



"Nurungi" (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

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GENERAL MEETINGS and Guest Speakers

1st Saturday of month
(except January)
at 2:00 pm in the
City of Canada Bay
Museum
1 Bent Street, Concord
9743-3034

Museum Committee

Meets on 2nd Wednesday of
month at 10:00 am at
museum

(everyone welcome)

Chairperson

Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682

Walker Estates Committee

Meets as required

Chairperson & Tours Organiser

Sandra Elliott, 9797-1040

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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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OCTOBER, 2013

Some Names of Long Ago

Long, long ago when Sydney was a young city the citizens were very fond of sweet and attractive names for their suburbs and homes. "Strawberry Hills" was one of those, suggesting visions of delight - hills covered with strawberries and perhaps pretty little arbors in which to sit and enjoy the delicious fruit with its accompaniment of bowls of rich golden cream. But alas, for the reality, "Sandhills" would have been the more appropriate name for a long dreary walk deep in sand, only relieved by rows of handsome fig trees but no sign of the strawberries, only the realisation of how much deception there may be in a name.

But if you persevered you would be rewarded at the end of the desert by a lovely oasis then known as Baptist's Gardens. These came as a charming surprise and you felt as though you had reached the enchanted land as you left the dusty road and wandered through beautiful walks where exquisite flowers and giant shady trees made you forget the sandy desert behind.

The head gardener, afterwards the respected Mayor of Redfern, took a special pride in making those gardens an oasis of beauty and the best flower stall in the old Sydney George Street markets was known as Baptist's. Their camellias, in particular, were so perfect and so much admired that some girls had been known to save their pennies to buy a camellia. Sixpence was the price which was grudgingly given for it was a rare and much priced flower in those days and the happy possessor of one was the envy of her companions. The stall in the markets has long since disappeared and the gardens bloom no more.

Another interesting place with a fascinating name was a fine old home called Paradise Hall, used as a ladies school in the fifties. It was approached from the street now called Abercrombie Street.

Green fields and gardens were the surroundings then and a pretty stream of water, bordered by weeping willows, ran through the grounds where the school girls used to take their lunches and sit

under the trees at midday, conjuring up romantic dreams. The house contained large lofty rooms, a vast hall which could be used as a dining room, school rooms and ballroom. Many a pleasant dance was held in it and the birthdays of the governesses were always joyfully anticipated for they brought the fun and merriment so dear in young hearts.

The dresses worn on those occasions were plain white muslin, simply made, for girls were easily satisfied then and the parents were not worried about the cost of a party dress and its accompaniments.

The refreshments provided were also very inexpensive consisting of home-made lemonade and ginger beer. But oh how they were enjoyed far more than the grand supper which is now considered an absolute necessity. Early hours too were the custom and the last dance was generally over before midnight.

Long ago Paradise Hill gave way to the reach of progress. Dusty roads and slum tenement rows of terrace houses have taken the place of the green fields, the gardens and the running streams of the old days. Trams, trains and motor cars now rush along. The pleasant romantic past has merged into the prosy commonplace present and the long walks which were so enjoyed in bygone days would now be out of the question and most of us are glad to allow ourselves the use of the uninteresting tram or train and thereby save time and energy.

Lovedale was another place with a charming name situated on a branch of the Parramatta River. The original owner was a Mrs Love and if there is anything in a name, harmony and

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 12: Gary Cook, "The State Library of New South Wales" (Please note change of date due to public holiday)

NOVEMBER 2 - 2:00 pm: Michael Fahey, "The Baggy Green"

DECEMBER 7 - Christmas Party at Museum at 2:00 pm.

peace ought to have reigned in that dwelling .

The full address was Mrs Love, Lovedale, Concord, opposite Kissing Point.

It was afterwards occupied as a young ladies boarding school. All the girls were young ladies then, and addressed each other as Miss So-and-so, for it was only the dearest and most intimate friends that called each other by their Christian names.

The Principal of the school was one never to be forgotten by her old pupils and many of them look with loving memories on those halcyon days.

Teaching was first class for those times, the provision abundant and excellent, but the recreation and amusements provided were simply unique. No other school had such privilege. There was a large salt water bath which came close to the foot of the garden where the girls could bathe and rest to their heart's content, and many a happy hour was spent in it - the shrieks of laughter testifying to the fun that was going on.

But best of all was the riding on horseback. Nearly every afternoon when the day's work was done habits were donned and off started a couple of girls, accompanied by an old bachelor brother of the Principal as escort. Long pleasant rides through green fields on bright sunny afternoons - what could have been more desirable to a schoolgirl.

Then there were occasional picnics and one specially favoured spot was in a ruin called Levy's Folly, about a mile distant from the school, which had been commenced by a man who had not counted the cost and was unable to finish it. It was a very attractive place to the girls and some of the more romantic ones could imagine themselves visiting an old world antiquity and try to forget they lived in a land where all was new and prosaic.

The ruin has long since disappeared and poor old Lovedale was burnt down years ago and the green fields are dotted with houses. But the much loved mistress of the school still lives - old in years but young in spirit and the lessons which were learnt a lifetime ago in the sweet named cottage Lovedale, Concord, opposite Kissing Point, are still bearing the fruit of peace and affection in the hearts of her scholars.

(Ed. *Levy's Folly is in the area where Rivendell and Concord Hospital now stand.*)

State Library of NSW



The State Library of NSW is the oldest library in Australia. It started as the *Australian Subscription Library* in 1826. It was then purchased for £5,100 by the N.S.W. Government in 1869 and became the *Sydney Free Public Library*. It 1895 it was renamed the *Public Library of New South Wales* until its most recent name change in 1975 when it became the *State Library of New South Wales*.

Gary Cook will be our speaker at the Museum on **Saturday, 12th October at 2:00 p.m.** when he will tell us of its historical and heritage connections to the City and about the many historical items within its collection. The talk will be a virtual tour of many of those elements.

(Ed: Please note change of date to the 2nd Saturday for this month.)

No Rhyme or Reason

*We'll begin with box, the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called
geese,
Yet the plural of moose is never meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a whole nest
of mice*

*But the plural of house is houses not hice.
If the plural of man is always men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be pen?
If I speak of a foot and you show me two feet,
If I give you a boot, wouldn't a pair be called
beet?*

*If the sigular's tooth and the plural teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth?
If the singular's this and the plural these,
Should the plural of kiss ever be kees?
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother we never say
methren.*

*Then the masculine pronouns are he, his
and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim.*

(English . . . she's a funny language!)

Mosaic Data Base

As part of identifying and cataloguing all the objects in our collection we are now entering the information into this data base.

Do you have any knowledge of this programme - or would be willing to learn how to use it?

We'd like to hear from you.

Halloween

"October 31. Halloween. Costumes and Jack O'Lanterns. Trick or Treat and bonfires. We generally see it as a harmless children's celebration. And it is. Now.

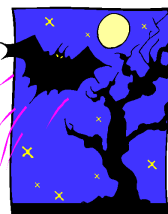
The history of Halloween, however, dates back before Christianity and involves death and evil spirits and fears of all sorts.



Let's start with the date, October 31. When mankind first started to settle down into villages, there were two sources of food. You farmed and you raised cattle. Cattle were easy. On May first, you drove the cattle out into your field. On November first, you brought them back into the barn for the winter. Your entire year was two seasons - growing season and winter. Life and Death. Beltane and Samhain.

Since November first was the start of the season of death, when food grew scarce and the plants all died, it was also the night to honour the Lord of the Dead, Anwynn.

The belief was that spirits of those who had died during that year also gathered that night, driven out of the bare woods and empty fields. The spirits returned to their homes and needed the help of their kin to cross over to the land of the



dead. Relatives would hollow out turnips and gourds and use them to carry the spirits to the proper location."

This is fine for the Northern Hemisphere, however the end of the growing season in Southern Hemisphere is April 30 and the start is November first. Therefore we should celebrate Halloween (or should I say Hallow evening) on the last day of April. What are your thoughts?

A Tip for You

Have you ever lost a camera or flash memory card?

Did you want it back?

On the first photo on every card put a photo of a large typed document giving name and contact information and "Reward for Return" in a large font.

If the card, (or camera and card), is going to get back to you, someone has to know where to send it.

Don't encrypt this photo.

The French Canadian Exiles

While carrying out some research on Trove for another article for Nurungi - as you do, I typed in "Canadian Exiles" and came across these two items to share with you.

A Letter to the Editor

The following letter, addressed to the Most Rev. Dr Polding on the part of these grateful Canadians must prove interesting to all who felt for the upright and patriotic exiles:

St Martins, Lower Canada
7th Feb., 1845

"My Lord, A most pleasing task, and in which I only share with my companions in exile, calls for my immediate attention: it is one of love and gratitude. Our country, however good and dear in other respects, appears in the present case to present some drawback to our happiness, from the knowledge that it was not there that we found friends to aid, and strengthen, and console, which lessens in a certain degree the joy and would have been otherwise experience by our wives and families at our return.

"Words cannot, my Lord, express our heartfelt thanks to our good friends at Sydney. The names and images of your Grace, Mr. Bourgeois our spiritual director, Mr. J.M—o, and all our kind friends, shall be for ever engraven on our hearts in testimony of real friendship in the hour of need.

"Fully aware of the interest that your Grace ever deigned to take in our welfare, permit me to give you some short details of our progress. We left Sydney the 10th of July, and arrived at Portsmouth Nov. 25th. Our voyage, with the exception of a little annoyance from excess of heat and cold, was pretty favourable. By the assistance of a loan from our good friend Mr. Roebuck, we were enabled to proceed to New York, where we arrived the 10th of January, having been delayed by contrary winds.

"From New York we set out on the 12th and reached our present place 19th January. We experienced no difficulties on our way from New York to Canada, as we were provided with the means by a person charged with the subscriptions raised in our behalf in Canada, and we trust that those who remained behind will be provided in the same manner, and enabled to accomplish their voyage from Sydney to Canada. Let this prospect encourage them, for the term of their exile cannot extend further than next spring.

"We have found Canada in a state of tranquillity, and very different from that in which we had left it. Our lands are indeed still kept in the hands of government, but there is no doubt of their being restored to us. A government so

generous as the British will not permit us to return to our families without restoring us, at the same time, our means of sustaining them.

"The cold which we began to experience at Albany, reminded us of our near approach to our country. Oh, the delightful emotions we felt once more on treading the soil of Canada, they are easier to imagine than to describe. On meeting again our wives and children, our first impulse was to return thanks to God, to whom we referred all our happiness, men being but as the instruments in His hands to accomplish His ends.

For my part, I had particular motives to return Him thanks as His Providence has procured for me during my whole exile so many graces, and such kind friends in the family of Mr. M-n, for whose welfare, and that of all my benefactors, I shall never cease to pray. But above all, never can we forget the kind later interference on the part of your Grace in our behalf, which obtained so great a mitigation in our sentence, which shortened the term of our sufferings. My Lord, our wives and children join with us in returning you most sincere thanks; and, in conclusion, I beg, as well as in my own name as in the names of my companions in exile, to pray your Grace to accept the expressions of our heartfelt gratitude and that you would be pleased to express these our feelings to our friends and protectors in New South Wales

Charles Bargeoin

(*Morning Chronicle [Sydney]* - Wednesday, 20th August 1845)

Canadian Exiles – their Work in Australia

 (by Gerald Dillon)

The recent discoveries by Professor Ernest Scott of documents relating to the transportation of Canadian and United States citizens to Australia in 1840 should throw valuable light on some little-known aspects of our early colonial history. The professor has had access to the archives at Ottawa, at Quebec, at Washington and in the Records Office in London.

Sydney should have a special interest in these Canadian exiles, for they helped with the construction of Victoria Barracks. The stone used in the building was quarried on the spot, and this was done by the Canadians.

In the municipal district of Macdonaldtown a grant of some 120 acres was made, in 1794, to one

Devine, who came out with the First Fleet and became a superintendent of convicts. After his death the land was cut up and sold on one allotment of which Joseph Sly had a cottage built. This also was the work of some of the Canadians. The cottage was afterwards bought and enlarged by A.T. Holroyd (Master in Equity), and was standing in Erskineville Road until comparatively recent times.

The Canadians were employed in many directions around Sydney; many of them were housed at Concord (then Longbottom), where they lived in the old military guard house, which was originally established by Governor Phillip, half-way to Parramatta, as a resting place for the convicts who had to grunt and sweat in nailed boots and irons along the road to that town. The Canadians worked on the roads, and in time erected a barracks for themselves on the Parramatta Road, approximately opposite to what is now the entrance to Burwood Park.

Father Brady, a successor to Father Therry in his work around there, had the cure of their souls, as being French Canadians, they were all Catholics. The newspapers of 1840 tell us that these Canadians were also employed in laying down wooden blocks for the Sydney streets.

They were, of course, political rebels who came here as a result of the French Canadian opposition to British rule in Canada. In open rebellion they had come in contact with British troops at La Brule and, in 1838, at Point Peel Island. A number of the ringleaders were shot, and many were sent as prisoners to Bermuda, and to Botany Bay. They arrived at Hobart in the storeship Buffalo in 1840. There were 58 rebel Canadians, according to the Shipping News of February 1840, and 30 of these were landed at Hobart, while the remainder were brought on to Sydney. Among their number were included many men of education – medical, legal and commercial. When they received their tickets-of-leave in 1842 they opened night schools, which greatly helped the poorer population in outlying parts, while the medical men gratuitously looked after those in need of their services. In consequence, when they left for Canada on the expiration of their sentences their departure was much lamented.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald: Wednesday, 18 December 1935.*)

St John's Church, Ashfield



This church has been the centre of the Ashfield community and has been a focal point for the locality from its construction in 1845, before most of the suburb was developed. It is the first church built on the route between Sydney and Parramatta. The cemetery contains graves of many notable citizens including convict John Limeburner, Thomas Walker and his daughter, Dame Eadith Walker.

Currently there is a development application before Ashfield Council to build a two-story modern building - 668 square metres over two floors, for multipurpose use - which substantially blocks the view of the heritage church from Alt Street.

If this application is approved it will result in the removal of mature, healthy trees along the site boundary. Also the two proposed car parks, surfaced with gravel, will impact the trees, grassed areas and the graves on Bland and Alt Streets.

The Save St John's Church Lobby is currently organising a petition to oppose this. If you would like to support them go to <http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/preserve-the-heritage-of-st-john-s-church-ashfield-from-development> to read more and sign the petition.

Walker Estates Committee

Sandra Elliott is anxious to re-form this committee to continue our work with these estates. She intends to hold a meeting of those interested at the **Yaralla Dairy on Saturday, 26th October at 2:00 pm.**

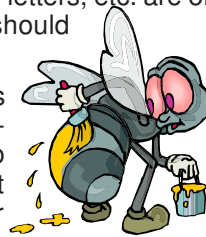
If you want to become part of this committee please contact Sandra (details on front page) to let her know you will be attending.

Significance Project

The cataloguing and photographing of our objects is almost completed but we still need to go through our archives to identify any books, letters, etc. are of significance and should be recorded.

However, there is also a lot of paperwork that needs to be culled as it is not of use to our archives.

If you want to become part of our group carrying out this work we still meet at the museum every Monday and Tuesday from 10:00 am. Just turn up, you're always welcome.



If someone does not smile at you, be generous and offer your own smile. Nobody needs more a smile than the one that cannot smile to others.

Rivendell Open Day

Although not as well attended as was usual, it was still a great success and it was great to see the building looking so good. It will be even better when work on the Watergate has been finished towards the end of the year.

Our special thanks to our regular guides who rallied on the day - and a special thanks to our new volunteers who turned up to learn - some even taking tours. Many had never visited Rivendell before and they were most impressed.

And we must not forget the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard with the Devonshire Teas, and to Betty Robertson for those wonderful scones.

Future Open Days

Calling all guides, potential guides and Devonshire tea workers too.

As we discussed at our meeting prior to the Open Day at Rivendell, we'd like to have another meeting with you all to have a debriefing on how you thought the day went and what could be done to improve it.

Also, we wanted input from our new volunteers on their impressions and whether they would be happy to take on this volunteer work.

We will meet at the Museum on Saturday, 19th September at 10:00 am and hope you can all make it.

Please let us know if you can come.

From the Secretary's Desk

OCTOBER MEETING: Please note that due to the long weekend our regular meeting will now be on the second Saturday.

FACEBOOK: Is there a member out there familiar with the workings of Facebook who could take on the job of getting us and our work out there in the ether? It's just too much for "us oldies".

WIGS WANTED: Does anyone out there have any old wigs in the back of their closet that they don't use anymore. We could do with some for our models - bald isn't a good look for some of our gowns. Black, blonde or brunette - we don't care.

APOLOGY TO ALAN WRIGHT: In the last Nurungi we inadvertently omitted his name as a member of our Executive Committee. Alan was elected, unanimously, as our Vice-President. Sorry, Alan.

YARALLA PADDOCKS: By now most of you should know that Sydney Local Health District has decided to turn the two paddocks into public parkland for community enjoyment

The Local Health District is in the process of setting up a community advisory committee to decide how to proceed with this plan. We have been invited to become part of this committee.

Local residents are encouraged to take an interest and be involved in how best to use the parkland

SECRET HISTORY OF NURSERY

RHYMES: Just a reminder that we still have a few copies of this book for sale at the museum for \$20.00. Once these are gone we won't have any more.

LEST I FORGET, by Lerryn Mutton, is also available at our museum but stock are going fast.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS: Both of these books would make great Christmas Presents, as would our engraved pens and the Pen 'n' Notebooks. Why not start your shopping early?

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Just a final reminder that some fees are still outstanding. Please let us hear from you if this is just an oversight.

Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right. — Henry Ford