



# "Nurungi"

(Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

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[www.canadabayheritage.asn.au](http://www.canadabayheritage.asn.au)

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**GENERAL MEETINGS**  
1st Saturday of month  
(except January)  
**at 12:30 pm in the**  
City of Canada Bay  
Museum  
1 Bent Street, Concord  
9743-3034  
followed by  
**our Guest Speaker**  
**at 2:00 pm sharp.**

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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.216**

**OCTOBER 2014**

## Our Last Man, Our Last Shilling

After almost every major upheaval in our national life historians declare that Australia has 'come of age'. Whether or not World War 1 did bring maturity to Australian society is still debated. It is certain, however, that the war brought unprecedented social change.

When Britain declared war on Germany on 3 August 1914, Britain's dominions and colonies were automatically committed to participation in what was to become known as the 'Great War'. Politicians from both parties pledged their support for the Mother Country. The Labor leader, Andrew Fisher, summed up the feeling and policy of the time in his enthusiastically received election speech of 31 July 1914 he said: *"All, I am sure, will regret the critical position existing at the present time, and pray that a disastrous war may be averted. But, should the worst happen after everything has been done that honour will permit, Australians will stand beside our own to help and defend her to our last man and our last shilling."*

Although few Australians understood the causes of the war, they were proud of the Empire. Patriotism flourished and all over the country community leaders held meetings at which *God Save the King*, *Rule Britannia* and *The Marseillaise* were sung; politicians and religious leaders made speeches, and young men publicly declared that they were ready to fight. In a surge of patriotism, over 20,000 men enlisted in the first wave of the Australian Imperial Forces (A.I.F.) which sailed in early November 2014.

When news came back to Australia of the Gallipoli campaign and the sinking of the *Lusitania*, another 12,500 men volunteered. Although the flow of volunteers had been steady from 1914 to June 1915, the British still asked for more men; they wanted every man capable of fighting. Recruiting drives throughout town and country were organised. Urgers were included in these drives, and they publicly humiliated men who seemed to be holding back from enlisting.

Peer pressure also grew. Young women would often send a white feather, a symbol of cowardice to men out of uniform.

Many clubs and organisations placed bans on young men of fighting age who did not volunteer. Propaganda campaigns were waged on the radio and at the cinema. Poster art reached new heights as it showed a giant-like Hun killing and maiming the helpless women and children of Belgium.

Women were urged to persuade their husbands, sons and brothers to enlist. Many did, but there was also an anti-war surge of emotion. A leaflet urged a "No" to answer the conscription question. It labelled a 'Yes' answer as a blood vote. The appeal was primarily to women. It read:

*"Why is your face so white Mother?  
Why do you choke for breath?  
O, I have dreamt in the night, my son,  
That I have doomed a man to death."*

By 1916, the Australian force overseas numbered around 222,000 men. This loss of manpower had a profound effect on the home front. Often every worker on a farm or in a factory would be taken by the A.I.F., leaving large gaps in the labour force. The young men left behind in Australia often encountered jeers, and social ostracism. Many who had volunteered, but who had been rejected on medical grounds, began to wear badges on their coat lapels, declaring that they had volunteered but had been rejected.

Many of these men did, however, profit from the war, managing successful businesses, getting good jobs, and keeping them when the war ended.

The role of women also changed. Before World War 1 it was unusual for women to work, especially middle-class women. During the war, however, almost every woman had some type of job. Certainly much of the work involved helping the war effort. Many sewing and knitting bees were formed to knit socks

## DIARY DATES

- OCT. 4: Brenda Inglis-Powell, "Soldiers in Different Armies"
- OCT. 26: Open Day at Yaralla
- NOV. 1: Catherine Bishop, "Everyday Objects and Colonial Women's Lives"
- DEC. 6: Annual Christmas Party

and mufflers for 'our boys'. Women also enlisted as army nurses, and others took over previously male-dominated jobs in offices, factories and shops. On a sour note, it must be admitted that many men who returned to Australia after the war, found that their jobs had been permanently filled by women who worked for half the wages.

Women provided moral support for the soldiers going to war, and for those returning. They organised parties which

handed out cigarettes, sandwiches and warm words of encouragement to young men travelling to recruiting centres. An organisation known as the Cheer-up Society, which began in Adelaide, organised enthusiastic female cheers for soldiers leaving for the front and for wounded soldiers returning to Australia.

In many ways the war broke down much of the male conservatism, of which women such as Louisa Lawson and Rose Scott had complained. A call

for temperance was supported by many leading feminists and such church groups as the Salvation Army and Methodist Church. Liquor, it was said by the 'wowsers', was a waste of money at a time when all funds should have been going toward the war effort. On 10 June 1916 a referendum on the question was held in N.S.W. The decision was that all hotels would be closed at 6.00 p.m. for the 'duration of the war'

*Reprinted from The 1788-1820 Pioneer Gazette of May 2014.*

## Yaralla Brings Back Memories

On Saturday, 1st May, 2010 I picked up a flyer at The Epping Garden Club, advertising an Open Day to tour Dame Edith Walker's Estate on Sunday. 2nd May, 2010. I had spent most of my growing-up years living in The Drive and had never seen inside the Mansion. I persuaded my husband to come with me. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed our tour of the home with our guide Trish Skehan; who brought by-gone days to life.

After the tour I heard someone talking about Ron and Val Walker. Ron was the Minister at Holy Trinity Church, Concord West in the 1950's. It was Janice Fulton and her brother, Graham. They were on the same tour and I thought they looked familiar. Janice was in Fellowship at Holy Trinity with her brother when I was there as well. Janice reminded me that she took my place in the Quangdong Tennis Club after I had resigned as I was going to the UK. She met her husband at the Club so was able to thank me. Graham was the proud owner of one of the Humber Snipe Cars parked on display in the driveway that day in May, 2010.

We decided to have lunch while listening to a Jazz Band, then wandered down to the river, which was very much changed from my day. We had a look at the Squash Court. I did know about its existence. We also visited the Stables and the Museum and found them very interesting. We had afternoon tea in the Dairy and agreed that it was a lovely outing and it certainly brought back many memories.

When I met Lois at the Museum, I asked her if she would like me to write down some of my memories, and now, I've kept my promise.

(Ed: Thank you Jeanette for such a wonderful trip down memory lane. I'm sure this will also jog the memories of many of our readers. Perhaps even encourage them to write their own.)

## Growing Up In Concord West: 1934-1961

**Concord — Early Days:** I was born in a small cottage hospital on Concord Road, it was quite near to The Drive and was called "Carinya". Dr John Blakemore, our family doctor whose practice was in Concord West, and Dr Hotten from Strathfield delivered me. My brother John was also born in "Carinya".

My parents were Alick & Jessie Davis of 38 The Drive, Concord West.



My father was a Solicitor and had his practice in O'Connell St., Sydney but he did see clients at home. However that was discontinued. My parents both lived in Concord West with their parents before they were married. Alick's parents were George and Emma Davis, and Jessie's parents were James and Jessie Riach of Bangala Street.

When my parents married they lived with Jessie's parents and built their home in The Drive about 1938. They bought the land from Mr and Mrs Arthur Jones next door, who were going to use the block for a tennis court. I think our house was the second last to be built in the street. Most of the houses in The Drive were built in the 1920's as Dame Edith Walker's driveway from Concord Road to the gatehouse at the end of the street was opened up for housing.

When we moved to The Drive I would have been nearly 5 and my brother was 4 years younger. I started school at MLC Burwood and was there for all of my school years. My brother went to Miss Chick's Pre-school at Holy Trinity, then to North Strathfield Public School then on to Sydney

Grammar School for his High School years. In those early days we had a live-in country girl, Margaret, to help my mother in the house.

**Our Neighbours in The Drive:** On the same side as our house, starting from the Concord Road end, lived the Rowe family. Gordon and his twin sister Sharon were about my age. Mr Rowe had been a dairy farmer on the North Coast but ill health forced him to retire. Gordon became a carpenter and was very interested in boating and deep sea fishing. Later he had a poultry farm at Kellyville.

Past Quangdong Street and next to our home were Arthur & Dot Jones and their children, Shirley, Peter and Beverley. I was about the same age as Beverley and both of us went to the same school so we played together a lot. Mr Jones was involved in a hardware business near Burwood with his brother. Shirley lives on the North Shore, Peter married a country girl from Wellington, NSW and Beverley and her husband live in the Southern Highlands.

Our neighbours on the other side of us were Ray & Chris Stephens and daughters Joan and Val.



Val Stevens' wedding

Mr & Mrs Stephens moved to Berowra after the girls married. Joan lives in Victoria and Val lives in Cronulla. They were wonderful neighbours.

Mrs Benns lived further along and later the Maguire family and their two children, Brian and his sister. Near the

end of The Drive was the Mornay family with son Des.

On the other side of the street lived the Santer family with their son John and his sister Joan, who became a medical doctor. Mr Santer had a shoe mending business in the City. Sometimes we would give him some of our shoes to be mended and he would bring them back to us mended, polished and neatly wrapped in brown paper.

Next door to the Santer Family lived Mr & Mrs Swan and two children, Russell and Cecily. Their house was on the corner of The Drive & Beronga Street. Mr Swan was a St. John's Ambulance man; he helped me when I had to learn bandaging for a Red Cross test.

Mrs Nell Swan was a tireless worker for the Red Cross, she organised the ladies of the district to cook treats for the Returned Soldiers who were in Concord Hospital and were housed in long single-storey wards in the grounds of the Hospital. I also helped decorate the wards with flowers at Christmas when there were parties for them.

Russell became a Doctor in Eastwood, I think, and died in 2010. Cecily was a Nurse and married a country man.



Cecily Swan outside Holy Trinity Church

**Neighbours and friends who lived nearby in Myall Street:** The Lyons family with sons Ross and Bruce. Both boys became Pharmacists. Ross, when he was first married, lived in our house in The Drive while my Mother and I were in the UK. Ross died in 2011.

**Wilga Street:** The Gostelow Family, Cliff and Ethel, owned the Chemist Shop on the corner of Wilga Street and Concord Road. Their children were John, June and Geoff. John took over from his father and had the shop for a number of years. John died in 2009. June was a Nurse, she married and lives on the North Shore. Geoff also became a Pharmacist in Roseville and looked after our family for many years. He is now retired.

The Gallagher family, only daughter, Margaret. A Scottish family with a family connection with my Mother.

**Concord Road:** Dr John Blakemore, with his wife and children, Barbara and

John, lived on Concord Road, nearly opposite the Picture Theatre. Dr Blakemore was our GP and he had his Surgery in rooms attached to the side of his residence. Barbara was an Artist. She married and lived in one of the Walker Gate Houses, her married name is Connor, Barbara eventually lived in the family home where she taught Art for a number of years. John lives in Epping and he and my brother are still close friends.

Dr Doug Casperson became our GP after Dr Blakemore retired. I played squash with his wife Jill for a while. The Squash Courts replaced the Cinema.

Ted and Ruby Hooey lived on the corner of Mepunga Street, nearly opposite the park. They owned the Grocery Shop at Concord West. They had no children. During the war they entertained a number of British Merchant Seamen and I remember going to parties for them.

Rev. Stewart was our Minister at Holy Trinity for some time. He left to become Dean Stewart. There were four children, Phillip, Margaret, Cecily and Stephen. Then the Rev. Ron Walker was the next Minister. His wife was Val and they had three children, Quentin and two girls.

The Mutton family and their children, Lerryn, Lorna and Bryce, lived halfway between Concord West and North Strathfield. Mr Mutton was our local Liberal Member. Bryce died some years ago

**Victoria Avenue:** The Staggs family, their two children, Ted & J. The Adcock family with four children - Bob, who was a Bomber Pilot during WWII, Margaret, Warren and Marie Jean. They owned the King Gee Clothing Company.

**Cumming Avenue;** Mr & Mrs Symonds and their son Graham and daughter Merle.

**North Strathfield:** The Rourke Family with their two sons. Eddie was a friend of my brother, his family owned the Chemist Shop on Concord Road, Eddie also became a Pharmacist and married Pixie from Lord Howe Island. Her family owns Pine Trees. Sadly she died July 2010. Eddie and Pixie lived on Lord Howe Island and helped run the Guesthouse with Pixie's sister Margaret and her husband.

The Richardson Family and only son, Peter.

The Aitken family with son Geoff and his sister Val. Geoff was in the Fellowship at Holy Trinity. He became a Magistrate.

(To be continued)

## Welcome . . .

In August we welcomed three new members . . . :

Joan Doran, Concord West; David Poletto, Concord West; and Eugene Morris, Concord West.

And in September we welcomed Kay Dawson. Kay has been a long-time volunteer at the museum and felt it was time to make it official.

We look forward to seeing you all at future meetings.

## Election of Officers for 2014-2015

The following people were elected, unopposed:

President ..... Alan Wright

Vice-President ..... Mark Durance

Secretary/Treasurer ..... Lois Michel

Assistant Secretary ..... Roz Miller

Chairperson:

Museum Committee ..... Lorraine Holmes

Walker Estates Comm. ..... Vacant

We would especially thank Mark for his years of service as our Chairman and for the work he has done. Due to health problems he stepped down from that position but is still determined to take an active role in the Society. We wish him well for the future.

The position of Walker Estates Chairperson is vacant as we had no volunteers for the position. It was decided that, for the time being, or until someone steps forward, the work of the Walker Estates Committee would be handled by the Museum Committee.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

### Change of Meeting Time

Over the past months we have been disappointed by lack of attendance at our General Meetings and we felt that, because they were being held after our guest speaker, members might feel that it was too late to stay.

At the last meeting it was decided that for the next few months we would trial starting the meeting at 12:30 pm and would close at 1:30 pm to allow for our speaker.

We hope this will encourage more of our members to become involved with the operations of our society.

After the meeting you can join us for our speaker and some light refreshments.



*Thank you City of Canada Bay Council for your grant to purchase storage boxes and mannikins for our museum. Being accepted by Mark Durance, Nadine Wigley, Roz Miller and Lois Michel. (Not sure if the bank will accept it!)*

## Gladesville Bridge

We have received a letter from the Heritage Council of NSW advising their intention to consider listing the Gladesville Bridge on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgement of its heritage significance to the people of NSW.

Gladesville Bridge has potential state heritage significance as the longest concrete arch span bridge in the world at the time of its completion in 1964 (1000 ft). One of only two of its type in NSW, Gladesville Bridge is considered to be a leading example of technical and engineering achievement on the international stage.

An innovative design that set new global standards for design and construction, Gladesville Bridge was one of the first bridges in the world (if not the first) to utilise computer programming in its construction.

With particular social significance and an important association with a number of internationally acclaimed engineers and engineering firms (including G. Maunsell & Partners and Eugene Freyssinet), Gladesville Bridge is one of the landmark engineering achievement of the world.

- \* If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
- \* The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's in trouble.
- \* The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
- \* Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.
- \* One of life's mysteries is how a 1 kg box of chocolates can make a person gain 2 kg.
- \* Everyone should have a spouse, because there are a number of things that go wrong that one can't blame on the government.

## From the Secretary's Desk

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** - If you are paying your membership renewal by direct deposit at our bank you need to include your name in the reference box.

We still have two payments - one of \$12 and one of \$20 - but we don't know who paid them.

If you receive a reminder for payment and you have already paid please contact the Secretary.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** In the hope of attracting more members to our monthly meetings we have changed the time for the meeting to **12:30 pm**, still on the first Saturday of the month. Members are urged to attend these meetings, if possible, so we can have a broader range of input.

**CONCORD CARNIVAL** will be held on **Sunday, 12th October**. As it will be held in the park behind Greenless Bowling Club we decided to open the museum from 10:00 am on that day. We are looking for some help in the museum and also for someone to hand out leaflets at the Carnival. Can you help? Please contact me.

**PICNIC AT CORREYS GARDENS:** We recently received a wonderful framed photograph of Surveyors Annual Picnic at Correys Gardens from the Lady Denman Heritage Complex Huskisson for which we are most grateful. We would also thank Alan and Lorna Wright who picked it up.

If you're down that way take time to drop into this complex. It is a wonderful museum at the Cnr. Woollamia Road and Dent Street, Huskisson.

**DISPLAY FOR HERITAGE WEEK** next April. The subject is "Conflict and Compassion". Has anyone got any ideas as to what we can do for the occasion?

**SENIORS' WEEK** - next March. We are holding a Writing Competition with the subject "The World When I Was Ten". This is open to all residents of City of Canada Bay and we are looking for entries from anyone with a tale to tell . . . Australian born, residents from overseas, children, etc.

We will be offering prizes in three age groups and, if we get sufficient entries, we will print a book of the collection.

Please spread the word to all and sundry so that they can start their own writing.



The Great War - World War I  
The War to End all Wars  
**EXHIBITION**

August to November 2014  
at the

City of Canada Bay Museum

Please come and visit to learn more about: Three brothers who were tragically killed on their first day of fighting; The youngest Concord resident to enlist; Honour Board from Rhodes Methodist Church, and the soldiers it honours; The City of Canada Bay War Memorials; The Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium, dedicated to those who lie in unknown graves. There are almost 55,000 names, including 6,000 Australians, on the memorial.

See pictures - read stories - see memorabilia



We have been contacted by someone seeking information on Australian motor body builders up to WWII, particularly about Smith & Ford, Mortlake, motor body builders who built at least one car body in 1912.

Does anyone have any information?