



# '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**.

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## Museum Committee

Meets on 3rd Wednesday of month  
at 10:00 am at museum  
(everyone welcome)

## Chairperson

Dear Lois. I note that  
you are to have a  
speaker on the subject  
of Len Beadel. May I be  
so bold as to forward

## 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](mailto:museum@canadabayheritage.asn)

## Hyde Park: the People's Common



Hyde Park Corner c1790

Defined by Governor Phillip as the "Sydney Common" in 1792, Hyde Park was progressively known as the "Exercising Ground" "The Cricket Ground" and the "Racecourse." Governor Macquarie, in his grand plan for Sydney called it, optimistically, "Hyde Park" after the select London area. It was to be used exclusively for the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants and as a field of exercise for the troops.

The Park was divided into four portions and originally extended as far as the Devonshire Street of today, including Belmore Park and Central Station. The first race meeting in Australia organised by Macquarie's regiment, the 73rd, was held in October, 1810. The Start, Winning Post and Grandstand stood at the top of Market Street. The course swept towards the Hyde Park Barracks, then along to St. Mary's Cathedral to the top of Bathurst Street and along Elizabeth Street. The winning post was "not far from the gallows."

The governor laid down strict rules: "No Booths, Stalls or Shops will be allowed on or near any Part of the Race Ground." He specifically forbade all species of "Gaming, Drunkenness, Swearing, Quarrelling, Fighting or Boxing" on or near the Race Ground.

Six years later Governor Macquarie was into his innovative stride. He planned a walk through the park centre, planted English oaks and named it Lachlan after his son. To the locals it became "Lovers' Lane". Locusts thrived in the trees and the avenue became a small boys' hunting ground. Without the oaks, someone

remarked, it would have been a "dreary waste".

The Colony celebrated its first thirty years on 26th January, 1818 in the Park with a "Special Gala Day" and a Military Revue. Three years later racing was banned and Captain Piper transferred his prize thoroughbreds to the shores of Rose Bay. The first accredited cricket match was played in 1827 with the local born "Australians" playing the military "Victorians" and chalked up "notches" instead of runs. With the pounding of feet, hooves, roaming oxen, cows and goats, Hyde Park had developed into a dust bowl and was fenced off in 1830.



Hyde Park, Barracks and Mast, 1817

A year later a momentous decision was made to create Park street, right through the middle of the old race-ground "over Woolloomooloo Hill" but it was to be another four years before squabbling property owners came to a decision.

Meanwhile, Mr. Busby had been busy constructing his water pipeline from the Lachlan Swamps. His standpipe stretched across Hyde Park on trestles and terminated near the corner of Elizabeth and Park Streets. In the severe drought of 1838-9 the Sydney Herald reported: "Great distress exists in Sydney especially at the northern end, in consequence of the scarcity of water. The stream from the pipes on the Racecourse (Hyde Park) is very

## DIARY DATES

October 1 - Paul Cooper, "Thomas Walker's Philanthropy.

November 5 - to be advised

December 3 - Christmas Party (everyone welcome.)

small—so small that the men cannot fill the water carts without waiting four or five hours for a turn. Threepence per bucket is the price now asked.”

Mr Braim, sometime Headmaster of the Sydney College (to become the Sydney Grammar School) put pen to paper in 1843 to describe his area which he still called the “Race-course”. It was, he wrote, “a healthy open Common. It contributes to the health of the City of Sydney that it enjoys within a few minutes walk of the city and busy streets, the privilege of open and healthy public grounds exposed to the bracing sea breezes and all the advantages of an Australian air”.

That same year a portion of the population had other things than sea breezes on their minds. It was the first Election day and loyalties were very divided. One nominee’s supporters brawled their way from Observatory Hill where they had created havoc, up to Elizabeth Street into Hyde Park and chased the Police Magistrate, the gallant Captain Innes on horseback. Unable to get out of the usual gate on the northern side, with discretion rather than valour, “set his horse to the fence” and cleared it successfully. The popular candidates’ friends, the “Cabbage Tree Mob” were waiting for the opposing side, “a short battle took place with fists” and the rioters were driven o .

Hyde Park was still a dust bowl. That intrepid traveller of the 1840’s, Colonel Godfrey Mundy was not complimentary. He described the Park as merely “a fenced common, without a blade of tree or blade of grass”. In the 1850s Guy Fawkes Day was celebrated by the soldiers of the 11th Regiment. Their opponents were again the “Cabbage Tree Mob”. Crackers and squibs were thrown from one end of Park to the other until ultimately the caper was banned due to “injury to persons and property.”

By 1857 money had been provided to create gardens in the Park “on the London principle” and Sydney boasted a modest sewerage system. To be circumspect, Major Thornton ordered an outlet vent to be built in the form of Cleopatra’s Needle—a miniature facsimile of the original on the Thames Embankment, London. It became derisively known as “Thornton’s Scent Bottle.” Almost on the northern corner

of Elizabeth and Park Streets, it still stands in pristine primness.

Sydney really extended itself with a Citizens’ Ball for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh on 5th February, 1868. Three thousand excited souls, from the humblest to the highest were invited. The city did not have accommodation to cope with such a number so a Pavilion was created in Hyde Park. It was a wooden structure with a galvanised iron roof and “two odd-looking turrets” on which were transparencies of the Arms of the City and full length portraits of the Duke. Ugly on the outside, inside the citizens goggled at the opulence around them. There were card rooms, drawing and supper rooms, private rooms for the Duke and his suite, a fountain with gold and silver fish swimming around, and encompassed by a “forest of ferns.” There were another three fountains “supplied with choice Colonial Perfumes which were kept playing the whole night.” In the heat of February the aroma was probably more than welcome. Fire engines were strategically placed around the building, ready at a moment’s notice. The Duke retired reasonably early, but the Bands played on and Sydney awoke next day to a giant hangover.

On the southern side of Park Street a statue of Captain Cook was unveiled in 1879 by Governor Robinson. 1933 saw the unveiling of the Archibald Fountain and a year later the War Memorial by the Duke of Gloucester.

\* \* \* \*

On a spread of living history, Hyde Park has seen many changes. During the Second World War, the Anzac Buffet was a thriving outlet for the Australian Armed Forces. The Park has had a facelift with new landscaping. Host to the City of Sydney Festivals in the 1980’s, under the canopy of trees, stalls dispense all manner of foods from many countries with fun fairs as an extra attraction. The Arts were not forgotten as painters, poets and writers gathered. In 1988, the Bicentennial twinkle of lights are a fitting tribute to Hyde Park, still needed as “the lungs of Sydney”.

Valmai Phillips

Assistant Honorary Librarian, RAHS

*(Originally printed in the magazine of the RAHS, December 1988. reprinted with permission)*

## Nurungi: snippets from the past.

While looking through some past issues of our newsletter for some research I came across some snippets that bear reprinting. Do you remember any of these?

**Flavelle Jewelers** (residence, Cnr. Wellbank & Flavelle Streets - now the site of Concord Library):

In Rolf Boldrewood’s Australian classic, “Robbery Under Arms”, Flavelle’s Jewellery Shop is the one referred to by Captain Starlight when presenting a watch to the girl, Bella. (Ch.XXIV)

Quote: “Where in the world did you get this? I suppose you didn’t buy it in George Street.” “It was bought in George Street”, says he, “and here’s the receipt. You needn’t be afraid of wearing it to church or anywhere else. Here’s Mr. Flavelle’s name, all straight and square. It’s quite new, as you can see.” Unquote.

Back in the 1920s the old mansion stood well back, surrounded by well kept lawns and gardens. A man was employed to keep all this in good order. In the fruit season the boys would inspect the orchard, and many a hard run we had to escape this man before reaching the security of thick bush along Brewer Street.

**Jim Kenny** (Cnr. Correys Avenue & Flavelle Street): About 1910 Jim Kenny, a hunchback whose affliction forced him to walk with a decided stoop, delivered fruit and vegetables. He was a man of good humour and ready wit. The family home, reminiscent of earlier colonial days, stood on the approximate line of Davidson Avenue. Blackberry bush grew in profusion on Kenny’s side of Flavelle Street, almost from Flavells to Correys Avenue.

**Delfosse Badgery** (Correys Avenue)

About 1916-1918 he parked his plane near a fence that was roughly in line with the present day Concord Bowling Club. Aeroplanes, in those days, were something unique. For a few weeks Badgery was a familiar sight flying around the district and to the kids it was really something to get a wave from the visible aviator at 100 to 200 feet above.

**Rabbits in Concord:** From approximately 1910 to 1915 a great stack of poles (presumably for telephone use) was piled up neatly where Homedale Avenue joins Cross Street. This great pile of timber covered an area of about 200 feet by about 200 feet and was approximately 14-15 feet high. Under this fortress the rabbits of Concord made their last stand.

There must have been hundreds of them, not only entrenched under the timber, but well in evidence in the surrounding open paddocks, burrows, “squats” and the usual evidence of the presence of rabbits.

Shooting and trapping by the locals of course took its toll, but it was not until the logs were finally removed that they were defeated.

**Out of the Mouths of Babes:** A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. “Mama, look what I found!” the boy called out. “What have you got there, dear?” With astonishment in the young boy’s voice, he answered, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear!”

## Among the Greatest

Matthew Flinders was born on 16th March 1774. He came from a stable and intelligent family; his family hoped for a medical career but it was not to be.

Matthew stood 175cm. His childhood shows him as an excellent student, his favourite subject being maths. As a young lad he read Robinson Crusoe – it appears from this reading he made a decision to join the Navy. He had an uncle also in the Navy who gave him due warning as to life at sea. Matthew was not to be discouraged, entering the RN as a Lieutenant's servant aboard HMS Alert on 23 October 1789.

Matthew's first sea voyage was aboard HMS Providence, sailing on 3 August 1792. Returning home he offered himself for further service. Matthew sailed again to Australia, using all his mapping skills to chart three quarters of our unknown coastline.

Early in 1803 he applied for leave to return to his wife. The only ship available was a small schooner, the Cumberland. The ship was never built for ocean voyages, having only 1.8m free board, but being the only boat available he took the opportunity – in all, a most unsatisfactory vessel.

The Cumberland reached Mauritius on 3 December 1803. Unknown to the crew, England and France were at war. Matthew did not speak French so this became his first problem, secondly were discrepancies in the ship's papers. His superior British attitude did not help any, and the Governor of Mauritius decided the most diplomatic way was to make the whole crew guests of France – for 6½ years Matthew remained a guest.

Matthew was given a small chateau in the hills & here he worked on his charts. He also taught himself French & the local farming families went out of their way to entertain him – he was also very fond of them. When news came that a British ship of war had arrived to take him and his men home to England, he learned that the war had been over for 10 months.

On his return he continued working on his charts and today we marvel at the accuracy of his work. Matthew Flinders died on 19 July 1814 aged 40 years and 4 months; the cause of his early death was, in our modern medical terms, severe renal obstruction.

Few men indeed achieved in 40 years as much as Flinders did – truly among the greatest.

## Alas Poor Francis

Francis Howard Greenway was born and bred in Bristol, England. He first worked with his father in his stonemason yard, and later he studied architecture under a Mr John Nash until 1805. Francis and his brother then went into business that year, but by 1809 this venture failed. In 1812 Francis found himself in court on a forgery charge; he was found guilty and the death sentence was pronounced. This was later commuted to 14 years in the colony of New South Wales.

Francis arrived in the colony in 1814 and that same year he opened his own business. Being a convict, this could not have happened without the consent of the Governor, whom we must assume was impressed with his papers, for that year he also received his ticket of leave. That same year he became the Inspector of Public Works. His impression on the Governor was considerable, for by 1816 he was the Civil Architect and Assistant Engineer for the colony, on a salary of 30 cents a day.

His talent as a builder impressed all who saw his work. Amongst his most outstanding achievements are St Matthews at Windsor, built in 1817, St Luke's Liverpool in 1818 and St James' in Sydney, built in 1819. For this work, Francis Greenway received full citizenship. In total he designed over 40 buildings in the colony, though regrettably only 11 now remain.

Being headstrong and of a fiery nature, he fought with almost everyone including his benefactors who had helped him in all his endeavours. He suffered from penury, and both he and his wife died in 1837.

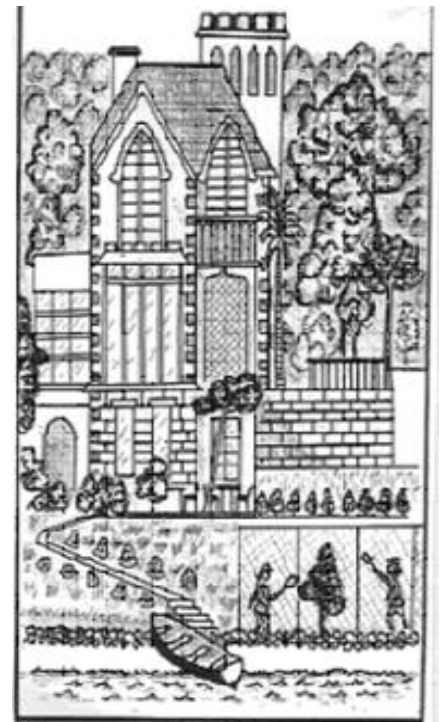
The final tragedy of this man who gave so many beautiful monuments to us was that he was buried in an unmarked grave at East Maitland – truly a sad and undignified end to a man whose name is revered today.

## A Castle not Far

Whilst enjoying a pleasant walk along our waterfront, only very few have noticed a Prussian Castle built across the river at Huntley's Point. Very little is known regarding the reason why such a building, with such ornate Italianate features, would be built so far away from the CBD of Sydney town one hundred odd years ago.

Mr Oscar Schulze commissioned the design and building in 1887 and he lived for a short time in the castle. The register of residents shows that between 1909 and 1911, the castle was the residence of the Consul General of Germany.

To find this castle, one must stand at the end of Harbourview Crescent, look for Searl Monument and then the Castle can be seen. It is the third house to the left, so all you opera buffs out with your glasses, check out the tennis court, the pool and those beautiful gothic windows.



## Yaralla Open Day

**Sunday, 30th October, 2016 - Gates open at 9:30 am**

**Cost:** \$15.00 adults, \$10 concession, children free.

Bookings are essential and they are all done on line on our web site:  
[www.canadabayheritage.asn.au](http://www.canadabayheritage.asn.au)

**Come along and bring your friends**



If you're hungry on the day you can buy Betty's delicious tea and scones, or for something more substantial try our sausage on a roll from our Barbecue Trailer



# The Six O'Clock Swill

THE six o'clock swill was an Australian and New Zealand slang term for the rush to buy drinks at the pub before closing time.

During a significant part of the 20th century, most Australian pubs turned off the beer at 6pm, which resulted in a culture of heavy drinking between 'knock-off' time at 5pm and mandatory closing an hour later. Six o'clock closing generated an hour-long drinking session, as men stood shoulder to shoulder, packing bars to get as many drinks as possible before the "time gents" call.

Six o'clock closing was introduced during the First World War, partly as an attempt to improve public morality and partly as a war austerity measure. Before the 'swill', most Australian pubs closed at 11 or 11.30pm.

The first state to introduce early closing was South Australia in March 1916, where the law had been approved in the previous year in a referendum. Six o'clock closing was subsequently adopted in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania later in 1916. Western Australia adopted a 9pm closing time, while Queensland retained the old closing times until it introduced 8pm closing in 1923.

Bar closing times were extended to 10pm in Tasmania in 1937, NSW in 1955, Victoria in 1966, and South Australia was the last state to abolish 'the swill' in 1967.



*Crowd in front of the Imperial Hotel on Monday evening. The first night on which all licensed premises were closed at 6 o'clock - The Adelaide Chronicle, Saturday, April 1, 1916*

The above is an article from TIME Gents, a collection of Australian pub histories, stories and yarns, legends and traditions by journalist and writer, Mick Roberts. Along with stacks of historic images, Times Gents takes a look at the liquor industry and culture that grew-up around hotels or pubs. For many decades the call of "Time Gentlemen Please" meant six o'clock closing in pubs, marking the end of another day's trading.

The following are genuine announcements taken from church magazines. They featured in the December/January issue of St. Andrews Church Magazine, and are reproduced here with the kind permission of its editor Mr. David Pratt.

- )] Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.
- )] Thursday night - potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- )] Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- )] For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- )] The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- )] This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- )] The service will close with "Little Drops of Water". One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.
- )] Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.
- )] The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement on Saturday.
- )] A bean supper will be held on Tuesday Evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- )] At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be "what is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

## From the Secretary's Desk



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Attendance at the meeting was very disappointing - just enough to make up a quorum.

Members - this is your Society! We need our members to have a more active interest in the way the Society operates. It only needs about an hour of your time to attend the monthly meetings - and then you can stay on to hear our great speakers and the interesting subjects they bring to us.

What we need is new blood to bring new ideas if we are to continue as one of the best suburban museums.

The following members were elected to office: President, Alan Wright; Vice-President, Harry Kimble; Secretary/Treasurer, Lois Michel; and Assistant Secretary, Roz Miller.

**NURUNGI:** I will be continuing as Editor of Nurungi in the absence of any volunteer - but it would be appreciated if members could occasionally send in articles they have written on our history or interesting articles they may source from the internet or other publications.

**ROLLS ROYCE CAR CLUB:** Unfortunately, due to unforeseen problems the Club will not be at our Yaralla Open Day on 30th October.

**YARALLA SPRING FAIR:** This was a great success with lots to see and many visitors. It was a great opportunity for us to take visitors on short tours of the estate to arouse their interest in joining us for our next Open Day. Special thanks to all those who gave time to man our stalls and especially to our wonderful guides.

**JOHN BYRNES' RESEARCH:** John is a member who is interested in contacting anyone currently interested in researching anything. If you are interested you can contact him by email [john.mail@ozemail.com.au](mailto:john.mail@ozemail.com.au) or telephone 9747-3701