



# “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

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**Museum Committee**  
Meets on 3rd Wednesday of month  
at 10:00 am at museum  
(everyone welcome)

**Chairperson**  
Lorraine Holmes, 9743-  
2682

**Walker Estates Committee**  
Meets as required  
**Chairperson**  
(vacant)

#### 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](mailto:museum@canadabayheritage.asn.au)

**No.213**

**JULY 2014**

## Banjo Paterson - a man of many talents

In 1885, Paterson began submitting and having his poetry published in the Sydney edition of *The Bulletin* under the pseudonym of “The Banjo”, the name of a favourite horse.

In 1890, as “The Banjo”, he wrote “*The Man from Snowy River*”, a poem which caught the heart of the nation and, in 1895, had a collection of his works published under that name.

This book is the most-sold collection of Australian bush poetry and is still being reprinted today. In his lifetime, Paterson was second only to Rudyard Kipling in popularity among living poets writing in English.

Paterson also became a war correspondent, journalist, lawyer, jockey, soldier and a farmer.

During the Second Boer War he became a war correspondent for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, sailing for South Africa in October 1899. His graphic accounts of the relief of Kimberley, surrender of Bloemfontein (the first correspondent to ride in) and the capture of Pretoria attracted the attention of the press in Britain.

He also was a correspondent during the Boxer Rebellion.

He was editor of the *Sydney Evening News* (1904–06) and of the *Town and Country Journal* (1907–08).

In 1903 he married Alice Walker, a cousin of Dame Eadith Walker, in Tenterfield. Their first home was in Woollahra. The Patersons had two children, Grace born in 1904 and Hugh born in 1906.

Considered one of his most famous poems, *Waltzing Matilda*, was written in 1895 and first published in 1903. The song has long been referred to as “*the unofficial National Anthem of Australia*”.

In 1905 he published a collection of bush ballads entitled *Old Bush Songs*.

In World War I, Paterson failed to become

a correspondent covering the fighting in Flanders, but did become an ambulance driver with the Australian Voluntary Hospital, Wimereux, France.

He returned to Australia early in 1915 and, as an honorary vet, travelled on three voyages with horses to Africa, China and Egypt.

He was commissioned in the 2nd Remount Unit, Australian Imperial Force on 18 October 1915, serving initially in France where he was wounded and reported missing in July 1916, and latterly as commanding officer of the unit based in Cairo, Egypt.

His wife had joined the Red Cross and worked in an ambulance unit near her husband.

He was repatriated to Australia and discharged from the army having risen to the rank of major in April 1919.

In Australia again, he returned to journalism. The third collection of his poetry, *Saltbush Bill JP*, was published and he continued to publish verse, short stories and essays while continuing to write for the weekly *Truth*.

Paterson also wrote on rugby league football in the 1920s for the *Sydney Sportsman*..

He retired in 1930 and was created CBE in 1939.

At the time of his death on 6 February 1941 his reputation as the principal folk poet of Australia was secure. His body of work included seven volumes of poetry and prose in many editions, a collection *The Collected Verse of A.B. Paterson* (1923), a book for children *The Animals Noah Forgot* (1933), and an anthology *The Old Bush Songs* (1905).



### DIARY DATES

.JULY 5: Gregory Blaxell, “Banjo Paterson”

AUG. 2: Tony Cuneen, “World War I and the Yaralla connections”

SEPT. 6: Lyn Ferguson, “Captain Arthur Phillip, the man”

# Congratulations

to two very dedicated volunteers  
who we are privileged and delighted to call members



**Betty Robertson, OAM**



**Virginia Walker, OAM**

**Both very worthy recipients of such an honour**

## Drummoyne

Originally there were two municipalities – Five Dock and Drummoyne.

William Wright, merchant and Island trader, bought an extensive area of land on the Parramatta River about 1853, naming it “Drummoyne Park”, apparently from a place he knew in Scotland.

Ill health forced Wright to retire, and about 1853 he settled on his estate at “Drummoyne Park”, overlooking the river.

Here he built an elaborate stone mansion, which he called “Drummoyne House”, set in spacious grounds and lovely gardens, surrounded by a stone wall.

An article in the Evening News 2nd July 1904 said that the house had been built in part by “a band of Italian masons, who, for some time lived in Hunter’s Hill”, and . . .

In the various rooms are magnificent specimens of wood carvings, said to have been done by the Italian artist who carved the eagle in the British House of Commons.

He specially engaged this gentleman for three years to do his interior decorations, and his methods were to gather the flowers and fruit in the gardens, such as the trumpet lily and the night cactus, and copy them exactly in carved wood.

The height of the principal rooms is 16 feet and the length 30, the mantles are of rare Sienna

marble, the shutters of the windows of polished mahogany and the floors of inlaid New Zealand woods, whilst the furniture is of rare woods of that country, mostly got together in Maori land.

Wright resolved to enjoy his retirement. He declined several times to stand for election to the Legislative Assembly and twice refused a seat in the Upper House. He had no objection to becoming a Justice of the Peace, as it might be useful to the neighbourhood.

He signed the 1871 counter-petition opposing incorporation of a Five Dock municipal district, but in 1889 he was among those who petitioned the Governor to create a “Borough of Drummoyne”.

In 2000 the municipalities of Concord and Drummoyne amalgamated to become the City of Canada Bay Municipality.

## Water Skiing in Australia 1934

In 1934, during the month of either July or August, Edward Arthur (Ted) Parker, aged 20, of Earlwood became the first person in Australia to water ski. The epic event occurred in Hen and Chicken Bay, Sydney Harbour, behind a three-pointed boat powered by a 22-horsepower Johnson outboard motor.

The boat was driven by Carlisle Arlington Rochester of Burwood.

The skis were made by Ted Parker’s neighbour, Don Barcoral, who was a patternmaker by trade and the skis were made from photographs seen in an American magazine “Popular Mechanics”. The design was copied and a pair of shoes securely fastened onto the skis for foot grips.

Moments later these men were a part of Australian history because Ted Parker had just become the first Australian to successfully ski on water.

Nothing much came of the event.

The second world war curtailed any further skiing activity until the 1940s when the era of Bill McLachlan, Jack Murray and Reg Johnson took over to set the sport on fire as we know it today.

Reg Johnson, a taxi driver from Sydney, was the first person to start to water ski after the war and started on the Hawkesbury River. As a cab driver he used to work shift work and have plenty of days off. It was through this that he used to invite people up to the Hawkesbury and amongst the first he invited up were Bill McLachlan, Jack Murray and Ray Leighton. Their first experience of water skiing was when the Hawkesbury was in flood and was all muddy and not a very impressive sight, though once up on skis they were hooked.

And so the story of Water Skiing in Australia unfolds.

*(Extract from “Water Skiing in Australia – how it all began”, compiled by Bob Wing.)*

## Rivendell Open Day

**Sunday, 27th July, 2014**

**Bookings Essential**

*Phone Lois on 9744-8528*

**(for more information visit our web site:  
[www.canadabayheritage.asn.au](http://www.canadabayheritage.asn.au))**



## The Mounted Soldiers of Australia

In all Australian conflicts around 487,000 horses were exported for military purposes from the 1830s to the 1930s, during the Boer War, India and World War I.

Due to quarantine restrictions only one Australian horse ever returned to Australian soil - "Sandy", faithful mount of Major General Sir William Bridges.

Major General Bridges was part of the initial landing at Anzac Cove, where the Australian and New Zealand troops established a beachhead, but during early May a period of stalemate followed as the Turkish defenders prevented them from advancing inland.

Bridges suggested withdrawing the force, but he was over-ruled. During this time, Bridges inspected the front lines on a daily basis, despite the risks.

On 15 May 1915, he was shot through the femoral artery in his right leg by a Turkish sniper. Dragged to safety, he was evacuated to the hospital ship *Gascon*. Infection set in but amputation was deemed impossible since he had lost so much blood and he died on board the hospital ship a few days later.

He was survived by his horse 'Sandy', who was cared for by a number of army vets until, by Order of the Minister of Defence, he was returned to Australia.

"Sandy" was the only Australian Waler horse to return from the First World War.

Bridges was buried in Alexandria but in June his body was returned to Melbourne where he received a state funeral. He is the only identified Australian killed in the First World War to have had his body repatriated and buried on Australian soil.

## Congratulations

Sydney Local Health District, with Public Works, recently won an award for the conservation works on the Boat House at Rivendell. It was a joint project. The award was under the "Built Heritage/Government/Corporate Award"



Come along to our Open Day on 27th July to see for yourself.

## The Last Parade

by AB Banjo Patterson

*With never a sound of trumpet,  
With never a flag displayed,  
The last of the old campaigners  
Lined up for the last parade.*

*Weary they were and battered,  
Shoeless, and knocked about;  
From under their ragged forelocks  
Their hungry eyes looked out.*

*And they watched as the old commander  
Read out, to the cheering men,  
The Nation's thanks and the orders  
To carry them home again.*

*And the last of the old campaigners,  
Sinewy, lean, and spare —  
He spoke for his hungry comrades:  
'Have we not done our share?'*

*'Starving and tired and thirsty  
We limped on the blazing plain;  
And after a long night's picket  
You saddled us up again.*

*'We froze on the wind-swept kopjes  
When the frost lay snowy-white.  
Never a halt in the daytime,  
Never a rest at night!*

*'We knew when the rifles rattled  
From the hillside bare and brown,  
And over our weary shoulders  
We felt warm blood run down,*

*'As we turned for the stretching gallop,  
Crushed to the earth with weight;  
But we carried our riders through it —  
Carried them p'raps too late.*

*'Steel! We were steel to stand it —  
We that have lasted through,  
We that are old campaigners  
Pitiful, poor, and few.*

*'Over the sea you brought us,  
Over the leagues of foam:  
Now we have served you fairly  
Will you not take us home?'*

*'Home to the Hunter River,  
To the flats where the lucerne grows;  
Home where the Murrumbidgee  
Runs white with the melted snows.*

*'This is a small thing surely!  
Will not you give command  
That the last of the old campaigners  
Go back to their native land?'*

*They looked at the grim commander,  
But never a sign he made.  
'Dismiss!' and the old campaigners  
Moved off from their last parade.*



## We need YOU

Would you like to become a Tour Guide for Rivendell and Yaralla Open Days? Would you like to help with Devonshire Teas? Would you like to help in other ways? Then, we need you.

We will be having a **meeting of our regular Walker Estate Volunteers at the museum on Saturday, 21st June at 2:00 p.m.** to organise our next Open Day at Rivendell on Sunday, 27th July.

If you think you would like to help with any of the above, please come along to the meeting and learn more about this part of our volunteering.

In particular, if you think you would like to become a tour guide you will have an opportunity to speak to some of our regular guides to find out just what it's like to be a guide.

We will supply all necessary information and directions you will need.

We hope to see you on the 21st

## A Peep at the Past



### Boat Hits Fish, 90 m.p.h.

Mr. Ernie Nunn of Guildford hit a big fish at 90 m.p.h. while trying to break an Australian speed boat record on the Parramatta River at Cabarita on Saturday, 29th September. He prevented the boat from capsizing - but lost the record.

When the boat returned to its base a piece of the fish was found forced up into the boat's pressure gauge, sealing it off. The propellor blade of the speedboat - named *Do* - was twisted around the propellor boss.

The president of the Parramatta Power and Motor Boat Club, Mr R Bell, who saw the incident through field glasses, said Mr. Nunn virtually broke the Australian record for the hydroplane 135 cubic inch boat. "But it is not official because he was unable to complete the course", he added.

The official speed record for their class of boat in Australia is 85 m.p.h.

(*The Biz [Fairfield], Thur. 4 October, 1951.*)

# William Cox Historical Festival

## the Arms of Australia Inn Museum - July 20th 2014

On July 20<sup>th</sup> the William Cox Festival will celebrate one of the most important achievements in our early colonial history – the building of a road across the Blue Mountains - and July 2014 marks the bicentenary of the building of the road.

The road was built by William Cox. Construction started in July 1814 at Emu Plains and finished at Bathurst in March 1815. With a working party of 32 convicts, four free persons and a handful of guards, Cox completed the 101 mile (163km) road over the mountains in seven months! The road opened up inland New South Wales to European settlement. Cox's bullock cart was the first wheeled vehicle to pass over the Blue Mountains and down over Mt. York.

To mark the bicentenary, the Nepean District Historical Society, with the support of Penrith City Council, will re-enact the start of Cox's journey from Regatta Park, Emu Plains at 10.30 am to the Arms of Australia Inn Museum for the William Cox Festival and formalities.

This year Roger Corbett and Clare O'Meara from The Bushwackers, Aus-



tralia's best-known bush band, will join Tall Timbre Country and Western Band to delight music lovers. The NSW Corp of Marines will be on duty, with displays, drills, and re-enactments from the life and times of the early colony. Members of the 1st Windsor Light Horse Regiment will help keep order.

There will be plenty of food, stalls, entertainment, music from the Penrith City Show Band, and songs and poetry readings from the Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School students.

Children can enjoy old fashioned games, write on slates in the old school room, ride a pony, pet animals in the animal farm, jump to their heart's desire in the jumping castle, try trampoline bungee jumping and join in the ever popular, tug of war and lots more.

The William Cox Festival and Open Day is at the Arms of Australia Inn Museum on the corner of Great Western Highway and Gardenia Avenue, Emu Plains from 9am. Admission is free.

For more information contact Rosemary Weaver 4751 6975 m 0408 416 735 or the museum on opening days 4735 4394

### Some Random Thoughts

- \* Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.
- \* A day without sunshine is like, night.
- \* Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- \* I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.
- \* Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.
- \* Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
- \* I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
- \* She's always late. Her ancestors arrived on the June Flower.
- \* You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.
- \* I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.
- \* Honk if you love peace and quiet.
- \* Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?
- \* Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

- \* He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- \* Recognise the inconsequential, then ignore it.
- \* Marriage is like the Army. Everyones complains about it but its amazing how many re-enlist.
- \* Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage.

### Did You Know?

Of course, you all know Banjo Paterson's image appears on the \$10 note, along with an illustration inspired by *The Man From Snowy River*.

But did you know that as part of the copy-protection microprint, the text of the poem itself is also imprinted on it?



## At the risk of nagging!!

### We Need Volunteers for . . .

**MUSEUM ROSTERS:** We still need volunteers to help out with manning the museum on the days it is open. We particularly need helpers for Saturday, but will still take Wednesday volunteers.

**YARALLA WORK GROUP** - men and women - to tackle small maintenance jobs around Yaralla.

**TOUR GUIDES** for both Rivendell and Yaralla. We will supply all the documentation you need and our regular guides are always willing to help you.

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WALKER ESTATES COMMITTEE:** Currently this position is vacant but we need someone who would be willing to accept this office. Our election of new office bearers will take place in August so you still have time to think about putting your hand up. It mainly entails organising the three Open Days.

**ORAL HISTORIES:** We need help with people willing to carry out interviews, transcribing recordings or converting tapes to digital.

**RESEARCHING** various topics for display or adding to our archives.

**ARCHIVES:** We have a lot of newspaper cuttings, documents, etc. in our collections which pertain to the history and heritage of the area. These need to be sorted and catalogued. Possibly this could also be done by those on roster duty.

**ADVERTISING** our speakers and displays by distributing posters and leaflets. (Unfortunately, due to a malfunction in my computer I've lost the list of people who previously offered to do this.)

**MUSEUM COMMITTEE** - always needs new members with new ideas.

**WALKER ESTATES COMMITTEE** - needs to be revived to help the Chairperson organise these days which are a very important part of our commitment to the Estates.

**AND LAST OF ALL . . .** the Secretary could always use some help with general office work, typing letters, filing, etc., etc., etc.

*We don't need a commitment to come every week, just when you have an hour or two to spare and want something to do.*

### Can you help???

*To date we have not heard from anyone willing to help us to continue to grow as a Society and a Museum. There must be some members out there with a little time on their hands who would like to become more involved with out already wonderful group of volunteers. Perhaps it's you?*