



'Nurungi'

(Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society

email: heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au

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)

Walker Estates Committee

Meets as required

City of Canada Bay Museum

1 Bent Street, Concord

Open Wed & Sat
10am to 4pm

Guest Speaker

1st Saturday of each
month at 1:30 for 2:00 pm

Phone: 9743-3034
during museum hours

heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au

The Zoological Gardens, Moore Park

This month Taronga Zoo is celebrating its 100th birthday so it seems appropriate to take you back to the beginning of the Zoo. When sorting our library books we came across a delightful booklet, written in 1985 by Joseph W. Waugh, a year 10 pupil at Sydney High School, which details the history of the Moore Park area.

The Formation of the Zoological Society.

The Zoological Society saw its formation when a meeting for 24th March, 1879 was called for by Messrs. Walter Bradley and Harry P. Mostyn, with a view to the formation of a "Society for the acclimatisation of song birds and useful game". Four hundred members were enrolled, a figure that, after the first three years, was not again exceeded until 1925, and £500 was collected, a sum which the State Government matched with contribution.

A number of game and other birds were purchased and liberated in the State, including pheasant, Californian quail, sky larks, gold-finches, yellow hammers, black birds, linnets, bull finches, horned owls and Chinese quail. Five thousand brown trout ova were imported from New Zealand, were hatched at Coverwall and liberated in Bega. The pheasants and Californian quail later proved to be pests and the black birds did not prosper as they could not establish a preferred diet. Walter Bradley at first permitted the Society to use his aviaries at Randwick and his stores in O'Connell Street, Sydney.

The Zoological Gardens.

The Society continued with its acclimatisation activities, but many members turned their interests to the formation of a Zoological Garden.

On 30th June, 1879, a request to the Mayor of Sydney for land was granted. The area, within Moore Park, was known as Billy Goat Swamp. £125 was voted for the building of a cottage and £50 for aviaries. So in July 1880 work began in Moore Park and the future of the Sydney Zoo began to take shape.

By 1882 the labours of the New South Wales Zoological Society were becoming productive of good fruit. The grounds had been levelled and planted and a considerable lake had been formed. The total

cost of buildings and improvements came to £1,119/8s/10d., but much was yet to be done. More aviaries were needed and proper animal houses were required. Plantations of trees and shrubs were required to screen and shelter the birds from the wind, which at times could be particularly bleak and cold in Moore Park.

In 1882, the State Government granted the Society the sum of £1,000. The following year saw the arrival of two elephants. There are two widely varying accounts as to how they were given to the Zoo, the first such account being that they were a gift from the King of Siam, the second being that they were purchased by means of a subscription which amounted to £352.



One of the elephants, Jessie, lived to see the move to Taronga Park in 1916. Jessie died some time later during the Great War. Following her death, Jessie's hide was purchased by the Sydney Grammar School, which used it to make leather boots for its horse. The horse was used to draw a two ton sandstone roller in preparation of the turf wicket at their sports ground, Weigall. The leather boots were worn by the horse so as to protect the wicket from the horse's hoofs.

DIARY DATES

November 5 - to be advised

December 3 - Christmas Party (everyone welcome.)



The Society's grounds were opened to the public in 1884 and by 1887 they were observed to be in "a very thriving condition".

The Animals at the Zoo.

The animal collections at the Zoo have been many and varied over the years, and were gradually built up during the more than 35 years of the Zoo's existence. Following are lists of some of the animals, one from 1882, before the gardens were opened to the public, and 1906, ten years before the move to Taronga Park.



1882: 5 silver pheasants, 8 English pheasants, 6 young pheasants, 1 pair of pea fowl, 11 Californian Quail, 9 rosella parrots, 2 tui tui, 1 kangaroo, 1 flying mouse, 5 flying squirrels, 3 eagle hawks, 3 small hawks, 3 hares, 1 mountain duck, 1 widgeon, 1 pair of Mandarin ducks, 2 brown coloured ducks, two pair of wood ducks, 3 black ducks, 6 white Aylesbury ducks, a black swan, 8 wonga wonga, 1 native companion, 9 emus, 1 Lead-beter parrot, 1 curlew, 5 magpies, 9 black magpies, 2 ravens, 3 tortoises, 1 kangaroo rat, 1 native cat, 5 cock bantam's, 20 pullets, 36 chickens and 10 common hens.

In 1906 the Zoo had, in its possession, one or more of the following species: orangutan, macaque monkey, West African monkey, baboon, lemur, entellus monkey, lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar, puma, lesser civet, ichneumon, hyena, dingo, esquimaux dog, red fox, jackal, binturong, racoon dog, racoon, polar bear, brown bear, black bear, Himalayan bear, Malay-an bear, sloth bear, Japanese bear, camel, llama, Huánuco water bu alo, yak, zebu, Foochow banteng, Indian antelope, gazelle, long-eared goat, barbary sheep, fighting ram, fat-tailed

sheep, deer, collared peccary, elephant, Tasmanian wolf, Tasmanian devil, tiger cat, native cat, grey kangaroo, red kangaroo, black kangaroo, wallaroo, Perry's wallaroo, wallaby, nail-tailed kangaroo, rat kangaroo, tree kangaroo, opossum, wombat, echidna, Australian crane, sarus crane, white crane, Demoiselle crane, Manchurian crane, white-naped crane, Stanly crane., adjutant stork, pelican, ibis, crowned Goura pigeon, green dove, wonga and bronze wing pigeons, squatter pigeon, turtle dove, quail, pheasant, flamingo, brush turkey, lowan or Mallee hen, black swan, black duck, shield-drake, land rail, plovers, a pair of goose-swan hybrids, ostrich, rhea, emu, cassowary, vulture, eagle, white-billed eagle, hawk, cockatoo, macaw, Australian parrot, Indian parrot and Amazon parrot.



The 1906 list is certainly more adventurous than the 1882 list, but animals such as the koala, platypus, and kookaburra, so uniquely Australian, were not included in the Zoo's collection. It is interesting to note that Walter Bradley's grandson, Noel Burnett, founded Koala Park in 1930.

The Sunday Observance Act.

By 1898 the zoo was able to be opened on Sundays as well as on other days. However, one man, Edward Ballard, who had been reading up on old laws, took action against the Society under the "Sunday Observance Act", an old English act of George III. The Society was brought before Mr. Justice Pring and a jury for conducting a disorderly place and further sought the sum of £200. Fortunately the action was dismissed as preposterous with costs awarded

against the Plainti and this, presumably, discouraged others.

Flood, Drought, Plague, and Fire.

The turn of the Century was the beginning of three years of 'bad luck' for the Zoological Society. A burst water main in Cleveland Street created a disastrous flood at Moore Park in 1900. Many trees and plants in the grounds were lost. The following year, 1901, saw the arrival of disastrous drought, damaging the grounds still further. Then in April 1902 the Bubonic Plague made its appearance among the animals at the Zoo. Following the mysterious death of a wallaby and subsequent diagnosis, the Zoo was closed on 19th April.

Following is a list of the deaths among the animals at the zoo: 3 wallabies, 7 kangaroos, 2 paddymelons as well as a crane, wallaroo, fallow deer, opossum, polar bear, Indian sheep and several birds.

Of the 25 or so animals and birds that had died, the Board of Health had only diagnosed five of them as having succumbed to plague. As a possible cause of the mortality it was suggested that the work of disinfecting might have accounted for the loss of a large percentage. The polar bear was said to have died from jaw disease..

One of the possible explanations for the occurrence of plague at the Zoological Gardens was its close proximity to the tip at Moore Park. It was thought that the rats at the tip had been infected by the large number of dead, plague-infected rats taken to the tip at Moore Park from various parts of the city. These rats were then thought to have travelled to the Zoo and imparted plague to the animals at the Zoo. Drastic action had to be taken to prevent the epidemic from spreading. Apart from the disinfecting much had to be burned - fodder, weather-boarding, flooring, fittings, and even manure. The cost of all this was enormous, and held up further building. The Zoo reopened its gates on 18th August of the same year.

(to be continued)

Nichols and the bare knuckle fighter

A gentleman supplies me with some very interesting particulars as to Mr. Charles Hamilton Nichols, one of the proprietors of "Bell's Life" at the time of Professor Anderson's conundrum prize-drawing.

Mr. Nichols was one of the sons of Isaac Nichols, first Postmaster of New South Wales, and another of whose sons was George Robert Nichols, solicitor and barrister. At least he had the privilege of practising before the Supreme Court when all other solicitors were barred that privilege, the others having to be heard by counsel.

Charles Hamilton Nichols of "Bell's Life" stood six foot two inches and was big in proportion and well knew how to take his own part.

Mr. C.H. Nichols went once to report a bare knuckle fight and was disgusted at the science, etc. of both fighters, and said so in the next issue of "Bell's Life".

Next day the winner turned up and got into the comp's room - a very large one - and kicked up a row about the report.

Mr. Nichols heard it and came out of his sanctum to know what it was all about and Pug said he wanted to know who wrote the article as he (the pug) wanted to punch the ----'s head.

Mr. Nichols said he would be most happy to illustrate the correctness of the report by showing the pug, there and then in the comp's room, that he couldn't fight; and there and then in no time their coats were on - the comps at the frames as an audience - and at it they went.

Mr. Nichols in a very short time knocking the bumptious pug into smithereens.

*Truth - Sunday 17th December 1911
"Old Sydney"*

Professor Anderson's Conundrum

Professor Anderson, the Wizard of the North, was a well-known magician who travelled the world putting on performances.

When he was in Sydney in 1859, performing at the Prince of Wales Theatre, he offered two prizes for the best conundrums from a lady and gentleman, to be determined on a fixed night.

The Professor, of course, made it a condition that the winner should be in the theatre.

"Conundrum Night" always proved a great draw. He usually gave one in each large town he visited.

The gentleman's prize, a silver claret jug valued at 21 guineas, was awarded to Mr. Henry Malone of Chippendale for the following conundrum: "Why is the last gold I got at Bendigo like the Prince of Wales?" The answer being "Because it is the produce of Victoria and bids fair to become a sovereign".

The lady's prize - a watch and chain valued at 25 guineas - was awarded to Mrs. C.H. Nichols of Petersham. Her conundrum was "Why will the lady who gains the prize be treated by the jury as a dangerous lunatic?" The answer was: "Because they will put a chain around her neck and leave a good watch upon her".

It is believed it is still in the Nichols family, kept as an heirloom.

Mrs. Nichols was the wife of Charles Hamilton Nichols, second son of Isaac Nichols who, in partnership with Rowland John Ferrers Pickering, was part proprietor of "Bell's Life" publication.

(Information gathered from Trove Newspapers, NLA.)

Thomas Walker & Edward Smith-Hall

I resume my friend's chronology:- "Died September 18 Mr. Edward Smith-Hall in the 75th year of his age. This gentleman I think was the first secretary of the Bank of New South Wales when that institution opened for business in Macquarie Place in 1817; he was also, I think, connected with the "Monitor" newspaper and had a 'row' over his pew at St James' Church.

When the pew was boarded over Mr. Hall procured chairs and placed them on top seating his family in this elevated position during at least one part of the marriage service on July 25 (1860) at Trinity Church by Reverend Edward Rogers - Thomas Walker Esq. of "Yaralla" Concord to Jane, daughter of the late Thomas Hart Esq. of St. Andrews.

Mr. Walker was a wealthy merchant and pastoralist to whom we are indebted for the Walker Convalescent Hospital on the Parramatta River; he was the father of the munificent Miss Eadith Walker.

*Truth 17th December 1911
"Old Sydney"*

On a positive note...

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about people by the way they handle these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone.

I've learned that people love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

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

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



Edward Smith Hall

Edward Smith Hall was of those early pioneers whose great work in winning for us the freedom of the Australian Press has been obscured by the more widely known achievements of Wentworth.

Born in London in 1786, Hall came to Australia in 1812 armed with letters of introduction to Governor Macquarie. Failing to gain Macquarie's favour, he joined Simeon Lord in forming a company to trade with New Zealand.

He became the first secretary and cashier (1817) of the Bank of New South Wales, and was one of the founders of the Benevolent Asylum of New South Wales.

For his work on behalf of the colony grants of land were given him by the Governor, the most important being the former site of Anthony Hordern's huge store, and Moore Park, where the Girls' High School is now situated.

One thousand acres were also granted to him at Lake Bathurst, where today many of his descendants live.

Hall founded the *Monitor* in 1826. His great activities in the cause of constitutional reform and the freedom of the Press soon aroused the wrath of Governor Darling, who tried to silence him by imposing a 4d duty impost on each copy of the *Monitor*. Hall replied by bringing out his paper as a weekly, and was prosecuted.

In his fight against the Governor, Hall was prosecuted seven times for libel, paid hundreds of pounds in fines, served three years in prison, and lost all his land except that at Lake Bathurst.

Refusing to be beaten, Hall continued his campaign, and had the satisfaction of seeing Darling recalled to England in 1831.

Hall also fought what might be called the battle for the "freedom of the Pews" as courageously as he fought for the freedom of the Press.

He attacked Archdeacon Scott as being "not a man of peace," and was again fined. The archdeacon showed just how peaceful he was by hammering boards over Hall's pew in the church and keeping Hall out. Again Hall won the fight, and Scott, too, was recalled.

Edward Smith Hall's life of service ended in 1860.

Of him the Sydney Morning Herald said in 1856: "It is generally acknowledged that the Reform, Trial by Jury, Freedom of the Press, and Representative Government were largely due to the personal sacrifice of Mr E. S. Hall."

Henry Parkes once truly said: "Australia can never really thank this great pioneer in the cause".

From the Secretary's Desk



MUSEUM COMMITTEE: Calling all members! Are you already a member of this committee? If not, why don't you think about becoming part of it.

We meet once a month to talk about our museum - plan displays - plan jobs that need to be done. There's a lot of background work in running a museum and the more helpers we have the lighter the load for the rest of us.

We need help from members with computer and research skills - some of the work needs to be done at the museum but there is also work that can be done at home in your own time.

Why don't you drop in on any Wednesday or Saturday when we are open to have a look around and a chat. Or, you can come to a meeting - held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

WALKER VOLUNTEERS: We urgently need more guides - guide kits with all the information you need are supplied. We also need more help with Devonshire teas and "baby-sitting" some of the area.

ORAL HISTORY GROUP: We need people to carry out interviews, transcribe/log tapes and also convert tapes to digital for preservation. We already have some people who have volunteered for this and we will be calling a meeting shortly. If you would like to become part of this team, please let me know so that you can receive an invitation.

COME FOR A CUPPA! If you'd like to know more about any of these groups and the work that each does why not drop in to our museum any Wednesday or Saturday just for a chat and a coffee. You're always welcome.



Society General Meetings

For some time we have been concerned about the lack of attendance at these meetings - in some cases not enough members to form a quorum.

It is now being suggested that General Meetings only be held when deemed necessary by the Executive or when essential to deal with some constitutional matters.

Instead, your Executive Committee proposes to meet at the Museum on the first Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon to deal with all matters concerning the Society. These meetings will be open for any members to attend and take part in all discussion and minutes of the meeting can be sent to members if requested.

At the same time we have reviewed our Constitution in line with government required changes and to bring it up to date. This will be on display at the November meeting for approval

A general meeting will be held on 5th November to ratify this proposal. If you have any objections please notify the secretary, in writing, 7 days prior to that date or attend the meeting in person.