



“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

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.221

April 2015

Gallows Hill and Barracks “The Rocks” - An Old and Picturesque Area.

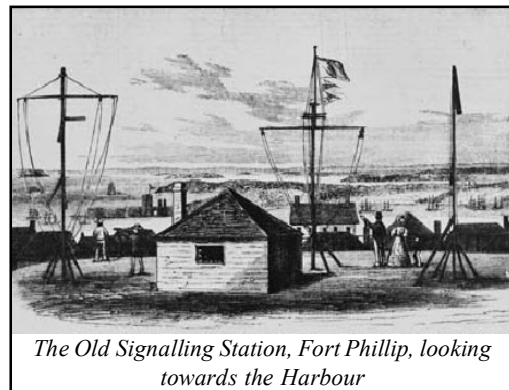
The old “Rocks” area of Sydney is a page of the picturesque and adventurous past almost choked by modernity. It represented better than any other part of ancient Sydney the first hundred palpitating years of Australian history. It was, before its reconstruction 20 or more years ago, a place of narrow tortuous streets, with a curious network of lanes and alley ways; and no end of buildings that wore the marks of a bygone importance. One could easily imagine himself in an old world environment. It teemed with historic associations and all lovers of this quaint bit of old Sydney, scene of the very beginnings of Australia, are sorry it now so largely wears a different face.

The southern abutment of the bridge rests on the crown of “The Rocks” area, and a great causeway in connection with the bridge has been constructed through to the city railway station, now in course of construction at Wynyard Square, which was once the Barracks Square, where the regiments of British soldiers stationed here for so many years were dally drilled. Just about where Petty’s Hotel now stands, the military sentries stood guard, and milking cows wandered past to their grazing ground on Flagstaff Hill. The barracks grounds extended from Petty’s to George Street, fronted George Street (from near Margaret Street) to what today is called Barrack Street; and went from Barrack Street to Clarence Street.

The designation, “The Rocks,” is a literal one. A comparatively high rocky ridge, much of it having been cut away, ran along the western side of Sydney Cove (now Circular Quay). It, therefore, was quite natural for the first people who gathered around the Tank Stream to refer casually to “The Rocks”. According to some authorities, it was about the corner of George Street North and Argyle Street (which leads up to “Argyle Cut”) that the British flag was hoisted on Governor Phillip’s first landing. A representative of “The Rocks” area in the State Parliament once endeavoured unsuccessfully to induce the authorities

at the time of the inauguration of the Commonwealth to arrange for the landing of the first Governor-General there.

Originally the point was known as Point Maskelyne, but this name gave way to Dawes Point in compliment to Lieutenant Dawes, an officer with a scientific bent who erected there an observatory, out of which grew the present Observatory, on Flagstaff Hill. The site of the Observatory was where the first fort in Australia was erected. Fort Phillip it was called, and that is how Fort Street got its name. For the purposes of defence in those days it had a good command of the harbour and of Sydney Cove, the present Circular Quay.



The Old Signalling Station, Fort Phillip, looking towards the Harbour

To “The Rocks” belongs the distinction, if it is one, of possessing the first gaol, and a remnant of it stood till recent years at the top of Essex-street. “Gallows Hill” this place was called, and for many years the name had a grim significance. There, in the olden days, hangings were carried out in full view of the populace - ghastly spectacles which crowds went to see as a gruesome sort of entertainment.

The “Herald” of December 19, 1838, records the hanging of seven men on the one morning. The gaol remained there till 1841, when it was removed to Darlinghurst - and some

DIARY DATES

APRIL 4: Ron Ray, “Bass and Flinders”

MAY 2: to be advised

years ago it was moved from Darlinghurst to Long Bay. The last public execution took place on Gallows Hill in 1841, and the last public execution at Darlinghurst in September, 1852.

The old Military Hospital is known today as the Fort Street Girls' High School, and has for many long days been used for school purposes. Its old walls, if they could speak, could tell some queer stories. It was taken over for school purposes in 1849, its first teaching staff being drawn from what was known as the Irish National School Service.



Fort Street School, 1872

Then it became the Fort Street "Model" School. And next we find the old Institution divided into two schools - the

Fort Street Boys' High School and the Fort Street Girls' High School.

Now, since 1915, the Fort-street Boys' High School has been transferred to Petersham - one easily can imagine the confusion that will arise in the minds of future generations over its name - but the Fort Street Girls' School remains there.

A striking feature of the area is the Argyle Cut.

"The Rocks" was, in the old days, an aristocratic locality. Dalley was born in Princess street. Sir George Dibbs and Sir Thomas Dibbs both scampered about there in their youth, and so did Sir George Reid, whose father was the minister of the old Mariners' Church. Dr. Mitchell, father of David Scott Mitchell, donor of the magnificent Mitchell Library, and Mr. Justice Dowling lived there. So did the Bartons, and Mr. Challis, who made the great bequests to the University. Charles Kemp (who was associated with John Fairfax in the purchase of the "Herald" at the beginning of the forties)

had his home on "The Rocks." It was also home to Thomas Walker before the family moved to Yaralla.

Then, for various reasons, "The Rocks" began to sink in the social scale, just as happened afterwards in the case of The Glebe, Newtown, Lavender Bay and other localities that once were more aristocratic than they are at present, and today a miscellaneous population resides in houses that once were social centres, but whose glory has completely faded. So the world, with its social ups and downs, goes round.

"The Rocks" area still, despite the wholesale demolitions and other vast alterations made in recent years, remains the most interesting bit of old Australia in our midst. Every inch of it is historic ground. Though most of the fascinations for lovers of the old and picturesque are gone, there still are left odd bits here and there that make a visit even to-day well worthwhile.

The Sydney Morning Herald - Saturday 18 April 1931 (Trove)

Why?

*Why are they selling Poppies, Mother,
Selling Poppies in town today?
The Poppies, child, are flowers of love
For the men who marched away.*

*But why have they chosen a Poppy, Mother?
Why not a beautiful rose?*

*Because, my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the Poppies grow.*

*But why are the Poppies so red, Mother?
Why are the Poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child,
The blood that our soldiers shed.*

*The heart of the Poppy is black, Mother.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is a symbol of grief
For the men who never came back.*

*But why, Mother dear, are you crying so?
Your tears are like winter rain.
My tears are tears for you, my child,
For the world is forgetting again.*



Lest we Forget

Current Display at the Museum

**113th Australian General Hospital to
Concord Repatriation General Hospital**

Your Museum Committee has put a lot of work into this display so we hope you get an opportunity to visit and tell your friends as well.

The Way We Were

Even back in 1927, *Open Road* was running popular articles about 'rules of the road'. This particular one reads:

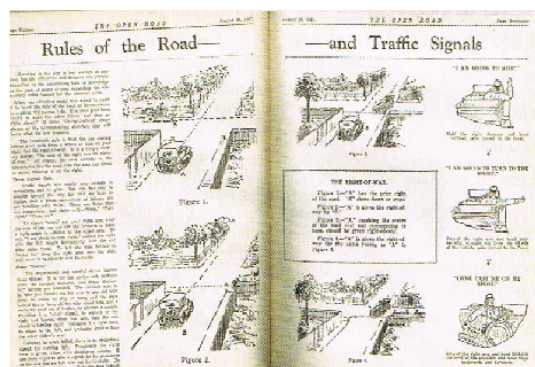
Motoring in the city is bad enough at any time but the difficulties and dangers are greatly intensified by the astonishing lack of knowledge on the part of many drivers regarding elementary rules framed for the common good.

When one offending party was asked in court if he knew the rule of the road at intersections, he replied: "Of course I do. You blow your horn loudly to warn the other fellow and then go right ahead."

On the same page there is also a refresher course on the art of

hand signals. Only three were compulsory at the time: "stop", "turn right" and "come on".

(Ed. The more things change, the more they stay the same.)



Calling all able bodied men . . . and women

We need your help!

Unfortunately our old Working Group has been disbanded - for reasons of health, moving away, etc., so we now need to start again.

There is still work for us to do at Yaralla. Nothing major, small carpentry jobs and cleaning out rubbish and similar.

No special skills required - just the ability to hammer a nail or clean up some rubbish. If you would like to be a part of this working group please phone 9744-8528. We need you urgently.

Over the years the members of the Yaralla Workgroup have achieved great things: the restoration of the squash court, restoring part of the Dairy building, fixing up the Chicken shed, overseeing the restoration of the Four Winds Fountain, the Italian Balustrade and the small farm shed. We have a legacy to be proud of and we want to continue the tradition.

Can you help, please?

An Earth Tremor

One day in the early 1950's, I was in our kitchen when all the cups hanging on hooks started to rattle. In fact, everything seemed to shake. My first thought was the hot water system was going to explode so I raced outside and stood in the middle of the back lawn. I was alone at the time and really did not know what to do. When I went back inside after a short time the rattling stopped but it gave me quite a fright and I have never experienced anything like it again, even in New Zealand where we went frequently when our daughter was living in Wellington for five years. I cannot remember if there were reports in the news about this incident.

John Byrnes

(Editor: This brought back memories of my own experience with the Newcastle earthquake. I was sitting down reading and having a 'cuppa' and I must have dozed off. Suddenly I was woken by loud noises and rattling windows. Only half awake I wondered what was happening. Then . . . the house felt as if it was sliding sideways. Instinctively, my first thought was "earthquake"! I jumped out of my chair and dived for the nearest doorway.)

Out of curiosity I then googled "Earthquakes". John's experience was probably the one in March 1949 in Gunning, which was felt right along the coast, including Sydney. The only other one would be too late – the Newcastle one in 1989 which was also felt in Sydney. But I also came across some, to me, interesting facts. I hope they interest you, too.)

Age-old deficiency

It's about time the authorities did something about older drivers on our roads.

For far too long older drivers have caused havoc as they hog the left hand, stick to the speed limits (even the roadwork limits) and stop at stop signs, causing great inconvenience and often preventing others from doing whatever they like.

Another major concern is that by avoiding fines and demerit points, they are not doing their bit for the revenue of our state and, therefore, placing a further burden on younger drivers.

Until older drivers can prove that they are proficient at weaving in and out of traffic, driving while texting, tailgating, using drugs or doing burnouts, they must be banned from holding a licence.

(Doug Money, Oak Park)

Earthquakes and Australia

Most of the world's earthquakes happen at so-called plate boundaries - parts of the planet where tectonic plates are pushing against one another - and about 80 per cent occur around the edge of the Pacific Plate (the 'Rim of Fire'), affecting New Zealand, Japan, the west coast of North and South America and New Guinea.

Australia doesn't sit on the edge of a tectonic plate. However, the Indo-Australian plate, at the centre of which our continent lies, is being pushed to the north-east at about 7cm per year. It's colliding with the Eurasian, Philippine and Pacific plates, causing stress to build up in the 25km-thick upper crust. This build-up of pressure within the plate can cause earthquakes in Australia.



In Australia - the first professionally operated seismograph was set up by the Jesuit Religious Order at Riverview College, Sydney, in 1909, and this station still operates today.

Only a few other seismographs were set up in Australia (in the major capital cities) from that time until the late 1950's, when rapid world-wide expansion in the number of seismographs occurred (partially in response to the newly-developed atomic bomb).

Today, Australian earthquakes are principally monitored by the Australian National Seismograph Network operated by Geoscience Australia (based in Canberra, ACT). There are approximately 100 stations in this network, and numerous others operated by other authorities.

Australia has more quakes than other regions that sit in the middle of plates and are considered relatively stable, such as the eastern USA. "The level of seismicity does seem to be significantly higher here," says Professor Phil Cummins, an expert on quakes at Geoscience Australia (GA) and the Australian National University's Centre for Natural Hazards. "But no-one really knows why that is."

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor, who was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. A month later he went back to the doctor who said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased you can hear again. To which the gentleman replied: "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will five times!"

According to recent research by GA, there's been about one earthquake measuring magnitude 2.0 or greater every day in Australia during the past decade. "There are likely to be many more smaller earthquakes that we cannot locate because they're not recorded on a sufficient number of seismograph stations," says Clive Collins, a senior GA seismologist.

There have been 16 earthquakes in NSW with a magnitude of 3.0 or more since January 2005.

In the period 1940 to 1994 there were 8 earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or more.

Newcastle region's earthquake risk maps did not note the area as being of particularly high seismicity until the damaging earthquake there in December 1989. In retrospect, the historical record shows quite a number of felt events in the region in the previous 100 years. Although the Newcastle earthquake (magnitude 5.7) was not Australia's largest, this earthquake is its most significant, in that it caused 13 deaths. Nine of these were at the Newcastle Workers Club.

The earthquake caused \$1.5 billion in damage. Another earthquake at nearby Ellalong, 5 years later (magnitude 5.4) caused another \$40 million in damage, but did not cause any injuries or fatalities.

The Dalton-Gunning Region has long been noted as an important source of seismic activity. Damaging earthquakes were located there in November 1934 (magnitude 5.6) and March 1949 (magnitude 5.5), and smaller earthquakes are still occurring in the region.

Many of the earthquakes felt in Sydney have originated to the south of the city. Significant earthquakes have occurred near Picton (1973) and near Bowral (1961 and 1994)

The Snowy Mountains region was one of the first to be intensely monitored and studied for earthquakes, partially because of the commencement of major engineering works for the Snow Mountains Hydro-electric scheme in the 1950's. The Australian National University maintained up to 20 seismic stations in the area through the 1950s and 1960's

When the Bands All Cease to Play

*Have you ever watched the veterans,
parading through the streets?
Have you ever heard the rhythm
of their weary marching feet?*

*Have you ever heard the jingle
of the medals swaying on their chests
When the bands all cease their playing
and the pipers take their rest.*

*Have you ever seen them coming,
down Martin Place as one;
Marching to the beat of
a single muffled drum?*

*Have you ever wonderd why the flags
are flying at half mast?*

*Have you ever watched their faces
as they pass the cenotaph?*

*Have you ever caught a glimpse
of the mist that fills their eyes
As they think about old friends,
no longer by their sides?*

*Then have you seen them raise their heads -
and march as in years gone by -
When the bands commence to play again,
and the pipes their glory cry?*

*For this is the spirit of the ANZACS -
and on this hallowed day
Their friends come back to join them,
but in a special sort of way,*

*Because for every one you see,
marching down the street,
There's a thousand there beside them -
but they march on silent feet.*

*For friendships forged in battle,
are of the rarest kind,
They extend beyond the grave
and withstand the tyranny of time.*

*So, if you listen with your heart,
come next ANZAC Day,
Perhaps you'll understand why
they are marching on parade.*

*It's for the sacred moment -
that moment in the day;
When the pipers take their rest -
and the bands all cease to play.*

Vic (Blue) Jefferies, 9 Sqn RAAF 1966-67



Why do we wear a sprig of rosemary?

"Please wear a sprig of rosemary", the lady said,
and held one out - but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched, as she offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on carefree feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady", said he, "may I have one?"
When she'd pinned it on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear rosemary today?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered, "Today is ANZAC Day,
and the rosemary there is the symbol for
The gallant men who died in war
And because they did, you and I are free -
That's why we wear a sprig of rosemary, you see.

"I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew
And became a man - as you will, too.

"He was fine and strong, with such a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while.
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day
When he turned and smiled at me and said, 'Goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mum, so please don't cry.'

"But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.

Till at last, at last, the war was won,
And that's why we wear a sprig of rosemary, son."
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son - did he come back all right?"

A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the same;
For our thanks, in giving is oft delayed
Though our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!

And so, when we see a sprig of rosemary proudly worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live,
then wear a sprig of rosemary
and remember those who no longer live!

Jean Muller, Tarragal Glen Retirement Village



Yaralla Open Day Sunday, 26th April, 2015

Bookings are now open and we need to know as soon as possible how many guides we will have on the day.

To our regulars, will you please get in touch as soon as possible to let me know as I can't take all bookings until I know how many tours we can do.

Also, we need volunteers to help with the Devonshire Teas. If this is your skill then please let me know if you will be coming.

There will also be an added attraction this time. The Sydney Local Health District has arranged for a Petting Zoo to be on site from 11:30 to 1:30. This will be situated just outside the inner gate so that families can bring their children to visit the Zoo without having to pay to come inside the grounds. Of course, they can book a tour too, if they wish.

Please spread the word about this as much as possible.

If you can help, please phone (9744-8528) or email (heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au) as soon as possible.

If you have ever thought of becoming a guide, this will be a good opportunity to come along and join one (or more) of our regular guides to find out just what is involved.

Concord RGH ANZAC Display

Meeting Hall

**Wednesday 16th April to
Wednesday, 29th April.**

**Open every day
from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.**

This is a display of uniforms, objects, etc. connected with WWI and WWII and the hospital.

We have been helping with the planning for this and also lending some items of our own collection.

Please drop in if you can - it's well worth a visit - and tell all your friends, relatives and workmates.

Many of our committee have offered their services as museum guides on the days. If you would like to help out with this, please phone 9744-8528 and let us know which days you can help