



"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

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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

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

Old Bill Enright (an update)

Today I was surfing the net and I happened to Google Bill Enright, Blacksmith, Concord, not expecting to get a hit. But the article in your April newsletter written by Janette Mitchell, came up.

I was born in 1955 and lived at 145 Majors Bay road with my family until 1977. My parents, Tony and Fay Cahill, were married in early 1954 and bought the house in the same year, because dad's Uncle Frank Cahill also lived in Concord.

I was the oldest of 8 children - a good Catholic Family! Dad was born in Tenterfield (he knew the Tenterfield Saddle!) and at 15 joined the railways and eventually was posted to Bathurst, where he met mum, Fay Turnbull, the daughter of a farmer.

Our house was on the corner of Major's Bay Road and Smyth Street. I think it may be called a lane now and is a one-way street. But then it was two-way and a great short cut to Cabarita Junction.

In the late 50s and early 60s my uncle Joe (mum's oldest brother) built a stable in the back corner of our yard - we had a very long yard. He built the stable because he trained and drove a very good pacer called First Kiss and it was a good stop over to Harold Park. His wife Peg owned the horse.

Over the back fence there were yards, stables and a shed. It was the size of two house blocks. There was rarely any horses in the yards in later years, but my uncles - Joe, Jim and Tony Turnbull - did use these as well as our stable if they had a few horses entered at Harold Park.

It was in this old corrugated, rusty shed that Bill Enright had his furnace for his Blacksmith business. It was on the corner of Smyth Street and Lancelot Street. As kids we were always jumping over the back fence into the horse yards or taking a short cut through them from Smyth Street. Bill never went crook.

As a matter of fact my sister Helen (born 1956) took a real shine to him and was often hanging around him. Matter of fact, if she went missing - Mum would check with Bill first, once finding her having tea

at his place! She was probably 4 or 5 at the time. My dad thinks that Bill owned these yards, but we think Alfie Weymark, who lived a couple of doors up Lancelot Street from the yards, inherited the yards after Bill's death. Alfie had been a boxer and Boxing Referee.

However I must correct Janette on the ownership of Hondo Grattan, although I can understand how that story could have changed in Bill's favour over the years! Hondo Grattan was a great Champion Pacer in the early to mid 70s. He won the 1973 and 1974 Interdominion finals (the equivalent of racing's Melbourne Cup) and also the 1974 Miracle Mile. He won 59 of his 120 race starts!

He was in fact owned by brothers Bill and Bob Webb from Tarana outside Bathurst. The third owner was my Uncle Tony Turnbull. My uncle also trained and drove him and is in the sulky in your photo. How I think the story could have changed over the years is as follows. During the 1973 Interdominion series at Harold Park (the series rotates between the states and New Zealand) my Uncle Tony had Hondo Grattan and at least two other horses entered and the series was over 4 nights within 2 weeks.

The horses were put in our back yard and the yards over the back fence. It was an exciting time and after Hondo won, I can remember going up to the stable and yard, which was on that corner of Lancelot St. Hondo was quite a small horse (less than 15 hands) and I can still see him looking over the rail - nobody around - just a few neighbours who were in the know.

Also Dr John McCarthy was a great friend of my dad and of my uncles. He also owned a

DIARY DATES

JULY 6 - 2:00 pm: Harry Kimble, "West Harbour Rugby League"

AUGUST 3 - 2 :00pm: Ralph Hawkins, "Blackmailing the Governor: Australia's First Successful Strike"

AUGUST 3 - 3:30 pm: Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers

SEPTEMBER 7 - 2:00 pm: Leonard Werner, "Scoundrels and Scalliwags of the Colony"

few Pacers and was the Medical Officer at Harold Park for many years. He was a quiet, intelligent and religious man. I can remember him giving the horses injections in that series to ward off dehydration. So I can see that as Hondo was in Bill's yards for a time then the story could eventually be that Bill owned him.

Bill was certainly a kind man.

Regards, Michael Cahill

(Ed: Thank you Michael for your interesting contribution. It just shows how handy the internet can be.)

Rivendell Open Day
will now be held on
Sun., 8th September
(please mark this
in your Diary now)
Start spreading the word!

Welcome ...

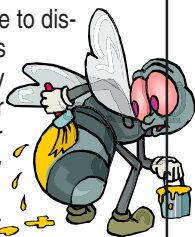
... to the following new members:

Maureen Rainie, Cabarita, and Sharon Weismantel, Rhodes. We look forward to getting to know you in the coming month.

Working Bees

Thank you to all our volunteers who have been working with Karen over the past week or so. We have managed to identify most of our collection ready to carry out research on them.

We have also been able to dispose of many items which were very badly damaged by time or were not relevant to our area. This will now make the storage and retrieval of objects for display so much easier.



Karen will be continuing to work with us at the museum until all objects and important documents have been identified. For the time being she will be with us every ...

Monday and Tuesday
from 10:00 am 'til mid afternoon.

If you want to be involved in this interesting work and the research which will follow please drop by any time you have an hour or two to spare.

Who Actually gave Yaralla to the people of New South Wales

During the recent actions by the Horse Owners of Concord West the phrase most often heard was: "*Dame Eadith gave Yaralla to the people of New South Wales*". It was repeated so often that many people accepted it as the truth and went on to perpetuate it.

In fact, in one television interview one of the women, with a catch in her voice and a tear in her eye, repeated it once again, followed by "*God Bless Dame Eadith*".

It is a pity that people are more concerned with a good quote than the actual truth.

Because Eadith Walker died unmarried, her fortune, which had been left to her in trust by her father, was divided in accordance with the provisions of Thomas Walker's will of 1886.

One half of the Walker fortune, a sum of approximately £400,000 was bequeathed to Walker's next of kin. As there were no immediate relatives, an appeal was launched, as a result of which more than 600 hopeful claimants from countries as diverse as Scotland, Norway, South Africa, the United States and Australia came forward. After exhaustive genealogical checking, thirty-three claimants were shown to have a fifth-degree relationship with Thomas Walker and each received about £12,000 from the estate.

The other half of the estate, administered by the Perpetual Trustee Company, was bequeathed to charity. The Yaralla mansion and the land surrounding it were purchased by the trustees for £66,025 and given to the state government; an additional £33,975 was provided from the estate and the total of £100,000 was used for the foundation of the Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital for Men.

An Act of the New South Wales Parliament, the Walker Trusts Act 1938, was passed to facilitate the dispersal of the estate.

Section 19B(1) Walker Trusts Act states: The Sydney Local Health District, as trustee of land vested in the Crown by this Act and dedicated for the purposes of the Dame Eadith Walker Hospital or any successor trustee, must lease, or grant a licence for part of that land for public hospital or other public health purposes, for the purpose of public open space or for the purpose of the agistment of horses, or for purposes ancillary to public hospital, public health, public open space or horse agistment purposes, if directed to do so by the Minister.

As a result of a ballot, management of the property was vested in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. It operated as a convalescent hospital until 1989 when the board members of RPAH advised that they could no longer afford to manage the convalescent hospital due to the administrative costs, which the trust fund was unable to cover, and it ceased to operate.

In 1993 Yaralla re-opened as a renal dialysis service and continued to be used for that purpose for some time until about 2012.

The Trustees also set aside a sum of £10,000 for endowment of the "Thomas Walker Maternity Ward" at the Prince Albert Memorial Hospital, Tenterfield.

The remaining funds were put into a trust for the support and maintenance of the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, Yaralla Cottages and Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital.

Although at the time the trust funds were adequate for these purposes, their real value has been dramatically reduced by inflation and they no longer provide for the complete upkeep of the institutions.

So, as you can see the truth is that we must say thank you to the NSW Parliament. "*God bless those members of Parliament.*"



Alas, where has all our innocence gone?

While I sat in the reception area of my doctor's office, a woman rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the room. As she went to the receptionist's desk, the man sat there, alone and silent. Just as I was thinking I should make small talk with him, a little boy slipped off his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair. Placing his hand on the man's, he said, 'I know how you feel. My mum makes me ride in the stroller too.'

As I was nursing my baby, my cousin's six-year-old daughter, Krissy, came into the room. Never having seen anyone breast feed before, she was intrigued and full of all kinds of questions about what I was doing. After mulling over my answers, she remarked, 'My mum has some of those, but I don't think she knows how to use them.'

An Ode to a Clothesline

A clothesline was a news forecast,
To neighbours passing by,
There were no secrets you could keep,
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link,
For neighbours always knew
If company had stopped on by,
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the "fancy sheets",
And towels upon the line;
You'd see the "company table cloths",
With intricate designs.

The line announced a baby's birth,
From folks who lived inside,
As brand new infant clothes were hung,
So carefully with pride!

The ages of the children could,
So readily be known.
By watching how the sizes changed,
You'd know how much they'd grown!

It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too,
Haphazardly were strung.

It also said, "On vacation now",
When lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines
sagged, With not an inch to spare!

New folks in town were scorned upon,
If wash was dingy and gray,
As neighbours carefully raised their brows,
And looked the other way.

But clotheslines now are of the past,
For dryers make work much less.
Now what goes on inside a home,
Is anybody's guess!

I really miss that way of life,
It was a friendly sign
When neighbours knew each other best...
By what hung on the line.



Some thoughts to ponder

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing. — Walt Disney

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal. — Henry Ford

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. — M.K. Gandhi

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals. — Zig Ziglar

Remembering Mum's Clothesline

We had a long wooden pole (clothes pole) that was used to push the clotheslines up so that longer items (sheets/pants/etc.) could not brush the ground and get dirty.



I can hear my mother now.

The Basic Rules for Clotheslines

(If you don't even know what clotheslines are, better skip this.)

1. You had to hang the socks by the toes... NOT the top.
2. You hung pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs... NOT the waistbands.
3. You had to WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging any clothes - walking the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
4. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
5. You NEVER hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail! What would the neighbours think?
6. Wash day on a Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
7. Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)
8. It didn't matter if it was sub-zero weather... clothes would "freeze-dry."
9. ALWAYS gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky"!
10. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
11. Clothes off the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed.
12. IRONED??!! Well, that's a whole OTHER subject!

Rivendell Open Day will now be held on Sunday, 8th September (please mark this in your Diary now)

As some time has elapsed since we last held an Open Day, and we also intend making some minor changes to the tour we would like all our regular guides to contact the secretary as soon as possible so we can update our records.

Or, if you would like to become a guide then, also, just let the secretary know.

As we also have some new younger volunteers who have offered to do tours, we would like to hold a meeting with them, our regular tour guides and any prospective guides at the museum as soon as possible so they can learn how to do the tours and we can refresh all our "old timers".

Also, those who work with us serving the Devonshire Teas are also asked to get in touch so we can update records and start planning.

Even if you are a guide or refreshment worker and can't help in September we would still like you to get in touch so we can update all our records.

What am I?

I was found amongst our museum collection while working with Karen.



I am about 24 cm long, made of wood with a brass pointed piece at one end. The other end is a 6 sided piece with a pointed top with comes off to reveal a hollow tube. The six sides of the top contain dots - 1 to 6 - like a six sided dice.

Can you help?

"An inexhaustible good nature is one of the most precious gifts of heaven, spreading itself like oil over the troubled sea of thought, and keeping the mind smooth and equable in the roughest weather." — Washington Irving

Dame Eadith Walker Hospital About to Begin a New Life

Recently all our volunteers were invited by Dr. Teresa Anderson, Districts's Chief Executive, and Deborah Flood, Property Manager, to attend a special morning tea to give us access to the newly restored building before it starts operating again as a health facility.

Fifty of our volunteers took advantage of the invitation and were all thrilled to see how it had changed since we last had access.

We were allowed to wander all through the building, upstairs and down, and it was truly wonderful to see how much work had been done to restore this magnificent old building. Any changes that had to be made in order to accommodate the new clients was done in a most sympathetic manner and did not detract from the heritage at all.

We would like to thank Teresa and Deborah, and all the other hospital staff who supplied such a wonderful spread and were only too happy to talk to us and answer any questions we had.



The one question on almost everyone's lips was: "What have you done with the heritage bathroom?" The door was locked and we couldn't see in there.

They assured us it was still intact and they were planning to place a perspex cover over the doorway so that people would still be able to see all its mag-

nificent fittings. They will also send us some photographs of the room to add to our collection.

The hospital is re-opening on 2nd July as a home for HIV-positive demential patients.

Although we will no longer be able to access the house as patients will be living in, some of our members and took many, many photographs of the interior and we hope to be able to put together a PowerPoint presentation to give others a chance to see how wonderful it looks.

We are assured that we'll still be able to have Open Days, and the first one will probably be around April next year.

Calling all members!

We need members to become more active in the our Society. It can be very rewarding and a great way to get to know each other.

The following positions will be declared open for election at our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 3rd August at approximately 3:00 pm - following our guest speaker:

- 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 these positions. It just needs to be in writing to the secretary 7 days prior to the AGM

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. It usually meets once a month to make plans.

The Walker Estates Committee is responsible for 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.

If you'd like to become part on either, or both committee just let us know so we can keep you in touch. Working behind the scenes can give you a great insight into just what wonderful teams we have.

From the Secretary's Desk

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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.

DO YOU KNOW a Mrs Carmel J. Rowe?

She recently visited our museum and I would like to get in touch with her.

ROYAL FAMILY DISPLAY:

Did you lend us any objects or papers to support this display. If so, could you please contact us so we can see them safely returned.

NURSERY RHYME DISPLAY:

The Parramatta District Historical Society has borrowed this collection for a display in their museum. Not sure of the opening date but I'll let everyone know so that, if you missed ours, you can see it there.

We would also be happy to lend this out to any other museum that would like to borrow it. We think it was too good to pack away.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF NURSERY

RHYME book. We still have a few copies of this available at the museum - cost \$20.00. When these are gone we won't be ordering any more. It would make a good Christmas present.

MUTTON RESERVE:

Does anyone know of a time capsule that was supposed to have been placed there?

Did you know?

The prisoners of the first fleet included people from 11 nations, including a couple from France and Italy.

As transportation continued, prisoners included those from not only England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, but also those who had been born in Austria, Canada, The Cape of Good Hope, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Holland, Hungary, India, Italy, Latvia, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Persian Gulf, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, the United States and the West Indies.

Who said Multiculturalism was new?