



# "Nurungi" (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society  
email: [heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au](mailto:heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au)  
[www.canadabayheritage.asn.au](http://www.canadabayheritage.asn.au)

EDITOR  
**LOIS MICHEL**  
9744-8528

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PRESIDENT  
**ALAN WRIGHT**  
9743-4869

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
**LOIS MICHEL**  
3 Flavelle Street  
(P.O. Box 152)  
Concord 2137  
Phone: 9744-8528  
Fax: 9744-7591

#### 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.222

May/June 2015

## The Convict Bonnets Project.

In 2012 our society held a display of convict bonnets, titled *Roses from the Heart*, part of a heritage project to honour convict women transported to Australia.

This was the theme for Dr Christina Henri's thesis. She compiled a database of all the ships' voyages, and listed every woman's name and year of arrival. Sometimes their crimes were listed, from the most trivial misdemeanour to really serious crimes but all received 7, 10 or 14-year sentences.

Our exhibition featured stories from the *Harmony 1827* voyage. Each bonnet, made from an original pattern, named different single or widowed lasses assigned to landowners in the greater metropolitan area. Several bonnets also included a child's name.

Letters revealed what life was like at the notorious Parramatta Female factory. Desperate to escape such appalling living conditions, several girls agreed to marry complete strangers, after being lined up and inspected as prospective wives.

Others told of hardships endured before they gained their freedom. Unlike the male convicts, the lasses could not work to earn money for a passage home. Most were soon married and had children, so were compelled to remain in this '*Land of a Thousand Sorrows*' as one convict dubbed it.

Dr Henri expected the whole exhibition of 25,566 bonnets to be completed by July 2013. However, due to heritage funding cuts and other issues, the project is still ongoing. Over 24,600 individual bonnets have been made and sent to Tasmania, where Christina is curator of the Cascade Female Factory Museum in Hobart. She hopes to receive the final 900 this year.

Trish Skehan developed a talk about the project, and has spoken to many Rotary, Probus, Heritage and VIEW clubs. Nursing homes are another venue where people are amazed to hear the stories and see pictures of the decorated bonnets. Many people sponsored bonnets for a gold coin. VIEW – Voice, Interests and

Education of Women – is the fundraising arm of the Smith Family charity.

One VIEW club, after hearing the lecture, donated a large quantity of old lace trimmings. This had been stored away, considered as not suitable for sale in their shops. Another charity donated some rose-themed oddments of fabrics. So Trish contacted Christina again, and got out her sewing machine. "More bonnets, from the *Mary Anne 1840* email you sent me earlier this year."

#### Update from Dr. Christina Henri.

"How lovely to hear from you. The bonnets you have sent me have all been beautiful, thank you so much. I am so pleased to hear that you have been given some additional lace pieces for bonnet embellishment - that's wonderful. Thank you for supporting this project.

I am sending you some more names and stories from the *Angelina 1844*. It is lovely that you have been able to spread the word about *Roses from the Heart*. I am so appreciative. I don't know how many of the people you chat to are internet savvy, but I am sure some of them are, so it would be nice to think they followed what I am up to with the Memorial, especially if they sponsor a convict lass/bonnet tribute.

So I'm very happy for you to pass on my Facebook Page and Tumblr Blog details and of course my email contact.

I met with Ann Ricketts, and was presented with a beautiful bonnet tribute made in memory of Ann Levy to be part of the *Roses from the Heart* Memorial. Ann Levy is the great, great grandmother of Ann's husband Chris.

Ann Levy had Irish connections. Born in Armagh, Northern Ireland, her trade was 'housemaid'. She married Thomas Dunlevy and they were living in Manchester when

## DIARY DATES

JUNE 6 - Robert Hodges, "Not Just Trains, but . . ."

JULY 4 - To be advised

AUG. 1 - Faye Yarroll, "The Gift of Hearing; Cochlear Implants & Lions' Hearing Dogs"

Thomas died accidentally in May 1843 leaving Ann a widow with two young children. Ann was tried in December 1843 in Manchester. She left Woolwich, England on the convict ship *Angelina* with her two children in April 1844 and arrived in Hobart town, Van Diemen's Land in August 1844.



(From Christina's website. Note her children's names on back of bonnet.)

A few days after arriving, her children were placed in the St Johns Orphan School. It is hard to imagine how Ann would have felt being forcibly separated from her two children who had accompanied her to this land so far from home. No doubt Ann would have expected that at the very least she would have her two children with her, but she was wrong.

It must have been very strange for Ann to find herself working at the Orphan School in New Town where she was eventually granted permission to marry. Aged 32, Ann married John Hill at St Georges Church, Battery Point on 11 September 1848. St Georges Church remains - the church spire still dominates the Battery Point skyline today.

On the 20 July 1850 Ann's son Thomas was discharged from the Queens Orphan School into her care. On the 28 April 1852 Ann's daughter Margaret was discharged from the same institution into Ann's care. One can only wonder if the scars of the Orphan School experience ever healed."

### **More stories from the Angelina 1844 voyage. Extract from the surgeon's log.**

The *Angelina* left Woolwich on 28 April 1844 with 170 female convicts and 18 children on board. Two of the children were in bad health on embarkation and died on the voyage. Among the convict women there were three deaths. Harriet Johnson, aged 35, from aneurism, sudden and unexpected; another from phtisis; and the third, Ann Grainger, aged 17. Ann was taken ill at sea. she had been in the enjoyment of good health up to this time. The Surgeon's Log noted: Attacked with severe griping pains about the navel, pulse hard, small and incompre-

hensible; countenance pale and indicating great distress, at once bled to 30 ounces, placed in a warm bath followed by warm fomentations. The patient rapidly got better until early July when she left the hospital and improvidently exposed herself to the cold upon deck. Immediately seized with violent pain about the navel, the disease returned with the greatest severity and she died 4 July 1844. The surgeon considered the voyage a successful one, in which he stated that those unfortunate women were more manageable than he had calculated upon at sailing.

There were no specific convict ships in service at that time. The British government paid any ship to take convicts to Australia if they were prepared to do so. A set amount per tonnage was paid. Larger ships received more money, but had to accommodate more convicts.

The fees paid to the ship owners were so low that only the worst and most decrepit ships were utilised. English Parliamentary records indicate that the average rate to hire a ship for convict service in 1816 was £6 1s 9d per vessel ton, with tonnages typically between 372 to 584.

Each captain had to estimate if he could provision the crew and convicts on the amount stated. Some vessels made several such voyages, many others only one. There was no initial concern about how sea-worthy a ship would prove to be and many were lost on the voyage.

*(to be continued)*

## Concord Tram Explosion

I attended Concord Primary between 1960-1967. The Principal was Mr. Costin.

Back then the school still used inkwells and celebrated May Day and Empire Day. Also there was an elderly teacher named Mrs. Webb.

Once, when in the playground, I found a twisted piece of metal protruding from the ground and dug it up. Mrs. Webb approached and sensibly took the sharp metal piece from me. She explained that it was a part from the steam tram that exploded outside the school and that sometimes pieces of it still surfaced occasionally.

I never forgot her story of the explosion and, although I found that piece of metal decades after the explosion, Mrs. Webb was quite adamant that it was a piece of the tram.

(David Patrick - a comment left on our web site after reading about the tram explosion.

<http://www.concordheritage.asn.au/recollections/flashback-concord-%E2%80%9360-year-review>

## Citizens of Concord

**Peter Whittaker** was born on 24 August 1868 in Altrincham, Wilmslow, England.

He arrived in Brisbane, Qld, on 3 March 1891, where he joined the Royal Australian Artillery in 1892. Later resigned in 1904 with the rank of Corporal.

He married Blanche Bushell in 1898 and they lived on Thursday Island. They had four children - two sons, Eugene and Norman, and two daughters, Hilda and Myra.

The family lived in Tennyson Road, Mortlake in a house called "Alameda".

In 1917 he worked as a labourer on "The Old Tyser".

He worked as a Fireman at Australian Gas Works and later worked at the Mortlake AGL.

He was an active member of the community. Became instrumental in persuading the Council to install the punt from Mortlake to Putney. He fought hard for this and was rewarded by having Whittaker Street, Mortlake (between Hilly Street and Tennyson Road) named after him.

He was a Justice of the Peace for Queensland and later New South Wales. Also a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, NSW.

He died on 12 August 1938.

His son Norman served in WWII, PoW, worked on Burma Railway, played the cornet and bugle. His bugle is in the Melbourne Museum.

He later joined Burwood Band, won solo soprano cornet in Champions of NSW. He was secretary of the Concord Citizens' Band, which performed regularly at Cabarita Park and elsewhere.

*Ada Booth (daughter of Hilda)*

## The Yaralla Cup

As a matter of interest, St. Joseph's College is currently the custodian of the "Yaralla Cup", a perpetual trophy donated and named by Miss E. (later Dame Eadith) Walker in 1895 for the crew (IV) that won the annual Head of the Parramatta River Regatta.

This trophy later became the trophy for the winning 1st IV at the GPS Head of the River Regatta.

I am told that it is the second oldest perpetual trophy in Australia (after the Melbourne Cup), and that it is valued at over \$100,000.

It is certainly a substantial piece of silverware.

Richard Quinn

## The times, they are a-changin'

Whilst recently talking to some friends in the village, the topic of the giving of presents by boyfriends came up, and the attitude of parents to this.

I remember my mother being very annoyed when my boyfriends bought me a lovely top to match my "pedal pushers". I was made to feel like a wanton woman and could not understand her thinking. However, after reading the following excerpt from a 100-year-old book on Household Management, I now know what she was all about:

### Presents from a Gentleman to a Lady.

*The rule as to what to give a lady is fairly well defined and applies much the same to all grades of society.*

*Convention allows the engaged girl to receive presents of value from her fiance, including jewels, furs, etc., but in the case of a male friend or undeclared lover, the gifts should be restricted to flowers, fruit, bon-bons, perhaps books and so forth.*

*It would be a breach of good taste for a man who was not the girl's fiance to buy her a dress or a fur wrap of any value, purchased by him in a shop, but it would be a different matter for one who travels to make presents of treasures brought from foreign lands, or the skins of creatures he himself had hunted.*

Maybe this brings a smile, stirs up memories, or just makes you feel annoyed. Whatever emotion you encounter, it certainly points out that "the times they are a-changin'". (Or certainly have changed.

*Elaine Sheppard, Villa 28*

## Not Just Trains, but . . .

On Saturday, 6th June, 2015 at 2:00 pm in our museum, Robert Hodges will take us on a virtual train trip from Central Station to Moss Vale behind a 38 class locomotive in 1969.



His talk will be interspersed with associated history of the rail system with the aid of 76 images.

In the 1880s, with political pressures, the railways were extended right into the outback. They were leaders in pre-fabrication and pre-cast concrete.

The railway may have seemed romantic, but not for tens of thousands of employees with labour intensive, dirty, and incredibly dangerous shift work; at night, in the rain and heat; in isolated areas.

Mark the date in your diaries NOW!!

(Note: These talks are free and open to anyone who wants to attend.)

### Timeline of Australian Military Involvement

South African War (Boer War) .....	1899-1902
China (Boxer Rebellion) .....	1900-1901
First World War .....	1914-1918
Second World War .....	1939-1945
Occupation of Japan .....	1946-1952
Korean War .....	1950-1953
Malayan Emergency .....	1948-1960
Indonesian Confrontation .....	1963-1966
Vietnam War .....	1962-1975
Iraq, First Gulf War .....	1991
Afghanistan .....	2001-2014
Iraq, Second Gulf War .....	2003-2009
Peacekeeping Operations .....	1947-Present

## Nine Important Facts to Remember as You Grow Older

No.9 - Death is the number one killer in the world.

No.8 - Life is sexually transmitted

No.7 - Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

No.6 - Men have two emotions: hungry and horny, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich, you have a 50% chance of being right.

No.5 - Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

No.4 - Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying hospital, dying of nothing.

No.3 - All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

No.2 - In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

No.1 - Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today might burn your ass tomorrow.

*. . . and as someone recently said to me: Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last that long.*

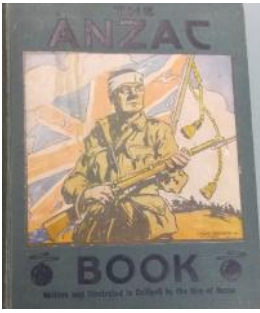


## WWI and WWII ANZAC Display at Concord Repatriation General Hospital

The display was a joint operation between the Ethel Lane Museum at the Hospital and our own City of Canada Bay Museum and it was such an outstanding success that it had to be extended for a further two weeks.

If you missed it you missed something spectacular.





## Gems from our Museum Collection

### Original Edition of The ANZAC Book

**The ANZAC Book** is a true Australian artefact. There's no war book that's quite like it. It's also a time capsule.

The book tells us something of what men thought then - in 915 - on Gallipoli and cut off from the world.

It is not the story of the Gallipoli campaign. That would have been too terrible to tell back then - and, in truth, much of it couldn't have been told for reasons of security.

It is mostly about Australian humour and whimsy, about the Australian custom of making a joke out of adversity; the old Australian habit of not taking oneself too seriously, and of not taking those in authority seriously at all.

Another thing about **The ANZAC Book**; it's about the old Australia which, for better or worse, is now mostly gone.

When War Correspondent Charles Bean, the editor, called for contributions, the Australians had been on the Peninsula for more than seven months. They were still pretty much trapped in the shallow beachhead that had been defined in the days after the landing. The August offensive, the true climax of the Gallipoli campaign, had failed with frightful losses. The men by now knew that their Generals were out of ideas. Ten thousand ANZACS were dead and the survivors were worn out.



Yet, out of this world came this book. Few books of such good humour have been produced in such wretched conditions. Bean received some 150 contributions.

Generations of Australians owe Bean so much, we should see this book for what it was meant to be - a diversion, something to amuse the men as they prepared to spend winter in a hellhole.

It was certainly the most successful book Bean was associated with, selling 100,000 copies in 1916 alone.

*(The ANZAC Book, 3 Edition, edited by The Australian War Memorial. Now, many years later, this book (it's 3rd Edition), is available as an Australian curiosity. Congratulations to Kathy Bail and the University of New South Wales Press for such a splendid production, right down to the deckle edges.)*

## Calling all able bodied men . . . and women

So far we have only had two volunteers (not members of our Society) who have put their hands up to form the Yaralla Work Group. Come on members, don't let our members down - show your support for this gem in our neighbourhood.

There is still work for us to do at Yaralla. Nothing major, small carpentry jobs and cleaning out rubbish and similar. And, if we can get a team together, we will apply to the Heritage Department to rebuild the beautiful Four-Way Pergola.

**Can you help, please?**



## Matthew Fairless Drinking Fountain

This fountain is a dominant feature of Warbrick Park at Concord West. The simple inscription on the fountain reads, '1932. Bequeathed by Matthew Fairless, late of Concord West.'

Matthew Fairless lived and worked on the Yaralla Estate where he was the Herdsman. Yaralla had a herd of prize winning Jersey cows which had been built up through selective imports from Britain in the early 1900s.

His wife Fanny also worked at Yaralla as the Head Housekeeper.

Matthew Fairless died on the 22 November 1931, aged 63 years.

The photograph is from an album, 'Concord Plaques and Public Places', compiled by member Tom Breden, and his wife Fanny, in 1999, as part of a project he undertook to photograph all plaques and memorials in Concord for our Society's archives.

## The Last Post

In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition that mark the phases of the day. While Reveille signals the start of a soldier's day, the Last Post signals its end.

The call is believed to have originally been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as "tattoo", that began in the 17th century. In the evening, a duty officer had to do the rounds of his unit's position, checking that the sentry posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to their beds or billets. The officer would be accompanied by one or more musicians. The "first post" was sounded when he started his rounds and, as the party went from post to post, a drum was played. The drum beats told off-duty soldiers it was time to rest; if the soldiers were in a town, the beats told them it was time to leave the pubs. (The word "tattoo" comes from the Dutch for "turn off the taps" of beer kegs; Americans call this "taps" or "drum taps".) Another bugle call was sounded when the officer's party completed its rounds, reaching the "last post" - this signalled that the night sentries were alert at their posts and gave one last warning to the other soldiers.



*The battalion bugler of the 27th playing the Last Post at sun-down (Frank Hurley).AWM 010451M*

The Last Post was eventually incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell, and symbolises the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.