



'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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EDITOR
LOISMICHEL
9744-8528

PRESIDENT
ALAN WRIGHT
9743-4869

SECRETARY/TREASURER
LOISMICHEL
3 Flavelle Street
(P.O. Box 152)
Concord 2137
Phone: 9744-8528

GENERAL MEETINGS

1st Saturday of month
(except January)
at 12:00 noon 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
on 1st Saturday of each
month at 2:00 pm

Phone: 9743-3034
during museum hours
or email
heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au

The Zoological Gardens, Moore Park, Sydney

(continued from October 2016)

The Zoo Outgrows its Site.

By 1910 it had become clear that the Zoo's site was far too small. The fifteen acres was minimal in comparison with the 50 acres in Melbourne, 40 acres in Perth, 80 acres in Manchester, England, and 264 acres in New York. The modern naturalists held the view that "no site is suitable for a zoo which does not provide a rocky landscape and natural arbours, such as the wild animals are accustomed to in their native habitat". The Moore Park Zoo, however, offered no such facilities. The animals suffered from the bleakness and unhealthiness of the site.

The site was often flooded (a problem which still manifests itself today) and was often choked with dust in summer. Many of the cages had verandas which prevented the animals from getting any sunlight and many of the concrete-bottomed cages were far from advantageous to the animals.

In light of these observations it was decided to find a new site. Various localities were inspected, including Harris Park, Maroubra, upper Lane Cove, Pearl Bay, Vaucluse, Bondi and Queen's Park - not to mention land in Campbells Hill, Tempe, Long Bay, the Illawarra district, Rockdale, Willoughby Bay, Middle Harbour, Ashton Park, and Bradley's Head. The council, finally decided to ask the Government for 50 acres at Ashton Park, a trust was formed, and work was commenced in August 1912.

Meanwhile no further work was commenced at Moore Park, although the grounds were kept in a tidy state.

The animals were transferred to the new site in 1916. Many of the 177 animals and

339 birds were transported by road, or in boats, across the Harbour. However, Jessie the elephant posed a problem and was ferried across the Harbour on a special pontoon. With the transfer of the animals the gardens were subsequently closed, some four years before the expiration of the Society's lease there, and close on 32 years since it was opened to the public in 1884.

Facts and Figures

The number of visitors and the size of gate takings have always seemed, to me, to be somewhat astronomical. The receipts from the gate in 1884 came to £899. In the following year this had risen to £2700.6s 8d. School children were admitted free, and in that year 36,062 attended.



Another example of these figures is that during four weeks which ended on 27th October, 1887 the receipts at the gates amounted to \$2,207. 3s. 4d., which represents nearly 10,000 visitors. During the time stated the gardens were also visited by 1,222 Public School children. Another interesting statistic is that in 1891 the proceeds of 'two penny' elephant rides alone had been more than £680 in that year. This represents slightly over 81,000 rides altogether. In the Zoo's first thirteen years attendances averaged slightly more than 100,000 a year. Then attendances increased to 108,284 in 1905 and by 1912 the number had reached 340,524. However, with the start of the Great War in 1914, attendance



DIARY DATES

December 3 - Christmas Party (everyone welcome).

Museum closed from Dec 17 to Jan 14.

Next guest speaker will be in February

dropped considerably.

During its 32 years at Moore Park, the Society was granted the sum \$60,158 from the government, given \$4,870 from subscribed members, and received about \$80,000 from other sources. About seven and a half million visitors visited the grounds - a considerable proportion of whom were admitted either free or at a nominal rate on Sundays. The State School children were always given free run of the collection for the purposes of study and recreation.

Walter Bradley, Esq., founder of the Zoo.

Walter Bradley, Esq, once resident of 'Sunnyside' Randwick (demolished in 1909), one of the Australian partners of Cobb and Co. coaches, four times Mayor of Randwick and father of fifteen children is considered to be the founder of the Moore Park Zoo.

Mr. Bradley sent out the notice calling the meeting for 24th March, 1879 "for the purpose of forming a society for the acclimatisation of song birds and useful game".

He was presented with a gold medal from the Zoological Society in September 1879, bearing the inscription: "Presented to Walter Bradley, Esq. by the officials of the New South Wales Zoological Society, in appreciation of his services as founder of the society, September 29, 1879."

Mr. Bradley, who died in 1896, was a colonist of long standing, and was one of the best known of Sydney's citizens. He sat in Parliament as a member for East Sydney for a short time.

Walter Bradley was all his life a lover of birds and animals. It was he who introduced English starlings and goldfinches, Californian quail and starlings to Australia.

On one occasion, about a week after he had liberated from his home at Randwick the quails which he had brought from San Francisco, he saw two young men shoot half a dozen of them. Rushing out of his house he knocked both men down and seized and smashed their guns, his language, it is said, being no less violent than his actions.



After the Zoo.

The Zoo's former site went on to become a quarantine station for animals on 1st February, 1917. It was then dedicated for public recreation on 21st June 1918 before being dedicated as a site for Sydney Girls' High School on 7th November 1919. The Sydney Girls' High School occupied the site from 1921, followed by the Sydney Boys' High School in 1928.

The only remains of the old Zoo, apart from the occasional flooding, are the two bear pits, one in the Girls' School grounds and one in the Boys'. The bear pits have, over the last 60 years, been used as places for punishing girls who misbehaved, completing undone homework and, more recently, the storing of maintenance equipment and disused school furniture.

After the heavy rains of 1984, several old bottles were uncovered on the school's grounds. As a result, certain interested Masters and pupils conducted an archaeological 'dig' during the summer holidays. Further bottles were recovered, as well as an 1885 penny, certain household utensils, and even animal bones and ashes, perhaps remnants of the plague.

It was in hope of providing some background to these finds and because of the interest of many people that this history was produced.



'tis the season to be jolly, to eat, drink and be merry, as we gather to enjoy our end-of-year Christmas Celebrations at the Museum on Saturday, 3rd December, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

We hope you can join us on this occasion, especially our newer members, together with family and friends. Everyone welcome.

If you could contribute towards the food it would be appreciated but please bring your own liquid refreshments.

RSVP: 24th November. heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au or phone 9744-8528

This is the third of a series of articles written by Don Coulter for the Abbotsford Cove Community Association. (published with permission)

The River

Our walks by the waterfront at the cool of the evening are among the most enjoyable things we do, though some may not know that the expanse of water is actually a river* and it is slowly passing us by on its way to the sea, as it has done for many thousands of years. We see many ferries passing by on their way to the city at the head of this river.

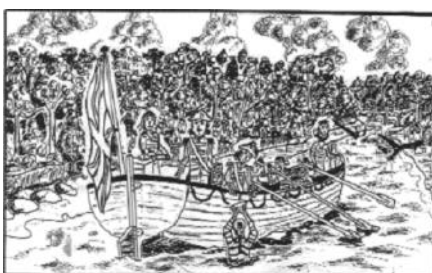
The Dharruk tribe occupied this land before European settlement, for how long we don't know. The first record of this area was from a Lt. Bradley, Royal Marines, who took an expedition to find the headwaters of this river that some believed to be fed by an inland lake.

From Lt. Bradley's diary of 5th February 1788, "We were far enough to see the termination of the harbour, it being all flats, sounded and found the bottom to be shale".

It is believed that Lt. Bradley's boat grounded about Charles Street Parramatta. During a re-enactment of this event in 1988, at the same time and tide as in 1788, divers brought up shale.

We cannot imagine the difficulty that confronted the good lieutenant in trying to communicate with the local Dharruk people, first by pointing to the water and trying to get an answer as to the name of the river in Dharruk, however he must have had patience with the Dharruk people and for the first time he wrote the word Parramatta. Confusion still remains as to its meaning – experts tell us that it has two meanings, first, "Head of the river", or second, "The place where eels lie down".

Lt. Bradley's expedition continued inland for several days, his diary states "We passed over land with few trees and long grass. I consider this parcel of land to have very good prospects". The land he spoke of still bears that name, 'Prospect'. Lt. Bradley must have been a good and capable officer in serving the Governor, for Bradley's Head on Sydney Harbour is called after him.



AT NOON, THE 5TH FEBRUARY 1788, LT. BRADLEY'S PARTY FOUND THE BEGINNING OF THE PARRAMATTA RIVER.

Lavender Bay

Many of us have heard of this bay, and seen it as we pass over the Harbour Bridge. The name Lavender Bay conjures up mental visions of a sweet-smelling flower; however, the naming of this bay was far from sweetness. In the latter part of the 1780s a Royal Navy ship, the HM Bufflo made a navigation error and ran onto the well-marked Sow and Pigs rocks at the entrance to Sydney Harbour.

The accident broke the back of the ship and she was condemned as unseaworthy; however, another use was found for the ship as a prison hulk. She was anchored in a deserted bay, now known as Lavender Bay, and the former proud naval warship received prisoners that were considered to be uncontrollable. Aboard, they would await transportation to the dreaded Norfolk Island.

Soon after she was anchored, a convict was appointed as coxswain to the hulk. His special job was to transfer convicts from the hulk to a waiting ship sailing to Norfolk Island. His name was George Lavender; he was trusted and performed his work with due diligence for many years, finally earning his Ticket of Leave. Like so many others he was last heard of owning a pub.

So, when next you are passing over the Bridge, think not of the pleasant scene, but ponder on that ghost ship that once lay there.

* The Parramatta River is not actually a river, it is an intermediate tide dominated, drowned valley estuary. It is the main tributary of Sydney Harbour, a branch of Port Jackson.



Amended Constitution

Due to a lack of quorum at our November General Meeting we were unable to present this for approval.

As a result, we have called a **Special General Meeting** to be held at our Museum on **Saturday, 3rd December at 12 noon**.

This will only take a short time as the only matter to be dealt with will be the amended constitution. Most changes are minor in line with Dept. of Fair Trading amendments and changes to committees.

If you would like to see a copy of the document please email me at heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au



Citizen of the Year Awards

City of Canada Bay Council is calling for nominations for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Sports and Arts and Citizen of the Year and Culture Citizen of the Year.

Nominations for Young Citizen of the Year are open to residents 12-14 years of age (as at 26/1/2017) and nominations for Citizen of the Year are open to residents 25 years or over.

Nominees must be a resident or affiliated with an association or community group within the City of Canada Bay.

You can access the nomination form online via Survey Monkey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/citizen16>

Nominations close Friday, 25th November.

If you know someone in the community worthy of such recognition please go to the website and nominate them.

If you don't have access to the internet a paper form can be organised.



Mayor Helen McCaffrey has invited all our volunteers to a Christmas Morning Tea on **Wednesday, 30th November - 10am to 12 noon** at The Connection, 30 Foreshore Drive (cnr. Gauthorpe Street), Rhodes.

RSVP Wednesday, 23rd November - belinda.gibson@canadabay.nsw.gov.au or phone 9911-6603.

Parking: There is limited parking available on Foreshore Drive. Alternate parking available at Rhodes Waterside Shopping Centre with a shuttle bus service operating from Rider Boulevard (outside Burgers & Ribs) to The Connection.



Anecdotes from the World of Books

For as long as there have been books, there have been book collectors, and any discussion of famous collectors must include some words on Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872).

Sir Thomas aimed to obtain a copy of every book that had ever been printed. He failed in his task, but by the time of his death he had made a pretty fair stab at it. His library contained about 60,000 manuscripts and over 50,000 printed books. Sotheby's started auctioning the collection in 1886, in stages, and only completed the process a hundred years later!

Another book lover, who is said to have owned a bookshop in Barcelona, loved books so much that sometimes when he sold a beloved item, he followed the customer and stabbed him to death in order to retrieve the book!

Erasmus, the Renaissance philosopher once said: "When I get a little money, I buy books; and if there is any left I buy food."

There can not be many people who have been killed by being struck by a book. But in 1731, a fire broke out in a tower of the Royal Library of Brussels. Books were quickly thrown out the windows and one of them struck an onlooker on the head, killing the poor man.

The Emperor Napoleon was a voracious reader of books on just about every subject, including romantic novels. I am hesitant to call him a book-lover however, for he had the unfortunate habit of hurling books he

had just finished reading out the window of his coach as he hurtled through the countryside.

The English diarist Samuel Pepys had a unique and bizarre method of arranging and cataloguing the books in his library. This operation was called by Pepys an "Adjustment".

All the books were placed on his shelves in order based on size. They were then numbered from the smallest to the largest! The books were then entered onto two lists, one numerical and the other alphabetical so Pepys' unusual system of cataloguing probably worked well enough.

There is a saying that 'behind every successful man there is a woman' but for the Irish writer James Joyce that may not have been the case. His wife once said to him: "Well, Jim, I haven't read any of your books, but I'll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell".

Many writers use a pseudonym to conceal their true identity. Some of William Makepeace Thackeray's books were written under such names as Michaelangelo Titmarsh, C.H. Yellowplush, G.S. Fitzboodle and Theophile Wagstaff.

I must end this short article now, for I am suffering from the same complaint that afflicted the American humorist James Thurber. He once said: "With sixty staring me in the face, I have developed inflammation of the sentence structure and a definite hardening of the Paragraphs". **J.T.**

NOTE: Speaking of Libraries - do you know that our museum has a well stocked library dealing with local history, Australian history, collections reference, etc, etc. We also have a printout of the Sands Directories pertaining to Concord and Drummoyne as well as other informative literature on running a museum. Why not drop in some time and see for yourselves.

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director," she answered. "Interesting," the newsman thought. He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, and a preacher when in her 60's, and now - in her 80's - a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."

From the Secretary's Desk



MUSEUM: The museum will be closed from 4:00 pm on 17th December and will re-open on Saturday, 14th January.

During this time we will be organising our new display and carrying out general maintenance work on the area.

WORKING BEES will be held on December 21, 28, 31 and January 4, 7 and 11. We will add other days if required.

If you would like to help on any of these days please let me know so I can draw up a roster of jobs and volunteers.

YARALLA OPEN DAY: This was again a great success. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped on the day.

OPEN DAY GUIDES: We are desperate for more volunteers to take on this task. Several of our former volunteers have moved from the area or into nursing homes and we urgently need to replace them if we are going to be able to continue this work.

You don't need any special skills other than to be able to talk to people. We will supply all the information you will need in a Guide's Kit

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES AT THE MUSEUM: We have recently been in discussion with Lee Hoinville from Kempsey Museum (Macleay River Historical Society), who has been sharing with us some of the very successful children's programmes used to attract school and other visits

During the next twelve months we will be working with these to see how the ideas can be adapted for our needs. If you would like to be part of this group please contact me.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? On our bank statement for October there is a deposit of \$45.00 by SCCU, but we don't know what it was for. Do you?