



“Nurungi” (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

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www.canadabayheritage.asn.au

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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 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

No.214

AUGUST 2014

The British Empire comes to Concord: the visit of the Governor General Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson to Yaralla in Concord, July 1914

When Australia's sixth Governor General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, and his aristocratic family arrived at Yaralla in Concord in July 1914 he no doubt thought his first visit to Sydney would be a pleasant and mostly ceremonial one.

It was simply to reaffirm the bonds of Empire: a mixture of polo matches, fetes, speeches, military parades, evening dinners and afternoon teas.

He could have had no idea that barely four weeks after he stepped off the overnight express from Melbourne that he would cut short his visit to Sydney, cancel his planned appearance at the inaugural Interstate Australian Football Final at the Cricket Ground and return to Central railway station on a cold Sunday evening and then make a very somber departure for the return Journey.

During July 1914, the diplomatic crisis in Europe escalated to the brink of war.

The Munro Ferguson's temporary home in Sydney, the sprawling riverside mansion of Yaralla in Concord, became the centre of Australia's reactions to world events.

Nearly all the key players in New South Wales' involvement in the First World War visited the mansion on the last Friday of peace on 30 July.

The two thousand guests who had travelled by ferry from Circular Quay and train from Central Station pledged their allegiance to Sir Ronald and, through him, to the British Empire.

Soldiers, politicians, judges, businessmen and their wives all affirmed their commitment to the cause of justice. It was a time when a person's word was a sacred bond so these people set themselves on a tragic path that would sweep so many to their deaths.

Tony Cuneen's talk on 2 August will describe the events concerning the Governor General's visit to Yaralla that fateful July and the subsequent experiences of those who were with him at the time. It is an opportunity to understand how loyalty to the Empire and a desire to make Australia a member of the wider world community combined to make the social leaders of New South Wales devote themselves to the war with Germany.

For that crucial period, Concord was the centre of the decisions that led to war for Australia.

Yaralla Update

Hyacinth Cottage, the outer Gate House on Nullawarra Road, is now being developed and will be a step down unit for burns patients from Concord Hospital.

These patients still require lots of rehabilitation, but this cottage will provide a location that is a bit closer to normality and within close proximity to the hospital.

It is hoped that the neighbours can be engaged to assist with the experience of a more normal life.

The facility will be designed and go through appropriate channels consistent with appropriate infection controls. This will assist with resocialising and reintegration to normal life.

It was suggested that, if possible, the house could have nice gardens or a community garden could be located near the house, but there may be an issue because of susceptibility to infection.

The plans for the cottage are to go to the Yaralla Advisory Committee for consultation

DIARY DATES

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

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

SEPT 6: Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers following the talk.

I Remember When

As a boy I lived on Camp Cove Beach in one of Playfairs Villas, then to Burwood on Comer Street at the park, eventually to Burton Street, Concord and attended Burwood School in the corner of a prefab.

The first electric trains were being tried out. Causing much excitement.

Eventually I met with a boy who had to gather wood for the cooking fire in his lounge room grate. His dad worked in a butchers shop in Burwood so stews were often on the menu.

The wood was mangrove pieces from down near the canal.

Granny Adams, Britannian Avenue - on "The Love". There were no houses between White Way and Christian Brothers School. The White Way shops (*now North Strathfield shopping precinct*) were built from the lane towards Neich Parade.

Pat Barry housed his horse behind the first shop.

Fred Holmes was a horse trainer and took horses to India and won handsome prizes. He had his own apprentice, Arthur Ward (Rose Hill) - built a horse stall at the bottom of 374 Parramatta Road.

Spoke to Mr. Neich many times when I met him driving his horse and trap. My grandfather was offered the horse if he wanted to give grandma an outing.

I saw the Burwood War Memorial top section being completed, with the inscription across the top: *Thanks be unto God who gave us victory*. I often wondered what words the enemy would have on their memorials.



I could jump over the palms which had been newly planted on Burwood Road except for the first three. The military field piece was there to climb over (not now).

My uncle told me that when he was using a crosscut saw to cut logs for the Derwick Store on a Sunday morning a passing policeman threatened to prosecute his father if he did not stop.

My grandmother cooked stew on an Oil (Kero) wick Stove. They did have the sewer but no bath. Grandfather's friend fitted a shower. When I was seven I was invited to use it as a special treat (cold, of course!).

The wash house had two round and oval galvanised tubs set on 3" x 2" rails with taps.

The house did not have water laid on to the kitchen. A galvanised bucket with cloth cover and dipping cups (metal) supplied the water.

It's hard to believe that Grandma could rear Ted, Fred, Frank, Florry and Emily (my mother) under those conditions.

Arthur died about 21, a cripple, said to be brought on by getting his foot caught in an iron handle.

There were many different types of clothing irons. Some with fixed handles, some with handles that could be taken off and attached to another iron. Some irons had their own fire box with coals burning and chimney.

Number 374 Parramatta Road had a shingle roof, later replaced with corrugated iron.

Grandfather had a good garden in the front yard, watered by using a watering can. Hoses were too expensive.

House was lit by Kerosene lamps.

Grandfather used to cut candles into short lengths, lit and placed on a brass tray from India. This was enough to get into night time and settle down for bed. When candle had all melted it would go out.

Shoulder of mutton was cooked, cooled and hung on a plate in flour bag in the breezeway. There was a dresser in the kitchen with all our crockery.

Grandma kept chooks and sold the eggs. When a little girl came for two fresh eggs Gran sent her home to tell her mother there were no fresh eggs today - they were yesterday's, if that's OK.

Grandma would gather the soft feathers from the perched hens, eventually getting enough to fill a pillow.

As time went by Parramatta Road and the footpath became built up, making it necessary to have steps down to the front garden. The bank was covered with blue and white agapanthus.

There was a back double gate a way down the lane and storage barn with elevated floor and high pitched gable roof of corrugated iron.

Before WWII more than one family lived in a house.

I have noted some cooking on a noisy primus and others cooking on a clay

lined kero tin with a bottom side hole for stoking.

As a scout I remember the Scout Hall roof being blown off and carried across the park to Gipps & Broughton Streets, shearing off the top of a pine tree.



I also remember the post and two-rail fence surrounding Goddard Park.

Fred Adams trained harness horses at Longbottom. He considered the race track, which was kept in order by him, as his own

Seen by me several times, spud bar and long handled round-nose shovel, walking back home after patching and also walking his horse and riding in his rig.

His horses could be seen from the bottom end of Burton Street, looking north behind Church of England Church (St Luke's)

(Alan King, Five Dock,)

Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee

will be holding an

Open Day at Yaralla

on

Sat., 16th August, 2014

(watch local paper for more information)



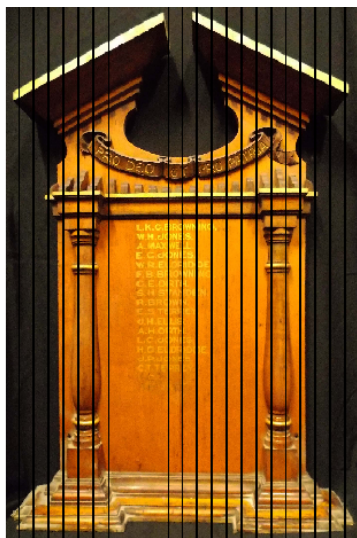
This will be an opportunity for members of the public to come along and find out more about what the committee is doing or to put forward any proposals they might have for the future use of this unique estate.

To find out more about the work of this committee please visit:

www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/yaralla.

Here you can also access the minutes of the committee meetings and the latest Conservation Management Plan, as well as other pertinent documents.

**We now know what . . .
we just need to know
who! Can you help?**



Thanks to some of our members this Honour Board has been identified as coming from the Rhodes Methodist Church. However, we have not had any success with obtaining information about the people whose names are on the board.

Do you know anything about the following people or know someone who might be able to give us some information?

LKG Browning, WH Jones, A Maxwell, EC Jones, WR Eldridge, FB Browning, GE Orth, SH Standen, JR Brown, ES Terrey, JH Ellis, AH Orth, LC Jones, HG Eldridge, JP Jones, CT Terrey, A Denham and AE Dicer.

This Honour Board will be a major part of our coming display "We Will Remember Them: WWI" and we would very much like to honour those whose names are on it. They would all have been local people from the Rhodes/Concord West area.

Guest Speakers

All members should be aware by now that we have a guest speaker at the museum at 2:00 pm on the first Saturday of the month.

These talks are not confined only to members - visitors are always welcome to come along and join us for afternoon tea following the speaker.

We have built up a good following of regulars - up to 35-40 at each talk - so we know that our speakers are always interesting.

Why not come along and see for yourself - and bring your friends with you.

You won't know what you're missing until you pay us a visit.

Posting Children

It's never easy travelling with children and often it can be expensive. In the early 1900s some people decided to cut costs by mailing their children via parcel post.

Sending packages via the U.S. Parcel Post Service began on January 1, 1913.

Regulations stated that packages could not weigh more than 50 pounds but did not necessarily preclude the sending of children.

On February 19, 1914, the parents of four-year-old May Pierstorff mailed her from Granville, Idaho, to her grandparents in Lewiston, Idaho.

Mailing May apparently was cheaper than buying her a train ticket. The little girl wore her 53-cents worth of postal stamps on her jacket as she travelled in the train's mail compartment.

After hearing of examples such as May, the Postmaster General issued a regulation against sending children by mail.

This picture was meant as a humorous image to the end of such practice.



Rivendell Open Day

Again, this was very successful with a good crowd of visitors. However, we still need more guides so that we don't have to limit the number of visitors we can accommodate.

It is not hard work. You just need a general knowledge of the basic history - and we will supply you with more than enough information so you can answer almost any question tossed at you.

We also need volunteers to help with the Devonshire Teas and for other jobs such as sitting in the Joanna Walker Children's Hospital or other sections to talk to visitors as they visit.

Yaralla Open Day

Our next Open Day at Yaralla will be on Sunday, 25th October and we will also need more guides for this, as well as Devonshire Tea helpers and other building sitters.

If you think you would like to become a Walker Volunteer, please get in touch with the Secretary as soon as possible.

LAST DAYS

Postage and Coins in Colonial Days

This display is particularly pertinent to our area as Isaac Nichols, the original owner of what is now the Yaralla Estate was our first postmaster.

We are also showing our latest acquisition, a one penny Trading Token issued by Flavelle Jewellers.



There are display and stories about currency and stamps from our early days.

Plus Post Office memorabilia and much, much more.

A special thanks to all our wonderful Museum Committee who put this all together.



Don't let them down. Please come and visit and bring your family, friends and neighbours.

The display will be on for a few more weeks so spread the word, please.

Annual General Meeting & Election of Office Bearers

This meeting will be held on Saturday, 6th September following the guest speaker. It will start at approximately 3:30 pm.

The main Offices to be filled are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Walker Estates Committee Chair, Museum Committee Chair, Public Relations.

Your Society needs YOU for it to continue to function. It needs YOU to put new ideas forward. It needs YOU to become part of the Museum Committee. It needs you to become part of the Walker Estates Committee. It just needs YOU.

Our General Meetings are also held on the first Saturday of each month, following the guest speaker. Please attend these if you can.

A Society can only function efficiently if supported by its members.



The Sydney University Graduate Choir will be performing the new **Australian War Requiem**, composed by their music director Christopher Bowen, on **10th August at 3:00 pm in Sydney Town Hall**.

It has been composed for the centenary of WWI and is a dramatic and evocative work which has received funding from all the relevant embassies and the Federal Government.

It uses texts of letters of soldiers interwoven with the Stabat Mater, the medieval poem about Mary weeping at the cross of Jesus.

It is mostly a tribute to the WWI troops.

Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee - Open Day at Yaralla on Saturday, 16th August, 2014.

Check local paper for more information.

Connect with Rookwood at the Open Day. Heritage, Culture, Community & Art. Sunday, 14th September - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Rookwood Cemetery is recognised as the oldest, largest and most multicultural working cemetery in Australia. It is a place of remembrance and peace; however it is also historically and culturally significant.

What's on: Rookwood Ride & Breakfast: 6:00 am; Historic Tours, Crematorium and Mausoleum Tours; HIDDEN - a Rookwood Sculpture Walk; Grave Digging Demonstration; Embalming Demonstration; Entertainment, including bands and performances; Kids' activities, including face painting and a jumping castle; International Food Fair; and much, much more.



A little trip down memory lane for some.

They were funny looking buildings, that were once a way of life,
If you couldn't sprint the distance, then you really were in strife.
They were nailed, they were wired, but were mostly falling down,
There was one in every yard, in every house, in every town.

They were given many names, some were even funny,
But to most of us, we knew them as the outhouse or the dunny.
I've seen some of them all gussied up, with painted doors and all,
But it really made no difference, they were just a port of call.

Now my old man would take a bet, he'd lay an even pound,
That you wouldn't make the dunny with them turkeys hangin' round.
They had so many uses, these buildings out the back,
You could even hide from mother, so you wouldn't get the strap.

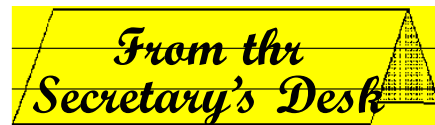
That's why we had good cricketers, never mind the bumps,
We used the pathway for the wicket and the dunny door for stumps.
Now my old man would sit for hours, the smell would rot your socks,
He read the daily back to front in that good old thunderbox.

And if by chance that nature called sometime through the night,
You always sent the dog in first, for there was no flamin' light.
And the dunny seemed to be the place where crawlies liked to hide,
But never ever showed themselves until you sat inside.

There was no such thing as Sorbent, no tissues there at all,
Just squares of well read newspaper, a hangin' on the wall.
If you had some friendly neighbours, as neighbours sometimes are,
You could sit and chat to them, if you left the door ajar.

When suddenly you got the urge, and down the track you fled,
Then of course the magpies were there to peck you on your head.
Then the time there was a wet, the rain it never stopped,
If you had an urgent call, you ran between the drops.

The dunny man came once a week, to these buildings out the back,
And he would leave an extra can, if you left for him a zac.
For those of you who've no idea what I mean by a zac,
Then you're too young to have ever had, a dunny out the back.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: As you have seen we now have a new system to handle membership renewals. We hope that this will make renewals easier for many of our members. However, if you pay your dues by direct debit to our bank account would you please make sure to records your name in the reference section. There has been a payment of \$30 made in this way with the reference Quay CU, which does not indicate which member has made the payment. If it was you, please contact us.

NURUNGI DELIVERIES: We have also set up a new system whereby members are automatically notified when the latest Nurungi has been uploaded to our web site. Because of the higher postage costs we are trying to eliminate as many snail-mail deliveries as possible. If you have an email address but are still getting your Nurungi delivered by mail would you please update your record with us.

YARALLA WORK GROUP: To date we have two volunteers who have put their hands up to help with renovation work around the Yaralla Estate, but we still need more. Are you, or do you know of any tradesmen or home handymen (or women) who would like to volunteer to become part of this group? We need you NOW.

Volunteers don't have to be members of our Society. Everyone is welcome.

Also, you don't have to be experts in any trades to become part of the group - we will have people who do have the knowledge to guide you in what work needs to be done.

Yaralla's recent Conservation Management Plan has identified several areas in which our group could become involved - such as the chicken run and pig pen which are a very important part of the estate show it's early use as a self-contained estate. Restoration of the Four-Way Pergola is another job we have long wanted to carry out.

WALKER VOLUNTEERS: We will be calling a meeting of all volunteers (and would-be volunteers) involved with both Yaralla and Rivendell Open Days, to be held at the Museum on **Saturday, 27th September at 2:00 pm**. The meeting is to review the recent Rivendell Open Day to see if any changes need to be made to the organising and also to plan for the coming Yaralla Open Day in October.

Please note the date in your diaries now and come along if possible.

SPECIAL NOTE: You may find errors in this publication. This is in line with our policy of trying to please everyone - especially those who love to find a mistake