



“Nurungi” (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society
email: heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au
www.canadabayheritage.asn.au

EDITOR
LOIS MICHEL
9744-8528

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.

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.225

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

Down Memory Lane in an FJ Holden

With the last Holden Commodore about to be launched, let's take a look back to the original Holden.

They say you never forget your first car, and for many people who bought their first car in the fifties, this was an FJ Holden.

Although Holden had been taken over by General Motors in 1930, the car that Ben Chifley unveiled in 1948 was Australian-made and well designed for Australian roads

The simple six-cylinder engine was remarkably easy on petrol, spare parts were available everywhere, and mechanics all over the country knew how to fix it if it went wrong.

In many ways, the FJ Holden represented something of our national story in the '50s — straight up and down, no frills — and it marked an important stage of our development as a nation.

The origins of the Holden company and how it became our first mass-produced car can be traced back to a shop in Adelaide over 150 years ago. It was there that a young English emigrant came to the colony of South Australia and set up his business as merchant, importer and wholesale saddler in the centre of Adelaide.

The town was growing fast, and demand for saddles and harnesses was strong.

Soon the business expanded into buggy tops and upholstery and finally into coach building. It was to be the beginning of one of Australia's great entrepreneurial stories — an innovative family business that seized opportunity in a time of rapid change to become, for a while, Australia's biggest manufacturer.

That young man was James Alexander Holden, and the family business he established went on to produce Australia's most famous car, the Holden.

www.heritageaustralia.com.au



Australia's first mass-produced car was launched by Prime Minister Ben Chifley in 1948.

The Holden Badge

The famous “Lion and Stone” symbol was designed in 1928 by George Rayner Hoff, and represented the legend of man's invention of the wheel. It was subsequently fitted to all Holden bodies and, although undergoing minor changes over the years, remains to this day.



DIARY DATES

OCT. 3 - Leonard Janiszewski, “Shakin' the world over: The Greek Australian Milk Bar.”

NOV 7 - Don Napper, “John Burnet, Colonial Architect”

DEC 5 - Christmas Party

President's Report

The City of Canada Bay Heritage Society has completed a most successful year. We have conducted two Open Days at Yaralla and one at Rivendell, raising funds for work to be undertaken on the Yaralla estate.

We have also catered for individual group tours of Yaralla and our museum on days other than the usual.

Our museum has been very active during the year. Displays included "Postage and Currency from early Colonial Days"; "Lest We Forget", celebrating 100 year anniversary of Gallipoli; "113 Australian General Hospital to Concord Repatriation General Hospital – What a Journey"; and our current display "It All Began with Florence", covering the involvement of Australian nurses in war zones.

We also worked with Jan Bell from the Nurses Museum at CRGH to celebrate the Centenary of Anzac. This was a joint effort with both our museum displaying objects from our collections, and our members as well as hospital volunteers working as guides. This was such a success that we had to keep it open for five weeks instead of the intended two.

In Seniors' Week we organized an Essay Competition with the title "My World When I Was 10. This was quite successful, particularly with the assistance of the staff

of local Nursing Homes. Entrants produced some wonderful childhood stories, which we published in a small booklet.

On the first Saturday of the month, following our monthly General Meeting, we have guest speakers talking on a variety of subjects. These talks have become very popular with attendance varying between 30 and 50 each time. They have proved an excellent way of publicising our museum and displays.

I would like to thank all those members who support the museum and the Open Days at Yaralla and Rivendell. There are some members I would like to thank specially: Roz Miller, who organizes our guest speakers and assists with displays; Patricio Parrague and Bob Badger, who, with their carpentry expertise, have been building stands and other display requirements and rearranging our storage racks in the store room; and Betty Robertson, who spends most days keeping the place ship-shape.

There are many others, whose names I won't list for fear of leaving someone out, but you all know who you are. We deeply appreciate all these wonderful volunteers (members and non-members alike) who give up their time to assist in all our activities.

The museum would not function, or perhaps even not be in existence without the tireless contributions of our Secretary/Treasurer, Lois Michel, who has held the position since

the inception of the Society in 1962. Her dedication and expertise, as she spends countless hours working on all the facets of running a successful organisation, are much appreciated.

Words cannot express our deep sense of gratitude for her tireless efforts in ensuring the success we enjoy.

Currently she is also serving as a member of the Yaralla Advisory Committee, which is working to make the estate more open and inviting for the general public.

Our Museum Committee meets at the museum on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am and we would like to see more members become involved with this – bringing fresh ideas and assistance to help lighten the load for those currently involved. This committee is the backbone of the society – without it we wouldn't function.

Our Walker Open Days are also in need of more volunteers – to act as Tour Guides, help with the Devonshire Teas, or just to be "sitters" in various places around the area. The money we have raised from these days has allowed us to carry out major renovation/restoration of buildings that Health could not spend money on.

Finally, once again I would like to thank all those who contributed over the year to ensure that the history and heritage of our area is protected and displayed.

Alan Wright, President

Secretary's Report

Apart from the very successful displays we have produced we have regular guest speakers on a range of different subjects – something to suit everyone. As you can see, the subjects are varied.

During the year we had: Gregory Blaxell, "Banjo Paterson" Tony Cunneen, "Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson and the Yaralla Connection"; Lyn Fergusson, "Admiral Arthur Phillip – the man"; Brenda Inglis-Powell, "Soldiers in Different Armies"; Catherine Bishop, "Everyday Objects & Colonial Women's Lives"; Daphne Lowe Kelley, "Chinese Australian History and Heritage"; Alice Kang, "The Concord Repatriation General Hospital"; Ron Ray, "Bass & Flinders"; Judith Godden, "Lucy Osburn, a lady displaced"; and Robert Hodges, "Not Just Trains, but . . .".

The Museum Committee has decided to only mount two displays each year as organising them can take much time in researching the subject then collating all the data and photographs. Then comes the task of writing up successful

descriptions. And that's just before we actually mount the display. It would be great to have some extra hands on board to lighten the load. Please don't feel you have to be an academic to help on this committee – there is much more behind-the-scenes work to be done as well. We just need willing workers.

There's sewing, cleaning, sorting, packing, reading, writing, researching, errands . . . the list is endless. Non-members as well as members would be welcomed into the group.

We also need volunteers to be rostered as museum guides – just walking around and chatting with visitors, explaining objects, etc. This would probably only mean working one day every couple of months at the museums.

The Yaralla Volunteers meet about three times a year to discuss the last Open Day and prepare for the next. They need Tour Guides for the grounds (all information packages supplied). They also need people to help with the Devonshire Teas or just to act as "sitters" at various locations around the grounds. If you're not sure about putting your hand up to act as a guide, please

come along to the next Open Day and do some tours with our regular guides, just to learn the ropes.

The Yaralla Workgroup. There is still some work to be done around the estate – simple carpentry work or just an offsider. We need to finish off the work on the chicken shed, rebuilt the chicken run, do general work around the piggery. We would also like to restore the Four-Way Pergola and the Dog Cemetery. Do we have any carpenters, handymen, assistants out there who would volunteer to reactivate this committee? Just let us have your name. Again, non-members and well as members are welcome to become part of the team.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those volunteers who have worked so hard over the year to make our museum such a success. I won't name names, but you are all wonderful. The one comment from visitors that always stands out is: "This is the best museum I've ever visited". This is only because your dedication to the museum has made it so.

Lois Michel (Secretary/Treasurer)

Early Broadcast Radio In Sydney

You may notice that the heading of this item is restricted to Sydney. I had to confine it to an area as the same story may have occurred in other capital cities of Australia. I have also mentioned "broadcast radio". The reason for this is to talk about voice radio as opposed to Morse code which occurred many years earlier.

Let's talk about the radios from this early era. First of all the radio sets were 'sealed'. This meant that a particular radio could only be used to receive one radio station. Luckily there were only two or three stations in operation before this rule was changed. This meant that if you wanted to listen to three radio stations you had to buy three radios and with radios costing over a week's wages this proved fairly expensive.

It must be noted that each radio was constructed as a piece of furniture as can be seen from the photograph.

The second thing is these early radios ran from batteries. There were two batteries in the radio, one was a 1.5 Volt and the other one was a 90 Volt (usually consisting of 2 x 45 Volt batteries in series). These batteries were quite expensive and only lasted between two and three hours, so the radios were used sparingly, generally to listen to the 7 o'clock news and that was about all.

This restricted use of radios continued until electricity was more widely available and they could be powered by a battery eliminator. (You use a battery eliminator to charge your mobile phone).

The first official radio broadcast took place in Sydney in 1919. This was a transmission by Ernest Fisk of the Australian National Anthem (God Save the King) between two buildings.

The first radio station to go to air was 2SB (later renamed to 2BL) in November 1923 although it was not the first radio station to hold a licence. The first station to be licensed was 2FC and the licence was issued in July 1923. This station was owned by Farmer and Company (remember that store?).

Because of the 'sealed radio' system there were only about 1400 licences issued by 1924. So the government decided to scrap this system.

A new system was introduced where there were two classes of licences - one for the government and a second for private commercial owners. As a

result of this new system there were over 40,000 listeners by the end of 1924 and over 80,000 listeners by the end of 1925.

The two government stations in Sydney were 2SB and 2FC, while the first commercial radio station to be licensed in Sydney was 2UE, which went to air in early 1925.

There was an earlier commercial radio station to go to air (2BE) in late 1924, but this station lasted only five years before going broke.

Remember that during this time if you wanted to listen to a radio you had to pay for a radio licence which went to finance the government's radio stations. The date the need to hold a licence was abandoned is unknown to the author.



The 1930s saw commercial broadcasting boom in Sydney (this could make an interesting article for the future).

One station which may be of interest is 2KA, which was launched in 1935 to service the Blue Mountains area of western Sydney.

So there you have it. The very early start of broadcast radio in Sydney.

Who would think that we have progressed from a sealed radio set that we had to pay about 10 shillings licence fee to the current plethora of methods of receiving radio.

You know what I mean - the kids with their mobile phones blasting away in a train carriage or the I-thingo that seems to be everywhere.

Oh well, that's progress I guess.

Frank Dickson

The Nepean District Historical Society Bulletin,
April 2015. Published with permission



It All Began With Florence

Florence Nightingale is regarded as the founder of modern nursing. She came to prominence during the Crimean War.

The involvement of Australian women as nurses in war began in 1898 with the formation of the Australian Nursing Service of NSW, from which sixty nurses served in the Boer War.

Australian nurses have been involved in a number of wars, including the Boer War (1899-1902), World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953), the Vietnam War (1962-1972) and the Gulf War (1990-1991).

Visit our museum to learn of the conditions and hardships these nurses had to work in and their courage in the face of the enemy.

Worry

Why worry? Either you are successful, or you are not successful.

If you are successful, you have nothing to worry about.

If you are not successful, you have only two things to worry about;

You are either well or you are sick.

If you are well, you have nothing to worry about.

If you are sick you have two things to worry about;

You are either going to get better or you are going to die.

If you are going to get better you have nothing to worry about.

If you are going to die you have two things to worry about;

You are either going to heaven or you are going to the other place.

If you are going to heaven you have nothing to worry about.

If you go to the other place you will find yourself so busy shaking hands with all your old friends that you will have no time to worry.

So, WHY WORRY?

When cannon balls crashed into Sydney

Australia has never been invaded, but on the afternoon of May 20, 1814, the residents of Sydney were given a small taste of what it may involve.

A fortnight earlier the transport *Three Bees*, 459 tons, Captain John Wallis, had reached the colony from Cork with 210 Irish convicts. She had discharged her cargo and was lying at anchor near the government wharf when, about 4.30 pm, dense columns of smoke were seen to be pouring from her hold.

There were known to be 30 casks of gunpowder in her magazine — a number increased by rumour to 130 — and if this blew up the damage could be disastrous. The fire had already gained too great a hold to be checked, and there was no chance of scuttling the ship.

Fortunately the wind was from the south, so her anchor lines were cut and she began to drift towards the entrance of the Cove. Other ships in the vicinity hurriedly raised anchor and moved from their berths to keep well clear of her, and panic-stricken residents deserted their homes and fled.

The situation was described graphically by the Sydney Gazette. "A ship of nearly five hundred tons burden, cast loose, it may almost be said in the middle of the town, unmanageable, and pouring forth columns of smoke and fire, threatening desolation all round her, with her guns all loaded. First pointed upon one object and then upon another, and every instant expected, by her explosion, to throw down or cover with the dreadful blast all the buildings near her!"

The first gun went off at about 6.30 pm and the shot whistled over the premises of Garnham Blaxcell, merchant, and the barracks guard house before it thudded safely to earth. Then came 13 shots from other guns in rapid succession and in random directions.

There were several narrow escapes, the Gazette reported, the only actual damage was caused when a swivel ball crashed through a window into Captain John Piper's parlour, destroyed its inner shutter and took the corner off a portable writing desk.

Soon afterwards the *Three Bees* drifted on to the rocks at Benelong Point at the eastern entrance of the Cove and there, well clear of the main settlement, her magazine finally exploded about 8.30 pm.

"It was not by any means as awful as had been expected", the Gazette wrote

almost with disappointment, and the damage to buildings facing the Cove was nil.

What remained of the ship continued to blaze dramatically through the night and by morning she was burnt to the water-line.

*Heron Flyer, May 2015
Published with permission*



guest speaker

Saturday, 3rd October, 1915
at 2:00 pm

Leonard Janiszewski

"Shakin' The World Over:
The Greek-Australian Milk Bar"

Milk shakes were popularised through milk bars and, contrary to popular belief, milk bars were not an American invention. They were initially created in Sydney in 1932 by a Greek known as Mick Adams. His idea for the milk bar developed through influences from both Greece and the United States.

During the first week of opening, Adams' Black & White 4^d Milk Bar attracted over 27,000 customers - traffic had to be halted in a then non-pedestrian Martin Place.

Adams' refreshment revolution quickly became an Australian and international food-catering icon.

Our speaker, supported with numerous rare images, will explain how.

These talks are open to anyone who would like to attend. There is no charge (but donations are always welcome) and you're invited to stay for afternoon tea and a chat with the speaker.

From the Secretary's Desk

My special thanks to all our wonderful volunteers. Without you we would not have our wonderful museum or the ability to create such interesting and informative displays.

You turn up at the museum to help whenever you can. You tackle whatever tasks have to be done without complaint and with a happy smile.

You turn up for Open Days, no matter what the weather is like.

*It's not for money, it's not for fame,
It's not for any personal gain,
It's just for love of fellow man,
It's just to give a helping hand.
It's your reward in your heart,
It's a feeling that you've been a part
of helping others far and near.
That makes you want to
VOLUNTEER.*

Many thanks for all your help

For the person who knows everything!!!

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.