more suitable fencing. Once this work was finished horses would be back on the estate. Also, public would still be able to access all parts of the estate, with the exception of going onto the veranda of the main house once patients have been moved in.

Area Health was negotiating with the NSW Mounted Police to have their horses spelled in the paddocks. Under the agreement the Mounted Police would then be liable to maintain the grounds and fences in good condition.

At the meeting at the local RSL, called by the group, their major complaint was that it was illegal to grant a licence to the NSW Mounted Police and that the use of the paddocks should have been put out to tender.

A motion put to those present at the meeting, and carried, was that there should be a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the questions raised at the meeting and, in particular, the future use of the paddocks.

Area Health did call a meeting of all interested parties, which we attended, and those present were informed that the agreement with the Mounted Police had been cancelled and that the matter of agistment would very shortly be put out to Public Tender.

Apparently this still does not satisfy this group as they have now called a "Save Yaralla Public Rally". Considering that Yaralla is not under any threat I'm not sure what they are trying to save it from.

We await the next saga.

(Ed. Note: Perhaps we should be saving it from the horse peoples' rumours. In the many years our members have been working hard raising money and putting in thousands of volunteer hours to actually save important heritage buildings and structures, that same group has never offered any support or shown any interest. LM)

HEY EVERYONE

We have recently received a grant of \$7,500 from Museums & Galleries NSW to carry out a Significance Assessment on our entire museum collection.

Our dear friend Karen Coote, who helped us so much with our initial setting up for the opening of our museum, will be undertaking this project . . . but we will need as many of our members as possible to help her carry out this work over the period.

Her quote was for 5 days per month over 8 months - which is a lot of hours, a great deal of which will mean working with our members at the museum.

She will be starting on this project on *Monday, 6th June at 10:00 am* at the museum.

Can you help? Please contact Lois or Lorraine (details on front page) to let us know.

Even if you can't help on that day, why not drop by to see what has to be done and to put your name down as a volunteer.

This is a most exciting project and will help us continue to make our museum *one of the best in Australia*.

Working Bees

In preparation for the work with Karen we will be holding two Working Bees next week . . .

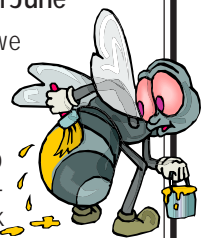
Wednesday, 3rd June and

Thursday, 4th June

In these two days we have to complete the tidying up of our store room area and cleaning up the floor area so that Karen and her volunteers can start work on our Significance Assessment project as soon as they arrive on Monday, 6th June.

We will start work at 10:00 am and work as long as volunteers are available. If we can finish the job on the Wednesday then we'll cancel Thursday - but we won't know until the Wednesday afternoon.

If you can't manage the whole day, then please come and spend what time you can spare. We will supply lunch and morning and afternoon teas.



Important Notice to all Members

The following offices need to be filled at the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, 3rd August, 2013:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Secretary
Public Relations Officer
Editor of Nurungi
Chairperson of
Museum Committee
Walker Estates Committee
plus 3 floor members

All members, including our newest ones, are eligible to put their names forward for any of the above positions. It just needs to be in writing to the Secretary at least 7 days prior to the AGM.

The duties of each of the positions is fairly obvious but can be looked up in our Constitution which should be on our Web site by the time you receive this.

Sub-Committees

We have two sub-committees, each of which has an elected Chairperson. However, membership is quite informal and any member, or non-member, is entitled to become part of the committee and can attend their meetings and participate in all decision making. These committees meet whenever necessary.

The Museum Committee is responsible for the Museum, Archives, Local History, Oral History and Heritage.

The Walker Estates Committee is responsible of making the public aware of the history and heritage of the three Walker Estates. It is responsible for organising the regular Open Days at Yaralla and Rivendell.



NSW Mounted Police

The New South Wales Mounted Police unit is the oldest continual Mounted Unit in the world. The unit was formed by Governor Brisbane on the 7th September, 1825. In comparison the London Metropolitan Mounted Police were formed in 1828 and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1863.

The main role of the unit on formation was stemming the flow of convicts escaping to the bush and robbing travellers. Originally these men were known as bolters, later called bushrangers.

Later the city division of the mounted police was located at Belmore Barracks (the site of central railway station). In 1900 the mounted police were approx 830 men strong with around 1000 horses.

In 1901 the troop was moved out of Belmore barracks, to make way for the construction of Central Railway, and into temporary accommodation at Moore Park before being moved to its current location in 1907.

Most police stations throughout the state had mounted police attached to their patrol. The last country police station to have a mounted trooper attached was Bellbrook near Kempsey on the north coast. In 1963 Senior Constable Stewart Thompson had his horse retired by the Commissioner and replaced by a land rover.

The first female constable to join the mounted unit was Constable Janette McGilvary in 1982.

New South Wales Mounted Police horses are traditionally all bay, black or brown in colour and stand over 16 hands high (or, in metric terms 1.65 metres). All horses are selected on their temperament (attitude), and soundness vetting (fitness and health).

Nineteen officers from the New South Wales Mounted Police attended the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant held between 10-13 May 2012. The police travelled to Windsor Castle and performed their musical ride upon the Household Cavalry Horses. This was a very prestigious event and the NSWMP were the only Australian performers at the pageant, teaming together with the New Zealand Army Band to perform for the Queen. NSWMP had the privilege of meeting the Queen and several other members of the Royal Family. Whilst performing at the Pageant they also performed with and met the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Italian Carabinieri and Indian and Pakistani Mounted Military.

NSWMP has had a very busy year completing large operations such as New Year's Eve, Mardi Gras, travelling the state to such events as the Tamworth Country Music Festival and Deniliquin Ute Muster as well as performing and patrolling at the Sydney Easter Show in March.

Today the Mounted section has 36 police officers, 9 grooms and 32 horses. The charter of the mounted police is very diverse for both horses and riders, who complete:

From the Secretary's Desk

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: By now you will have received your dues notices. These need to be paid on or before the end of July to be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Currently all offices are vacant as the Society has been operating under a Steering Committee, which will be dissolved at the AGM.

There is a list of committee positions elsewhere in this newsletter. If you would like to put your name forward please notify me, in writing, at least 7 days prior to the AGM.

RIVENDELL OPEN DAY: This will be held on Sunday, 4th August. If you have been a guide at previous open days could you please get in touch with me as soon as possible to let me know if you will be available on this day.

If you would like to become a tour guide, especially our new members, please contact me as soon as possible so we can organise any training needed.

We also need volunteers for the Devonshire Teas.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING - Saturday, 1st June at 3:30 pm, following the Guest Speaker. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and approve our new Constitution. We can send you a copy if you wish or we will post it on our web site.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF NURSERY RHYMES: We still have copies of this book available at a cost of \$20.00. It would make a great gift. It can be picked up at the museum or we can post it out for a little extra cost. The stories behind these innocent nursery rhymes makes most interesting reading.

- * Public order management duties, such as the Macquarie Fields riots, Cronulla riots assisting in crowd management at demonstrations and protests.
- * Ceremonial and protocol duties, such as Governor's escorts, Opening of Police Stations, and the opening of Parliament.
- * General duties and high visibility policing, at Sydney CBD, suburban and country locations such as Tamworth, Musical Festival and general city patrols.
- * Special requests where tours of the section and community requests at events such as the Randwick Children's Hospital to visit sick kids, community days, Agricultural shows and searches for missing people in bushland.