History **PARRAMATTA**



A picture postcard folder 1949

The history of Koala **Park Sanctuary**

The late Mr Noel Burnet opened Koala Park in 1927. He had observed the slaughter of millions of Koalas for their pelts destined to become fur coats overseas. Conservation of Australian fauna had not become an issue



Mr Noel Burnet founder of Koala Park

and the sale of pelts gained useful overseas currency. The Koala Club of Australia took up this matter of the wanton slaughter as senseless as well as provocative of future shortages. 'Since the Koala has vanished from our

national parks, what valid reason is there to suppose that it can be restored to them?"

"The Sydney Water Supply catchment area originally fair average Koala country - covers more than three hundred square miles within which trespass is prohibited; yet the fact that today not a single "Bear" is known of therein " wrote Noel Burnet.

He knew this marsupial faced extinction. The Koala Park opened without Government subsidies, is world famous and claims to be the first to keep and breed Koalas in captivity. In the first 11 years of business, the park had successfully bred sixty Koalas.

You can watch Koalas as they move freely in the natural habitat of the park and touch them at special times.

The Koala Park Sanctuary exists to show Australian native animals and birds and teach the public about them. The 10-acre park is host to 400,000 people a year. A 40





A bear in the hand

acre allotment across Castle Hill Road started as the Koala Park in the late 1920s with the present souvenir room and kiosk being built as a tea rooms.

This land proved difficult to maintain the health of the animals being exposed to the winter winds. Landcom purchased the land and developed the site for residential blocks.

The modern day sanctuary is located at 84 Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills, a northern suburb of Sydney.

Just 30 minutes from Sydney CBD - 10 acres of lush Rainforest, Eucalypt Groves and Native Gardens and you can see Koalas, Red & Grey Kangaroos, Dingoes, Wombats, Echidnas, Emus, many Wallaby species and a large collection of Australian Native Birds.

There are also partially guided tours, Stockman's Camp for Sheep Shearing, Billy Tea & Damper and BBQs are available.

There are four Koala feeding times and the Sanctuary is open 9am to 5pm daily. Closed Christmas Day.

Covid-safe procedures ensure you will have an enjoyable tour. The park offers a wide range of Australian fauna experiences and especially a close-up of Koalas.

www.koalapark-sanctuary.com.au telephone 9484-3141





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PARRAMATTA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"The Vineyard

Unlocking the past of a lost Parramatta home" By Angela Sanderson & Marje Prior

Monday 15 March 2020 | 7.30pm

Angela Sanderson is the author of the above pictured book and Marje Prior is the publisher of it. The book, which will be the subject of the talk, will be launched at the meeting and available for purchase.

They will talk about the Schaeffer, Waterhouse, Cox and Blaxland families who lived at the property called "The Vineyard", the Greek Revival mansion built in 1830s by Hannibal Macarthur and the purchase of the property by the Benedictine Order who renamed it "Subjaco". Under the Benedictine

nuns it was run as a private girl's school and later as a boys school run by Sylvestrine monks. The talk will also cover the sale of "Subiaco' to the Rheem company in 1961 and its subsequent demolition.

Come along and hear this intriguing story.

VENUE: Burnside Gardens Community Centre 3 Blackwood Place, Oatlands.

The lecture is free and will be followed by supper. Enquiries – Jeff Allen 0414 996 497

