



"Nurungi" (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society
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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.**

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.220

March 2015

A Visit to the 113 Australian General Hospital - Something of the Work of the Red Cross

A visit to the 113 A.G.H. at Concord is an experience that should be undertaken by anyone visiting Sydney. This is only one of the big city hospitals caring for sick and wounded servicemen, but it is the biggest, and the work that goes on there is representative of the work that goes on in dozens of other hospitals for servicemen in the State.

There are thousands of people living within the confines of the hospital, and the huge nurses' quarters alone seem big enough to be called a huge hospital. The 113 A.G.H. is normally an 1800 bed hospital, with a temporary capacity of 2188, but averages 2000 patients daily.

The main part of the hospital is nine or ten stories high. Most of this is taken up with wards and up at the top is the operating theatre block. Then on the grounds there are literally acres of wards, all built on the pavilion system. All are connected by covered walks and ramps, and a man can go from one end of the hospital to another and from top to bottom in a wheel chair, by means of the ramps and lifts which, by the way, are driven by disabled returned men, many of them suffering the loss of a limb.

The hospital is built on a bend in the

Parramatta River, and a wonderful view can be had from the wards, particularly those on the harbour bridge side. The main block has huge windows from which the patients can easily watch from their beds.

On visiting days the hospital is reached from the city fairly easily by train to Strathfield and thence by special bus. The ride to Concord by bus is a study. Our reporter was the only man on the lower deck of the vehicle. Standing there looking back over, the faces of the women going out to the hospital was a sad and wonderful experience. They were mostly youngish women, apparently going out to meet husbands. Some had a happy expectancy on their faces but others were strained and anxious. Nearly all wore next of kin badges, colour patch broaches or some such token. Some of them were older women going to visit their sons. One poor old soul had tear-filled eyes and as she rode along her lips were moving slightly, and it was obvious that she was murmuring a prayer for some very sick son.

Then there was a young mother battling the trip out with a tiny babe — only about a month or two old. That young mother looked radiantly happy and was taking the child out to visit her dad. That trip to Concord impresses the gallant part played by the women left behind to watch and pray for the safe return of their loved ones.

At the hospital the boys lean out of windows watching for their folks to arrive. Many of the patients are walking patients and are allowed to stroll round the wards, visit their cobblers in other parts of the hospital and do some of the odds and ends of work required to help the nurses. Leave is granted the convalescent patients on Wednesdays and Sundays after they have been in hospital 28 days but otherwise leave is very hard to obtain.

The Red Cross maintains a staff at the hospital to attend to the various types of work done



DIARY DATES

MAR 7: Alice Kang, Concord R.G.H.

APRIL 4: Ron Ray, "Bass and Flinders"

MAY 2: to be advised

for the alleviation of mental and physical suffering, and to help pass many lonely hours for the boys undergoing hospital treatment.

In the large Red Cross Centre, the chief building is a large theatre which is crowded each evening by the boys attending picture and stage shows. Each Sunday one or other of the professional companies showing in the city puts on their show there, and during the week there are other concert parties who visit the hospital as well as cinema shows.



At the Red Cross Centre are various reading, writing, and billiard rooms and lounges, as well as a very well stocked library of fiction and reference books and librarians in attendance. There is also a very popular diversional handcrafts room. This work is done by some patients as part of their treatment. When it is medically prescribed it is called "occupational therapy" and is provided for by the hospital itself. We have not discovered the difference between "occupational therapy" and "diversional handicrafts", except the same difference there is between work and play — that one is compulsory and one voluntary, but there it is and the Red Cross now does "diversional handicrafts". The crafts taught include carpentry, macramé work — knotted



work with coloured strings, basket weaving, weaving on looms (scarves, etc.) and sewing (mostly in felt), leather work (plaiting and straight out leather work), some of which is beautifully embossed by working with a simple tool made from a bent nail.

Some of the boys do the most beautiful work and there is a big display of some of the best. The Red Cross maintains a staff of trained teachers to help in this work, and boys who are not able to attend the workrooms to get the materials and receive instructions are attended to at their bed-side.

Materials for the boys doing this work at the centre are charged for, but the work provides a most useful diversion for the patients as well as providing them with a stock of the most sought after presents.

Red Cross also provides many comforts for the patients in hospital, such as special diets, supplies of razors, tooth brushes, powder, etc.

One important part of the Red Cross work that touches hospital patients very closely is the social services. Trained social service workers visit the hospitals and the patients are able to take up with them domestic problems, pension matters and other personal troubles. The Red Cross workers assist in working out solutions to difficulties, visit the homes of the patients and do much to keep their minds at rest concerning problems which might otherwise be a big worry to men unable to attend to their own affairs.

It might also be mentioned that the R.S.L. also maintains an office at the 113th to assist servicemen.

(A reporter's article on a visit to the hospital in the early 1940s)

To read more stories like these visit our Museum to see our latest exhibition: 113 Australian General Hospital to Concord Repatriation Hospital. What a journey!

VALE

Mark Durance

**A much loved and
valued member
of our Society.**

**You will be
missed by us all**



Cemeteries in Concord

There seems to have been no less than four locations in Concord designated as cemeteries. *Cemeteries in Concord* tells the stories of each of these cemeteries. Emphasis is placed on the two locations where burials can be documented. They are the churchyard of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church and Longbottom Cemetery, which was where Henley Park is now located in Flavelle Street, Concord.

My family first came to what is now Concord, NSW about 1793. Grose gave the first land grants in 1794. Thus, my interest in the cemeteries of Concord related to both the history of the locality as well as a family interest in the resting place of many family members.

A local tradition stated that some individuals were buried at St Mary's Church. This was confirmed in 2010 when new construction was carried out at St Mary's. I was able to see and photograph the remains of the burials.

Thanks to an archeological survey carried out as part of this construction we now know fairly accurately how many people were buried in St Mary's churchyard.

The Longbottom Cemetery was used for forty years [1870-1910] yet it was not until 1938 that the burials were removed.

The story of how the cemetery was used and the effort it required to clear the cemetery give a great insight into the lives of Concordians.

The life stories of several of the people buried in Longbottom Cemetery are told and illustrate the long association some families had with Concord.

Cemeteries in Concord contains four appendices that list burials and newspaper notices for some of the people buried in each of the cemeteries that we know were used. In addition, there is an index that covers the reinterment of remains at Rookwood.

About the Author

Clare Stapleton Concord, BSc., MSc., Ph.D., was born into a Concord family in 1949. After a career in civil service in Australia and the US, and university teaching and administration, she spends much of her research time in local and family history. She is married, with three children, and lives in Madison Wisconsin.

(Ed: The books will be available shortly at the museum as a cost of \$10.00.)

The Bath Arms, the Prince and the Elephant

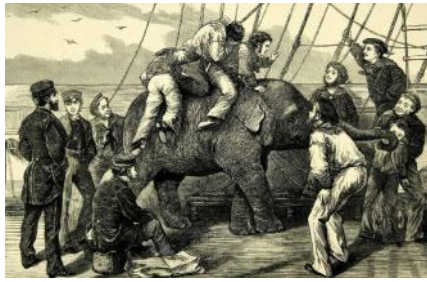
The first visit to Australia by a member of the Royal Family was by Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (the second son of Queen Victoria) in 1867-68, during his round-the-world voyage in command of HMS *Galatea*.

The tour – to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane – was tumultuous, to say the least. It produced an outpouring of national exaltation . . . and of national shame following an assassination attempt on the Prince.

In March 1868 Irishman Henry James O'Farrell shot the Prince at a public function in Clontarf, Sydney. O'Farrell was immediately arrested and was convicted and hanged in April that same year.

While the prince made a quick recovery and was able to leave Australia by early April, many public 'indignation' meetings were held around the country in the weeks after the assassination attempt (around 20,000 people attended an indignation meeting in Sydney the day after the attack).

Australians opened a public subscription fund to build a hospital (Prince Alfred Hospital) as a memorial to his safe recovery. King Edward VII granted the hospital its Royal prefix in 1902.



Not deterred by the above incident Prince Alfred returned a couple of years later, in command of the same ship. However, on this journey he stopped in India, where he was gifted a 4-year-old elephant by the reigning head of Nepal, Jung Bahadoor. The baby elephant, which he named Tom, was taken on board, but was initially difficult, but was soon trained to haul hundreds of tons of coal for the steam engines. It would often wander around the deck freely.

While on board the crew fed him beer and buns, and he soon became used to this diet, sometimes reported to drink 4 gallons of beer in one sitting.

When Prince Alfred and the *Galatea* landed in Sydney for a stay of several weeks, a suitable stable had to be found for this "Royal Elephant". For a few days he was exhibited in Sydney while suitable accommodation was sought.

Emanuel Neich's Bath Arms had a sturdy, large stone stables at the rear which proved to be suitable and for the rest of the Prince's visit Tom was housed there. The Royal Elephant created quite a stir dur-

ing his visit.

On his return to England he was being conveyed to London by the mail train from Plymouth when he attempted to get out of the horse box in which he had been placed. The keeper, a corporal of the Royal Marines, in trying to prevent this was knelt upon by the animal and crushed to death.

Eventually Tom found a home in Dublin Zoo where he would take children for rides. An accident which injured a child saw Tom (then known as Prince Tommy) isolated in the Zoo.

Sadly, his acquired diet of beer and buns led to his early demise. Elephants usually live close to 100, however Tom died at the young age of 16. His skeleton is still, to this day, mounted on display at Trinity College Zoological Museum in Ireland.

An amazing short life for an elephant so well-travelled, and fascinating that in 1870 this Royal elephant was stabled at the Bath Arms (probably being fed gallons of beer and buns that it had become used to). Yet, I guess, back in those times what better place to stable an elephant who could drink 4 gallons of beer in one swoop. Nevertheless, the Bath Arms has the historical honour of looking after the only Royal Elephant ever to visit our shores.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to a tireless community worker. Lorna Wright was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours List.

Couldn't happen to a better person.

Welcome to our collection of members who hold this honour

Yaralla and Rivendell Open Days

We have been given approval for the following dates for our Open Days: Yaralla, 26th April; Rivendell, 26th July; Yaralla, 25th October.

To make plans for the coming Yaralla Open Day we are having a meeting of current guides and helpers at the Museum on Saturday, 21st March at either 10:00 am or 2:00 pm. (time to be advised later)

If you would like to be part of the team, either as a guide, general helper or Devonshire teas, please come along to learn all about it.

While we're talking about Yaralla . . .

There is still some work to be done on the estate which is within the capabilities of our members - and we have money to do the work - so we would like to reactivate our Yaralla Work Group.

Some skill with carpentry would be useful, but there are labourer jobs to do as well.

If you'd like to become part of this group please phone 9744-8528.

We don't discriminate - all welcome, male or female!

Things I've Learned from Life

- * That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- * That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- * That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- * That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- * That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.



A reader is seeking information on the above trophy, which she bought at a garage sale. It appears to be an ash tray and is inscribed around the base of the tray: *P.M. Thompson from Rhodes Community for services in World War II*

Can anyone help?

Welcome . . .

In February we welcomed a new member . . .:

Nadine Wigley

Nadine has been with us for quite a while as a volunteer and has now decided she wants to join us.

My World When I Was 10

Have you submitted an entry for this competition? Have you spoken to others about it? We want a short story from you about what your world was like when you were just 10 years old. You must be a current resident of City of Canada Bay but you need not have lived here, or even in Australia, when you were ten. Entries close on 10th March. This is a Seniors' Week project in conjunction with Council.

This is a story for your grandchildren, great grandchildren, even great great grandchildren to enable them to understand what the world was like when you were their age.

Go to www.canadabayheritage.asn.au to download terms and conditions and submit your entry. Our you can contact us on 9744-8528 or at the museum.

From your Museum Committee

Official Launch of Our current display on Concord RGH: Mayor Angelo Tsirekas will launch this display on Saturday, 7th March at 1:30 pm at the Museum. This will be followed with a talk by Alice Kang about her 40 years connection with the hospital.

We will have a much greater attendance than normal so if you can make a contribution towards the afternoon tea please telephone the secretary on 9744-8528 as soon as possible to let us know what you can bring.

Seniors Week Writing Competition: Prizes will be presented at an afternoon tea on Saturday, 21st March at 2:00 p.m. in the Museum. Please join us for the occasion.

Council Clean-up in the Museum area is on Monday, 9th March. If you can spare some time on the Saturday or Sunday before to help move things out it would be appreciated. Please phone 9744-8528.

Special ANZAC Display at Concord Hospital: Our Society is co-operating with the hospital on this display, which will open on Wednesday, 22nd April in conjunction with the dedication of the new Rose Garden at the front of the hospital.

So that the display can be kept open for 2 to 3 weeks we have volunteered our services to help act as guides. Can you give us some time, please? Phone if you can.

This will also be a good opportunity to publicise our own museum.

Members wanted: The committee needs to recruit more members. If we change our meeting date from a Wednesday to a Saturday would you be more likely to join us?

Our Museum Collection

A special thanks to all our members who have been working with our Mosaic data base to get our whole collection entered.

However, this was just the start. Because we had to do all this very quickly to acquit the grant we received there is a lot of missing information.

We now need to take each individual item and enter a complete description. We also have to change some of the wording to the correct terminology so that it will be easier to retrieve a specific object, or group of objects. At the same time we will need to fix a permanent number to each object.

Because this is such an ongoing job we hope to have mini-working bees every Saturday and Wednesday to get this work done. If you can help just drop by the museum when you have a little spare time.

If you would like to give some time on days other than Wednesday or Saturday this can be arranged. This would be a great opportunity to learn just what we have in our collection and get ideas for future displays.

Fifty Shades of Gray

(Pam Ayres)

The missus bought a paperback
down Shepton Mallet way,
I had a look inside her bag . . .
T'was "Fifty Shades of Grey".

Well I just left her to it,
And at ten I went to bed.
An hour later she appeared;
The sight filled me with dread.

In her left hand she held a rope;
And in her right a whip!
She three them down upon the floor,
And then began to strip.

Well fifty years or so ago
I might have had a peek;
But Mabel hasn't weathered well;
She's eighty-four next week!!

Watching Mabel bump and grind
Could not have been much grimmer.
And things then went from bad to worse;
She toppled off her Zimmer!

She struggled back upon her feet
A couple minutes later;
She put her teeth back in and said
"I am a dominator!"

Now if you knew our Mabel,
You'd see just why I spluttered,
I'd spent two months in traction
For the last complaint I'd uttered.

She stood there nude and naked,
Bent forward just a bit;
I went to hold her, sensual like,
and stood on her left tit!

Mabel screamed, her teeth shot out;
My God, what had I done!
She moaned and groaned
Then shouted out: "Step on the other one!"

Well, readers, I can tell no more
Of what occurred that day.
Suffice to say my jet black hair
Turned fifty shades of grey!

13 Australian General Hospital to Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

What a Journey!



A special thank you to all those who worked over the Christmas break to help setting up our current display. It also involved changing many of the display cases as well.

This was a major effort but by working as a team we got it done.

Well done!

And thank you!

