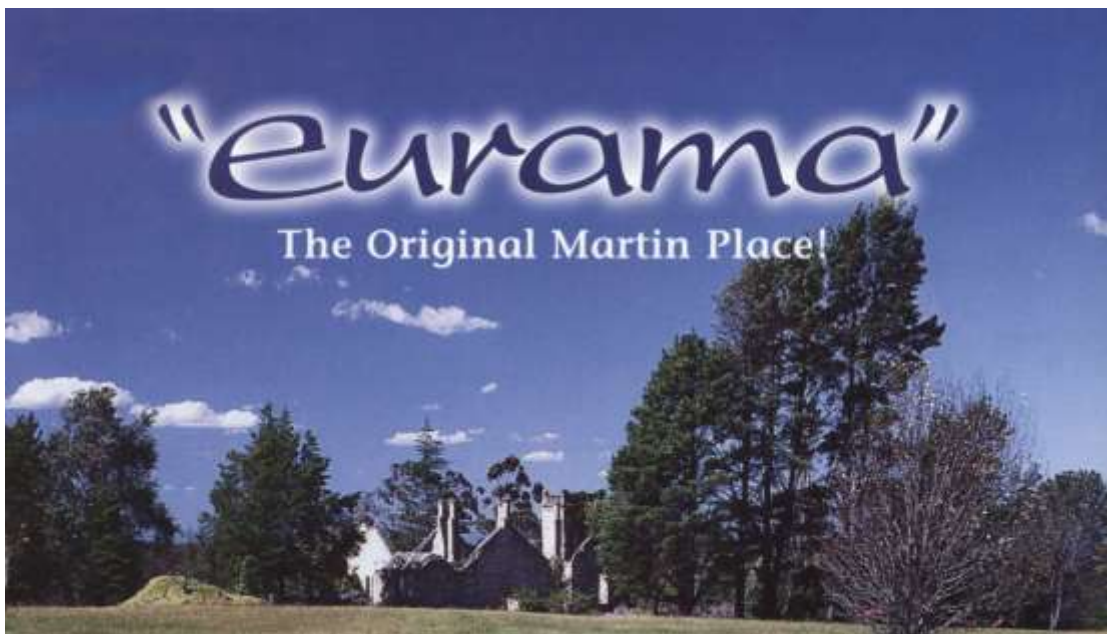


EURAMA VISION

ESTATE

2005



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The Eurama Vision Estate

The story of the Eurama Vision Estate is one of history, excitement, powerful and influential people and deep meaning for Australia as a nation. It has seen an unsurpassed array of imperial, colonial and local personalities that have shaped Australia and its political structures.

Since the original purchase of the land by Sir Henry Parkes in 1876 the estate has seen residents such as: Sir James Martin, three times Premier of New South Wales; Sir Alfred Stephen, GCMG, Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales and Chief Justice of New South Wales for 27 years and; Charles Badham, Professor of Logic and Classics at Sydney University and accredited with raising the standards and reputation of the university to the renown it still possesses today.

Visitors to the elite homes built on the estate included Sir Henry Parkes who was a very close friend and political ally of Sir James Martin. Parkes was not only Premier (then called Prime Minister) of the colony five times but instrumental in promoting many ground-breaking acts of parliament including the introduction of free and public education for all children. He was of such renown in the late nineteenth century that he was feted at No 10, Downing Street in 1881 by British Prime Minister Gladstone and was later the guest of the King and Queen of Belgium.

Between Parkes, Martin, Stephen, Badham and their many visitors much of the political discussion led to the great push towards the federation of the Australian colonies achieved on 1 January, 1901 - the first day of the twentieth century, a new nation for a new century!

Parkes entertained many important guests to his home, Faulconbridge House, including numerous governors of New South Wales, major colonial politicians as well as HRH Prince Albert Victor of Wales, Prince Louis of Battenburg and even HRH Prince George of Wales, later King George V.

The estate has seen escaped convicts who seem to have perished in the caves, a flying visit in 1919 by Sir Keith Macpherson Smith and Sir Ross Macpherson Smith during the famous England to Australia Air Race, a visit by Hitchens' Cooee March and frequent visits by Sir Normand MacLaurin, the highest ranking officer to be killed on Gallipoli who had visited the estate the day before he sailed for the Great War.

The original houses built on the estate were Numantia, Metchley and Western House in 1877, followed by Alphington in 1878 and finally Eurama in 1882.

These houses were constructed as the original parcel of land was sub-divided by Sir James Martin or re-sold afterwards. Numantia was the home of Sir James Martin. Professor Charles Badham built and occupied both Metchley and Western House. Sir Alfred Stephen built Alphington while the final home added to the cluster was Eurama built by AH McCulloch.

Over the intervening years there has been much confusion as to the naming of Weemala and Eurama. The cause of this was AH McCulloch's renaming of Weemala as Eurama and of Numantia as Weemala upon his purchase of a parcel of land from Sir Alfred Stephen in 1881.

None of the original homes have survived. Numantia / Weemala was destroyed by bush fire in 1982. Metchley was destroyed by fire early in the twentieth century. Western

House was demolished at a similar time. Alphington was sold to two local printers in 1918 and moved to a site on the Great Western Highway opposite Grose Road in 1921. Currently, Eurama stands as a stone ruin having become dilapidated by 1967 and both restored and gutted by bush fire in 1968.



The Royal visitors to Faulconbridge, Prince George (later King George V) and Prince Edward (later Duke of Clarence) photographed in Melbourne.

For Australia, the Eurama Vision Estate is an exceptionally significant historical site. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the owners of the properties and their associates were of great significance.

The estate has in the past boasted some of the grandest gardens in New South Wales developed with the guidance of the curator of the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

All in all, the estate has a fascinating history created by some of Australia's political, educational and social elite.

THE STORY OF EURAMA VISION ESTATE

The railway from Sydney reached Parramatta (at Dog Trap) in 1855. Greater access to the Blue Mountains was gained when the railway was extended to Weatherboard (now called Wentworth Falls) and opened on 11 July, 1867.

Sir Henry Parkes, the most influential of colonial politicians, bought a large acreage at Faulconbridge in 1876 and built a wooden cottage that he named Stonehurst. In 1879 he built a second wooden cottage to the south of the first naming it Faulconbridge House. The name was derived from his mother's family, her maiden name being Martha Faulconbridge (Stephen, P254).

Sir James Martin, who was both a friend and ministerial associate of Parkes, bought a total of 900 acres of land between Faulconbridge and Linden and adjoining Parkes' holdings between 1876-7. The land on which the derelict home known as Weemala now stands was bought by Martin for one pound an acre in May 1877. Sir James built a wooden house there, two miles past Parkes' home, naming it Numantia. The still existing sandstone wall running along the railway line enclosed the rear courtyard.

Martin built a small, private railway platform here and named it Alphington. This remained in use for the Martin and Cliff families until it was removed in 1897.

Sir James sold sections of his land to friends. Charles Badham, Professor of Classics and Logic at Sydney University built a wooden cottage, Metchley, northeast and close by Numantia in 1877. In 1878 he built a second brick cottage a little further to the north naming it Western House.

In October, 1878 Sir James sold some land to Sir Alfred Stephen who built a wooden house and named it Alphington after his father's home in England. In 1882, due to financial difficulties he sold Alphington to a solicitor, Andrew Hardie McCulloch.

The most significant figure to occupy land within the Eurama Vision Estate was Sir Henry Parkes, Australia's "Father of Federation" and a man responsible for so much more in creating modern day Australia.

Your land that fell within Portion 19 of the County of Cook, Parish of Magdala, was originally owned by one of the greatest ever Australian figures.

SIR JAMES MARTIN QC

(14 May, 1820-4 November 1886)

James Martin was born on 14 May, 1820 to Mary and John Martin. His father was a steward of Castle Hyde, Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland.

Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane had been given command of the Principal Barracks in Fermoy shortly before James' birth. Brisbane was appointed to succeed Lachlan Macquarie as Governor of the Colony of New South Wales. As John Martin was noted for his skill with horses, Brisbane offered him a position as his personal horse trainer and private groom when he ventured to the colony.

The Martins arrived in New South Wales aboard the John Barry on 6 November, 1821 while Brisbane arrived on the same day aboard the Royal George. The Martins lived in a house near the stables at Government House, Parramatta where Brisbane based himself. James was the eldest of six children all, except for him, born in New South Wales.

James began his education at Parramatta but later attended Sydney College where his formal education ended at Christmas, 1836 aged 16.

Martin contributed articles to The Australian newspaper edited by a leading attorney, George R Nichols, son of Sydney's first Postmaster, Isaac Nichols. When only 18 James published The Australian Sketch-Book, a series of fifteen essays. In 1839 Martin became editor of The Australian and in 1840 began working with Nichols who had established a legal practice in Sydney. On completing his articles, James was admitted as an attorney in the New South Wales Supreme Court on 10 May, 1845. He then set up his own offices in Sydney and Parramatta. In 1846 he was editor of The Atlas.



Sir James Martin, K.C.M.G.

James turned his attention to politics and by 1848 had entered the Legislative Council representing Cook and Westmoreland. Following an objection to him on the grounds of property qualification he was disallowed and removed from the Council but at the subsequent election was returned.

While a member of the Council, he introduced a number of measures such as the Cattle Slaughtering Act (1849), Cruelty to Animals Act (1850) and a Bill in 1851 to establish a branch of the Royal Mint in Sydney following the discovery of gold at Bathurst.

In 1856 Martin became a Member of the colony's first Legislative Assembly when responsible government was established representing the electorate of Cook and Westmoreland. He was appointed as Attorney General in the Cowper ministry but this was challenged as a solicitor, not a barrister, had been appointed and the ministry fell on vote of no confidence. Martin made application and was admitted to the Bar. In 1857, Cowper was again Premier and Martin was appointed Attorney-General.

A prominent opponent of Martin and his faction was John Robertson (also a Premier of New South Wales) with the main point of conflict being the application of colonial tariffs. Parkes, Martin and Robertson led the three main political factions during this period. Martin's group was known as the Kookaburras and Robertson's the Rosellas. In 1872, after fifteen years of rivalry the groups settled their differences, Sir Henry Parkes quipped that the laughing jackasses were seizing rosella feathers to improve their decoration. (Clark, P150)

Martin retired from office in 1860 but re-entered in 1862 as Member for Orange.

Martin gained the office of Premier for the first time from 20 October, 1862 until 11 November, 1864. During this time he became friendly with Henry Parkes as they shared interests in poetry, education and federation of the colonies. His second term as Premier began on 17 January, 1866 and he appointed Henry Parkes as Colonial Secretary. To their great credit the Public Schools Act was introduced in 1866 laying the foundation for public education in the colony.

Sir James Martin QC entered his third term as Premier in December, 1872. His government was defeated in the House on 24 January, 1873 and he resigned on 13 May, 1873.

Sir Alfred Stephen, who acted as Administrator during the interregnum from the departure of the Earl of Belmore and the arrival of the new Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, selected Henry Parkes to lead the ministry that replaced Martin's. Sir Alfred, who had been Chief Justice of New South Wales for 34 years retired late in 1873. Parkes then offered the position to Sir James who was sworn in on 19 November, 1873.

Sir James collapsed in court due to overwork in 1879. He took leave from his position but never fully recovered and remained in ill health until his death at his Potts Point home Clarens, on 4 November, 1886. Sir Alfred Stephen said that had Sir James been in

England he might well have become Lord Chief Justice such was his personality and scholarly attainments.

James married Isabella Long on 20 January, 1853 at St Peter's Church, Cook's River and they made their home at Clarens, Wylde Street, Potts Point.

The Martins had issue of sixteen children. Two sons William and George were also barristers. Their fourteenth child, Charles Badham Martin died in the Great War at Dernacourt, 1918 while their youngest, Nora Antonia, named after her godfather Anthony Trollope, became Lady Manning.

Sir James Martin was buried in the Long family vault at St Jude's Randwick but his body was later removed to the Martin vault at Waverley Church of England Cemetery.

NUMANTIA / WEEMALA

Between 1876-7, Sir James Martin, who was both a friend and ministerial associate of Parkes, bought a total of 954 acres of land between Faulconbridge and Linden and adjoining Parkes' holdings.



Sir James Martin's NUMANTIA cottage, now named WEEMALA.

His first purchase was on 3 January, 1876 being Portion 1, Parish of Magdala, County of Cook. He further purchased 98 acres on 2 September, 1876: 403 acres on 11 April, 1877; 46 acres on 9 May, 1877 and 16 acres on 11 May 1877. This final purchase was the land on which the derelict home now known as Weemala stands and was bought by Martin for one pound an acre.

On 16 September, 1876 Lady Stephen recorded in her diary that Sir James visited some of his recently purchased land with Professor Badham and Sir Alfred Stephen, herself and others. He proposed that Sir Alfred purchase 12 acres adjoining his cottage block and Professor Badham, 14 acres near the railway. She noted that they and the Professor had intentions of building cottages on the sites (Stephen, P 257).

Sir James' holdings were mostly on the southern side of the railway extending from Parkes' land towards Linden (then known as 17 Mile Hollow). He built a wooden house two miles past Parkes' home, naming it Numantia. It was so named after the ancient Spanish city taken by Scipio Africanus Minor in 134 BC as Martin, to some extent a classical scholar, felt the areas held some resemblance to each other.

The rear courtyard was enclosed by a sandstone wall running along the railway line with extra rooms adjoining it as still exists. It was spacious with a verandah and gabled rooms at each end. Stables were built a little beyond the cottage. A duck pond, fowl yards, pigsty, woodshed were also added. (Searle, P30)

To ensure a water supply, two wells were excavated in the garden and a rock excavation was made where there was a seepage beyond the stable (Stephen, P260). The foundations of the stable and a wash-house are extant. To the east of the house site a cylindrical water tank of brick construction remains. The wells and rock excavation referred to by Stephen are evident but totally overgrown at present. The original owners were clearly very careful with both the supply and retention of water.

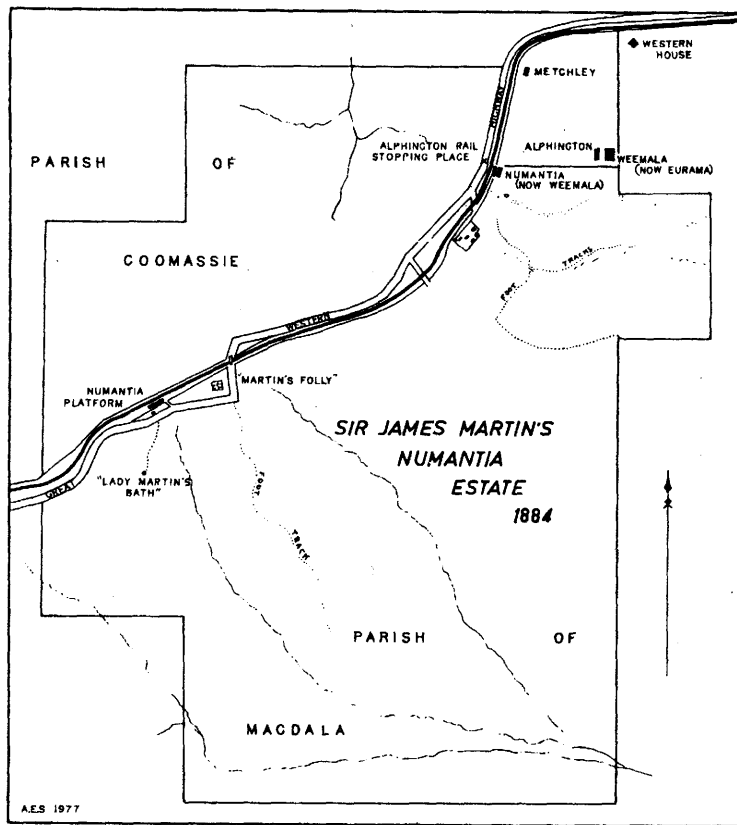
A small summer-house was built over a well in the garden, "a flag pole erected and fruit trees, vegetables and flowers were grown in profusion" (Ibid). Mr Watkins reports that the summer house was used in the fashion of a tea house where, after exertion in the garden, the Martins would retire to the summer house for tea and relaxation. This construction was over the well and cooled by the water. Rose gardens existed in front of the tea house.

Sir James developed an orchard to the south east of the house. Remarkably, Mr Watkins reports that a single, original pear tree remains (in a healthy, if unkempt, manner). The garden was bordered by roughly shaped sandstone blocks and the extent of the formal flower and vegetable gardens is easily recognisable in part.

The remains of a gatehouse exist within a profusion of growth further to the west of the house site.

In 1880 Sir James' daughter Eleanor became ill of fever at their home in Potts Point. She was moved to Numantia in the belief and hope that the mountain air would cure her. Unfortunately she died at Numantia on 4 February aged 17 years.

After Sir James' death in 1886 his family continued to visit Numantia and at times his sisters and friends used the house. Mr JW Cliff lived there for a time until he purchased Eurama from McCulloch when the latter faced financial difficulty. Following this Mr



Adolphus Rogalsky acquired the property in January, 1898. George Evans purchased the property on Rogalsky's death and renamed it Weemala having renamed the original Weemala, Eurama.

Evans sold off McCulloch's private railway station and a fair sized piece of land to a Mr King and then employed the Kings to cook and clean. (M/1,P5)

During WW1 the owners of Weemala set up an effigy of the Kaiser along the railway line when coal was hard to obtain due

to the war effort. As trains passed, drivers and engineers would stone the Kaiser with lumps of coal and reportedly kept Weemala in coal throughout the war! (M/1,P15)

In 1924 James Warren Jones had Weemala and 77 acres and following this it became the property of LF Barry-Cotter, Bertram Theodore Heavener, Maude Elizabeth Holdship, Mr Henry Hulme, a retired Collector of Customs from Hobart, in 1945 a Mr Horace Goodwin by which time the land had been reduced to little more than an acre.

Mr Lindsay Paish (Springwood Historical Society) recalls that by 1960 Weemala was in need of considerable maintenance.

By 1977, Mr John Ward, a retired teacher, was living at Weemala. Mr Ward was interested in the history of the property and had by 1982 spent some time attempting to restore the house and the sandstone buildings around the courtyard.

There are two separate constructions against the sandstone wall separating Weemala's courtyard and the railway line. The smaller, westerly room was originally the laundry while the other, two contiguous rooms, were servant quarters. The latter were refurbished with cedar, though not Australian as had been original. The walls, originally plaster over sandstone are currently bare stone though the ceiling and fireplaces are in good order.

Weemala was destroyed by bushfire in 1982. The footings are still in place and the courtyard flagging in good order. Following the fire, Mr Watkins reports that Mr Ward attempted to rebuild Weemala in its original form but difficulty with Council ensued and he was given approval only to build the current 1970s red brick construction. Mr Ward was killed soon after while crossing the Great Western Highway. The house has remained unused since and the target of vandals who have virtually gutted the building.

Of particular interest is the manner in which water was conserved on this property. Mr John Watkins informs that in the 30 years he has had experience of Eurama and Weemala he is yet to see the tank near the tea-house empty. He states that at times it has been low but never dry.

His observations over that large time frame indicate that the original inhabitants started to cut away rock to form a dish drain where water used in the gardens seeps back into the tank which has been cut into a natural shelf of rock. The water is the product of natural precipitation. As well, a system of windmills was used around the properties to move the water and maintain an otherwise dry area as a flourishing garden.

The property is currently owned by State Rail.

POWERFUL NEIGHBOURS

The property surrounding Martin's land gains greater historical significance through purchase by other powerful colonial figures such as Sir Henry Parkes, the Father of Federation, Sir Alfred Stephen, Chief Justice of New South Wales and Charles Badham who was responsible for much of the academic establishment of Sydney University.

Visitors to the respective homes of the original owners included HRH Prince George of Wales (later King George V), HRH Prince Edward (later Duke of Clarence), Prince Louis of Battenburg, Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of New South Wales, Sir John Robertson, Premier of New South Wales, Sir George W Allen and Lord and Lady Lamington.

SIR HENRY PARKES, KCMG

25 May, 1815- 27 April, 1896

Henry Parkes was born at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, England on 25 May, 1815. He was the youngest of six children born to Thomas and Martha (nee Faulconbridge) Parkes. He began his working life aged eight years having received little formal education.

His working life began as a rope-walker for four pence a day. Rope was spun in a long narrow building, a rope-walk. He also broke rocks on roads and worked in a brick yard. Throughout this time he scrimped to buy books to educate himself and through wide reading, especially in the classics and poetry, he extended his own education.

He migrated to Australia in 1839 arriving on 25 July aboard the *Strathfieldsaye* with his first wife and a two day old daughter. Parkes had never known anything but poverty and in New South Wales his life was often in the same vein. Upon arrival he had three shillings in his pocket and discovered that a loaf of bread cost half a crown (2/6). He rented a small, unfurnished room for five shillings a week and gradually sold most of his clothing and possessions to survive.

There had been a severe drought in the colony and employment was difficult to find. For a short time he worked as a labourer on Sir John Jamison's Regent Ville estate in Penrith for about ten shillings a week, a ration of food and the use of a bark hut. Parkes always considered this period in his life as one of the worst. Upon arrival at the Penrith property



*Sir Henry Parkes
and his first wife,
Clarinda.*



he found conditions almost unbearable.

He wrote to his sister, "For the first four months we had no other bed than a sheet of bark off a box tree and an old door, laid on two cross pieces of wood, covered with a few articles of clothing. The morning sunshine, the noontide shower, the white moonlight of midnight, gushed in upon us alike."

After six months of equally poor rations and back-breaking work he returned to Sydney and worked for Mr Thomas Burdekin in an iron mongery store and then an iron foundry.

Parkes was well over six feet tall, well built and used to the rigours of hard physical work. Even so, his health soon declined due to his working conditions.

Fortunately, he received an appointment as a tide-waiter at Sydney's

Customs House. His duties were to meet ships upon arrival on the incoming tide to ensure no customs regulations were being evaded. This proved to be a very happy period for him. His duties appealed to him in meeting sailors from all over the world and discussing events from afar as well as having leisure time to read and improve himself.

He read much of the English poets and gradually began to write poetry himself, some

being printed in local newspapers. In 1842 a book of his poems, titled *Stolen Moments*, was published.

He resigned from the Customs House when he believed that some dishonest practices were being employed and began his own business as a toy maker and ivory turner. The shop in Hunter Street, Sydney was described as small and quaint and it was noted that passers-by would stop and watch him working while having a book propped up in front of him.

Parkes became part of the political scene in the late 1840s when the colony was facing great social division on the issue of the transportation of convicts from Britain.

By this time many businessmen had gained much wealth and valued the arrival of exceptionally cheap, often free, labour. However, the native born and free labourers were gradually becoming passionately opposed to the practice. The native born didn't want Britain's criminals dumped in the colony due to the social impact. The free labourers faced clear and often unbeatable competition for employment.

Things came to a head on June 8, 1849 when the *Hashemy* arrived in Sydney Harbour with 200 convicts aboard at the same time as five other ships arrived carrying over 1250 free settlers.

The following day saw "The Great Protest Meeting" at Circular Quay where a very agitated crowd passed a motion written by Henry Parkes that protested "the landing of British on these shores".

The colonial government heeded the protest and the convicts were sent north to Moreton Bay. This proved to be the last attempt to land convicts in New South Wales and became a crucial turning point in the social development of the colony.

Following this, Parkes was a main figure in the establishment of the Australian Anti-Transportation League. This was one of the first uses of the term Australia in such a manner.

Soon after, Parkes addressed a huge rally of over 12,000 people assembled in Barracks Square (where the military barracks were and now called Wynyard Park). He seconded the main resolution of the assemblage moved by the wool baron Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, opposing transportation and demanding its end. The success of the movement was heavily due to Parkes' energy in writing articles for the newspapers and organising meetings where he was almost always the speaker.

In 1850 he established his own newspaper, the *Empire*, in a small printery next to his Hunter Street shop. He was both editor and proprietor. The paper soon gained a reputation for forthright comment and accurate reporting and rivaled the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

To gain news first in an age without any means of rapid communication, the two papers had teams of rowers stationed at Circular Quay. When news arrived at Observatory Hill that a ship was sailing up the coast, the two teams raced each other out to sea and down the coast to gain first access to the newspapers that would be on board. This was the only means of gaining news of the outside world and being the first into print.

When major events were occurring in the world such as the Crimean war in 1856, crowds in the hundreds would wait outside the offices and cheer the first issue!

During this period, Parkes avidly pursued his own political career and due mainly to his strength of character and natural abilities he developed a faction of supporters who remained with him throughout his career.

His main political opponent at the time was William Charles Wentworth, famous for being one of the famous trio who had crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813. Wentworth had become the leader of those who had been fighting for colonial self-government. In this he was ultimately successful but he and Parkes clashed as Wentworth insisted that the colony needed the constant supply of convict labour to prosper.

In 1854 he entered the Legislative Council as Member for Sydney. The Council consisted of twelve members appointed by the Governor and twenty-four elected members. Franchise was limited and determined by individual wealth.

Wentworth had been successful in the previous years in tapping into a growing democratic ideal in the colony and in 1856 the Legislative Assembly was elected with fifty-four members elected through limited franchise.

Parkes was elected to the first Legislative Assembly in 1856 as Member for Sydney. His election in itself was a proof of the growth of the democratic ideal as Wentworth had strongly favoured the colony being controlled by its wealthy citizens only. The election's polling place was at the Racecourse (now Hyde Park) and when his supporters heard of his election, Parkes was carried on their shoulders to the office of the Empire.

Political positions were voluntary at this time and it was extremely difficult for those without wealth to serve the colony and make a living. Parkes was forced to withdraw from the assembly due to bankruptcy on three occasions between 1865 and 1861.

Following each resignation he was enthusiastically re-elected. He re-entered parliament in 1859 and in 1861 moved that two commissioners be appointed to tour England to promote emigration to New South Wales. This was passed without division and the Premier, even though Parkes was in opposition, asked him to accept one of the positions with a salary of one thousand pounds a year, an offer he couldn't refuse.

This was the time of the American Civil War and a good opportunity to attract English workers to the colony. However, he found strong opposition from some prominent leaders in England who still saw the colony only as a place for convicts.

Parkes returned to New South Wales in 1863 and was soon re-elected to the Legislative Assembly. He accepted the position of Colonial Secretary in Sir James Martin's cabinet in 1866. Parkes, with the support of Sir James', carried out much long-lasting and powerful legislation.

Parkes was responsible for bringing in the Public Schools Act so that all schools came under the new Council of Education. In his first speech in the Council in 1854, he said that he would not rest until every child in New South Wales was receiving an education.

He fiercely fought for this so that no child would be denied an education. He stated, "I wish to make it possible for the child of the poorest man to attain the highest place if the stuff is in that child itself....Is it any wonder that young men of spirit become bushrangers? We need schools to prevent crime. We want schools not gaols, schoolmasters not gaolers."

The terms of the Act were that wherever at least twenty-five children could be brought together, public schools should be built and staffed with a trained teacher. Where there were ten children, a part time school with an itinerant teacher would be established. Church schools would still receive grants from the government but only when they were inspected the same way as public schools but no aid would be given to new church schools. Public schools were to allow one hour per day for religious instruction by visiting clergy. All pre-existing bodies controlling schools were replaced by the Council of Education with Parkes as the first President.

He was again forced to retire from parliament due to bankruptcy in 1870 but on his re-election he formed his first ministry on 7 May, 1872 aged 57. His second ministry was in 1877 and he was knighted KCMG. His third term as Premier was 1878-1883.

During the 1860s and 1870s the debate between public and private education raged much as it has ever since. In 1880, Parkes introduced the Public Instruction Act. High schools were established for boys and girls in all large centres, bursaries were introduced for bright children from poor homes and night schools established for children who had to work. The Council of Education was replaced by the department of Public Instruction, now the Department of Education and Training and public school teachers became members of the Public Service. Controversy followed as all grants to church schools were withdrawn.

Parkes' far-sighted contribution to the development of free and public education ahead of the rest of the world was in itself staggering and shaped the Australian democracy and society. However, his efforts in the area of health have not been lauded to the same degree. Only one hospital existed in the colony and it was run down. Parkes encouraged the establishment of a number of the major hospitals of today. Conditions in mental hospitals were improved and a training school for nurses established at Sydney Hospital under the guidance of Florence Nightingale who, at Parkes' behest, sent trained nurses to the colony for this purpose.

Parkes traveled to the United States and Europe in 1881 in an attempt to improve failing health. He was received by Gladstone in No 10 Downing Street and in Europe was the guest of the King and Queen of Belgium and the Crown Prince of Germany.

Though still in poor health he formed his fourth ministry, 1887-1888. Legislation was introduced giving payment to members of parliament. The railways were placed under a commissioner, removing them from political manipulation. He organised for the establishment of a water supply for Sydney and the appointment of paid magistrates replacing honorary magistrates whose impartiality the community had often called into question.

He had legislation passed creating Centennial Park in Sydney as the ideal manner to celebrate the colony's centenary by allowing working men and women an opportunity to enjoy parkland and garden.

Parkes was Premier of New South Wales for the fifth time between 1888 and 1891. As early as 1874, Parkes had been promoting the idea of a federation of the Australian colonies. In 1889 Lord Carrington, Governor of New South Wales, urged Parkes to initiate positive action towards federation, "It would be a glorious finish to your life."

Parkes in opposition made a habit of touring small country towns and speaking as often as possible. After gaining the support of the Premiers of Victoria and Queensland, Parkes launched the campaign to federate the Australian colonies with his famous Tenterfield Speech of 1889. Parkes proposed the name of the Commonwealth of Australia and was instrumental, along with Alfred Deakin, in achieving Federation in 1901.

Unfortunately, the "Father of Federation" was not there to see it, he died in 1896.

Parkes married three times, firstly to Clarinda Varney with twelve children born to the union, secondly to Eleanor Dixon with a further five children and lastly to Julia Lynch. Parkes died a few months after the third marriage in 1896 at "Kenilworth" in Johnston Street, Annandale.

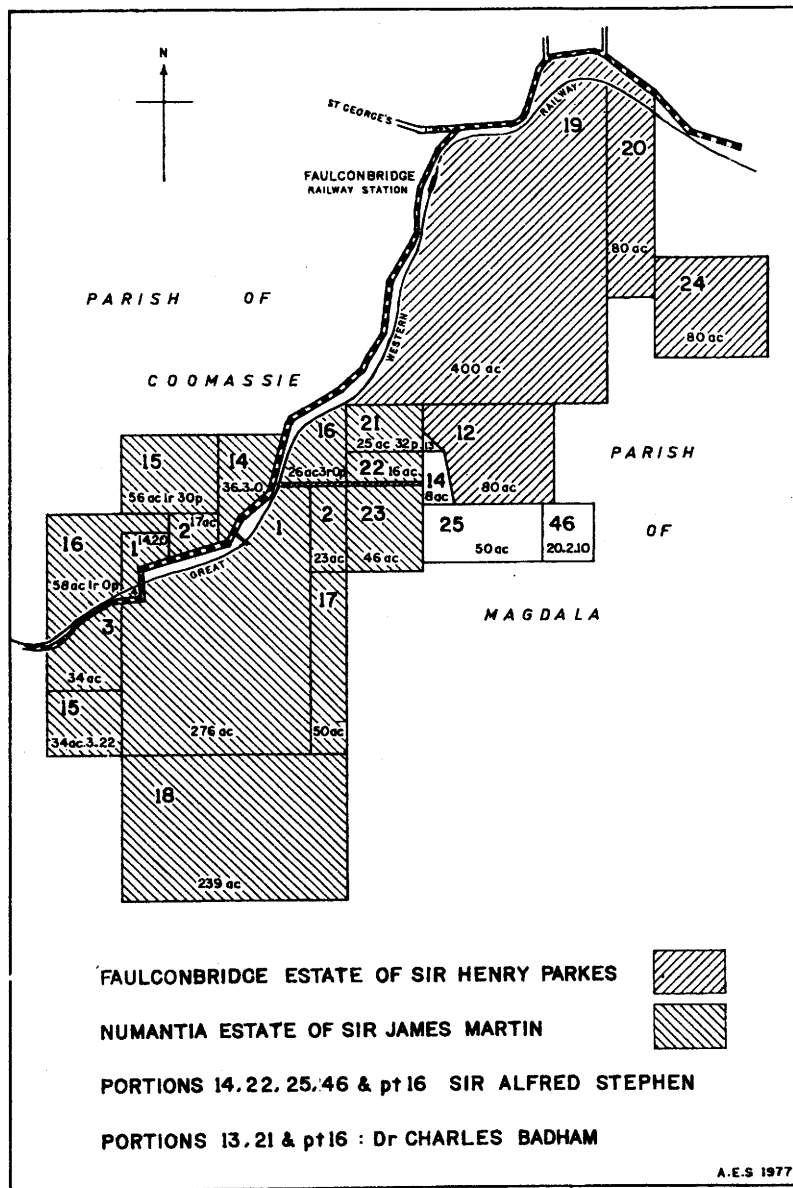
FAULCONBRIDGE

Late in 1876, Parkes applied for a Crown grant of land at Springwood and by January 1877 was asking the Postal Department to deliver to his new home, Stonehurst. This was the first of four homes that Parkes built at Faulconbridge. The others were Faulconbridge House, Moseley, built for his sister Maria and Fern Dell, a workers' cottage. The property is to the east of and adjoining the original purchase by Sir James Martin.

Many important visitors were hosted by the Parkes' at Faulconbridge House including HRH Prince Albert Victor of Wales, HRH Prince George of Wales (later King George V) and Prince Louis of Battenburg in 1881.

Parkes' eldest son (born 1843), Robert Sydney, died in 1880 and was buried at Faulconbridge. Eventually, he was joined by his wife, mother, three siblings and of course, father.

Between 1880 and 1941, 28 burials are known to have occurred at Faulconbridge Cemetery. The Burial Register of Christ Church, Springwood records, "29 April, 1896, Henry Parkes, Statesman, died 27 April 1896, buried in Faulconbridge Cemetery." The cemetery was originally a two acre lot donated by Parkes for the first interment, that of his eldest son.



FAULCONBRIDGE & NUMANTIA : 1876 - 1882

SIR ALFRED STEPHEN GCMG

(20 August, 1802 - 15 October, 1894)

Alfred Stephen was born in St Christopher in the West Indies on 20 August, 1802. He was the fourth son of a family of eleven of Mr Justice John Stephen who arrived in Sydney on 7 August, 1824. He was sent to England for his education and returned to the West Indies where he spent two years as a lieutenant in a militia corps of Fusiliers.

He returned to England and studied for the Bar to which he was called at Lincoln's Inn in 1823.

On 22 January, 1824 he married Virginia Consett in London and the couple soon after sailed for Tasmania, reaching Hobart in January, 1825. In May, 1826 he was appointed Solicitor General and Crown Solicitor. He held the post of Attorney-General of Tasmania from 1833 to 1838.

Virginia Stephen died in childbirth along with her baby in 1837 after bearing nine children between 1825 and 1837. Alfred Stephen married his second wife, Eleanor Martha Bedford in Tasmania on 27 July, 1838. In 1839, they moved to Sydney. Eleanor bore Alfred another nine children between 1839 and 1856. Lady Stephen died on 11 July, 1886.

Stephen was appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of New South Wales on 30 April, 1839. He was made Chief Justice upon the death of Sir James Dowling and held that position from April, 1845 until he retired from the bench in 1873.

He was a Member and became President of the Legislative Council. In 1875 he was Lieutenant Governor and in 1880 was President of the Trustees of the National Gallery. He resigned from the Legislative Council in 1891 and lived in retirement until his death on 15 October, 1894.

Honours conferred on Sir Alfred Stephen were, CB in 1862, KCMG (Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George) in 1874, GCMG (Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George) in 1884 and Privy Councilor in 1893.

Dr Scott Skirving was called to Sir Alfred's deathbed along with his daughter, Saidee. Sir Alfred's face lit up with a smile upon seeing the doctor and patting the doctor's arm said quite cheerily, "My dear friend, you know this is getting beyond a joke" and closing his eyes, he passed away. He is reported to have been ever industrious and deeply concerned with the duties of his profession or in social work, matters of state and especially with his family. He is said to have always maintained a sense of humour and particularly enjoyed the company of his offspring.

Soon after being knighted he wrote the following...

JUDICIAL IMPARTIALITY

Or

THE KNIGHT OF TWICE NINE (Eques curabus)

Of children this knight had no less than eighteen,
Two batches of nine with a marriage between;
Nine born when a barrister, nine when a judge;
And since from strict justice he never would budge,
Half precisely were girls, the other half boys,
An equal division 'twixt quiet and noise:
While if by marriage the numbers be reckoned,
There were nine of the first, and nine of the second,
Nine born in Tasmania, nine in New South Wales;
Then to shew with what justice he still held the scales,
Since nine it is certain he could not divide,
A third sex as yet having never been tried.
Five sons and four daughters in Hobart were born,
While four sons, five daughters, to Sydney attorn:
So just the proportion in each case assigned!
For very impartial indeed was his mind –
Twin daughters, twin sons, complete the strange story
Of this patron of Wigs, tho' constant old Tory.

ALPHINGTON

Sir Alfred Stephen seems to have decided to build a mountain retreat at the same time as Sir James Martin. In October, 1876 Sir James sold 12 acres to Sir Alfred Stephen who built a wooden house and named it Alphington after his father's home in Exeter, England.

On 27 January, 1877 Sir Alfred visited the site with the architect ET Blacket who advised on the building of the wooden cottage that was in occupation by May 1877. Alphington was built on the large, flat area between Eurama and Weemala with a formal garden on the lower, leveled section to the north.

Sir Alfred spent much time planning paths into the gullies and at times did much of the work himself. The paths led to natural features that he gave names to such as Waterloo Rock and The Fountain of Egeria.

Alphington was built 300 yards south of the Martin's house and was similar in design to Numantia except for an annex at the back replacing the courtyard. Robert Woodday, the caretaker and his daughter Ada, lived here for most of the time. A garden was developed around the house.



A private level crossing of the railway to serve Sir Alfred and his neighbours was made alongside the Numantia cottage (see below, P28).

In March 1882, due to financial difficulties he sold Alphington to a solicitor, Andrew Hardie McCulloch. MacLaurin recalls that his grandmother and his aunt Miss EH Evans sometimes stayed at Alphington on visits to Eurama (M/1P2).

In 1914, Alban P Scanlan from Ireland and William Benjamin Bailey from Illinois, USA “inspected Alphington and became residents there, where they conducted a small printing press”. These men lived at Alphington while Mrs EE MacLaurin resided at Eurama. It was noted that she was glad to have them there as it was very lonely at times.

Alphington was sold to them in 1918 and in 1921 they moved the house to land almost opposite the junction of Grose Road. They removed it piecemeal by dray, erecting the main portion with the verandah and one gable end to face the road, the other gable section being put at the rear and used as their office, library and printing works. It was renamed Danville after the town in Illinois where Bailey originated. He returned to America in 1930 and Scanlan continued to operate there as a printer until his death 1956.



Miss
Ruby

ALPHINGTON on its new site and now known as DANVILLE.

Coombs who had been post mistress in Springwood lived in the house for many years (M/1,P2).

The house is currently on the same site and appears, from the road, to be in good repair.

PROFESSOR CHARLES BADHAM DD

(18 July, 1813-26 February, 1884)

Charles Badham was born at Ludlow, Shropshire, England on 18 July, 1813. His father was Professor Charles Badham MD of Glasgow University while his mother was a cousin of the Scottish poet, Thomas Campbell (1777-1844).

Charles was sent to Switzerland for his education becoming one of Pestalozzi's earliest pupils. (Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, 1746-1827, a very influential Swiss educational reformer.) Charles continued his education at Eton and later at Wadham College, Oxford graduating BA in 1836 and MA in 1839.

During the following seven years he traveled Europe in search of early Greek manuscripts. On returning to England he was ordained in the Church of England in 1848 taking his Doctor of Divinity at Canterbury in 1852. Possibly as a result of his early education, he possessed unorthodox ideas that were unacceptable to the church in England.

Prior to receiving his appointment to Sydney University he was headmaster of a proprietary school in Edgbaston. He moved to Sydney in 1867 where he succeeded John Wooley as Professor of Classics and Logic at the University of Sydney.

He raised the faculty to a high level of prestige and insisted that the standard of examination at Sydney be the same as that in English universities. Ahead of his time, he tutored working class students at no charge and advocated night lectures to expand the potential range of students. His knowledge of Latin and Greek and the main modern languages was of an exceptionally high calibre and he was widely praised for his eloquence and literary skill.

Charles married twice, both occasions in England. He first married Julia Matilda Smith on 14 January, 1848. Three children were born to the union between 1848 and 1853. He married, secondly, Georgiana Margaret Wilkinson on 31 December, 1857. Seven children were born to them between 1858 and 1875. Their third child, Edith, became the distinguished principal of the Forbes Street Church of England Grammar School until her death in 1920. Other children became well known in the legal and medical professions.

METCHLEY and WESTERN HOUSE



Charles Badham, Professor of Classics and Logic at Sydney University built a wooden cottage, Metchley, north-east and close by Numantia probably in 1877 on the 14 acres that he had obtained from Sir James Martin. Mr Watkins has been told that Badham could see the houses to the south across the dammed gully clearly as the bush had been totally cleared. Of Badham's original plantings, it would seem that only one tree remains, a Chinese fir growing near the railway line on the driveway near the original home site.

In 1878, Dr Badham built a smaller second brick cottage 200 yards to the north on 25 acres that he had acquired naming it Western House. It was a better site than Metchley and was inspected by his neighbours in September, 1878. After Professor Badham's death in 1884 the homes were often left unoccupied.

Both of these houses have since been destroyed. A photograph of one of Badham's houses is extant (1637/1), built on the Faulconbridge side of Weemala. Norton records Weston was built of stone. Possibly the photograph is of Metchley.

Metchley was destroyed by fire early in the twentieth century. However, ECB MacLaurin (M/1,P2) recalls "I fancy it was burnt down, but I seem to remember someone saying that Grandfather found it full of whiteants (sic) and had it pulled down." Possibly he has confused the events as Western House was indeed demolished.

Miss Elsie Stephen wrote in 1947 that the Badhams were a very unconventional family who would at times, when a train passed by, stand by the embankment in old clothes and hats and wave at the passengers with hoes and rakes and spades. (letter to J Jackson 28 July, 1947 noted in Searle, P36).

RAILWAY PLATFORMS

Two railway platforms existed on the site.

Martin built a small, private railway platform here and named it Alphington. This unofficial stop was for use by the local residents by either informing the guard or waving down the driver at a spot called "the Howdah". If this could not be accommodated the passengers alighted at the Numantia platform. If the train was light enough to restart, the gradient of the original line being steep, unofficial stops were made at the crossing (Searle, P 34). This unofficial stop operated between 1877 and about 1881.

Situated slightly further west the Numantia platform was officially opened on 9 October, 1876. It was closed to the public in 1891 and was permanently removed in May, 1897. Between 1891 and 1897 it was available for use by the Martin and Cliff families.

The platform behind Weemala still exists.

“MARTIN’S FOLLY”

To the west of the home Numantia Sir James Martin conceived of the idea to build a grand mansion on an elevated site overlooking all of his mountain land. It was to be called Numantia as well.

He spent much time planning and designing this mansion that would have a score or more rooms with a tower that would allow views in all directions. This was to be on an elevated rock platform about half a mile towards Linden from Numantia. Views here extend as far as Brisbane Water and Maitland.

Paddy Ryan was probably used to lay the foundations including two excavated rock tanks 25 feet by 6 feet by 10 feet deep for the water supply. About 150 yards south of the rock platform, a spring was found and was excavated to form a reservoir 12 feet by 5 feet and 4 feet deep. This became known as Lady Martin’s Bath though she never used it as such.



LADY MARTIN’S BATH, a water supply tank on the NUMANTIA estate and the site of the Butler murder.

The Bath was the site of a murder in 1896 when Frank Butler persuaded a twenty-year-old minerology student, Arthur Preston, to go gold mining with him. Butler shot and buried Preston in a hole near the Bath. Butler similarly murdered Captain Lee Weller ten days later in Glenbrook Valley. Butler fled to

California but was traced, extradited to Australia and hanged in Sydney on 16 July, 1897.

Lady Martin had inherited from her father and between Martin’s pay and her money they had an annual income of ten thousand pounds. In 1879 Lady Martin forbade any further expenditure of her money on the new house. Martin, on leave and ailing at the time, had no choice but to acquiesce. Work ceased after the foundations only were laid and about five thousand pounds had been spent. The area became known as “Martin’s Folly”.

Mr Adolphus Rogalsky, sometime resident of Numantia, acquired the Martin property in January, 1898 and had the idea of erecting a magnificent hotel on the site, the Numantia Grand Hotel, surrounded by recreational gardens. Though plans were drawn and a

painting of the hotel done, the idea came to nothing. The property was sold in 1908 and the new owner, Mr EW Cansdell of Nimmitabel, built a large stone cottage called The Bungalow.

EURAMA HOUSE

A central feature of Eurama Estate is the ruined mansion that now stands on the Estate Common.

In 1882, Andrew Hardie McCulloch, a solicitor of Sydney, built his grand country home and named it Weemala, an Aboriginal word for “expansive view”. After spending possibly 13,000 pounds McCulloch suffered financial difficulties.

In May, 1899 Weemala was sold to a solicitor, George Evans, who re-named it Eurama, ancient Greek for “wonderful view”, though the etymology is very questionable. Evans transferred the name Weemala to Sir James Martin’s house previously called Numantia.

Evans sold off McCulloch’s private railway station and “a fair sized piece of land” to a Mr King and then employed Mr and Mrs King to cook and clean for him. The Kings ran a few cows on Weemala and sold the milk locally.

George Evans died in 1910 and was buried in Waverley Cemetery. On his death Eurama passed to the Permanent Trustee and was offered for sale along with 113 acres. The



property was purchased by Evans' daughter, Emily (1636/3), who had married James Briarcliffe MacLaurin, an army officer and second son of the Hon Sir Normand MacLaurin MLC and for many years Chancellor of Sydney University (CEW Bean, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1915, P50). Emily bore their son ECB MacLaurin at Eurama.

Sir Normand's other son, a frequent visitor to Eurama, was Col. HN MacLaurin, a Sydney barrister and commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st AIF, 1914/1915 who was killed in action 27 April, 1915 on Gallipoli. He was the highest ranking Australian killed there, famously shot dead by a sniper while in the trenches (Bean, P521.) MacLaurin's Hill on Gallipoli bears his name. He was promoted Brigadier General on Gallipoli though this was not confirmed before his death. He visited Eurama in his staff car on 19 October, 1914, the day before he sailed for the Great War aboard the SS Euripides.



During WW1, Hitchen's famous Cooee March passed by Eurama. This march of volunteers for the Great War began in the country and numbers increased as the marchers moved through each town. Mrs MacLaurin, hearing their shoes were worn out, bought every man a new pair. They gave her three cheers as they marched past Eurama with the MacLaurin family looking on.

After the war, the famous aviator brothers Sir Keith Macpherson Smith and Sir Ross Macpherson Smith flew low over Eurama on their pioneer flight in the England to Australia Air Race of 1919. The occupants of Eurama had gathered on the driveway and when the Vickers Vimy biplane flew over the party, the pioneer airmen were seen waving to the group at very close range.

The property had access at two points to the Great Western Highway across the railway line, both being extremely dangerous. One was beside Weemala and the other near the power installation. Accident and near miss are recorded at both.

Other structures on the property housed the MacLaurin's automobiles and horses. They



possessed at one time a dove grey 14hp 1913 Arrol Johnson and later a Rolls Royce (though the Rolls Royce “never quite felt as elitist as the Arrol Johnson”). Numerous horses were stabled, trotters, thoroughbreds and work horses. When Eurama was sold by the MacLaurins some of these horses were shot in the gully below the house.

Below Eurama and to the south-east, two sheds existed, solid floors being evident amongst the undergrowth. The meat shed still stands, however, the gardener’s cottage has been destroyed.

When Mrs MacLaurin became ill, Eurama was sold to Katherine Nathan in March 1926. It was later sold to Daisy Elaine Brown in May, 1928. The Browns were the longest standing owners of the home before its destruction. Some time after the death of Mrs Brown the 213 acre property was acquired by a development company, Eurama Homes whose plans to subdivide the land did not meet with council approval and no further action was taken.

The home was eventually sold to CC Graham in October, 1955.

The house changed hands again in October, 1967 when it was sold to RW Adams who spent large sums attempting to restore the home but to no avail as it was destroyed in the fierce bushfires of 1968. Following this it was purchased by Mr Leslie Watkins.

Mr Watkins and in particular his son, John, spent the next thirty years maintaining the property though never adding improvements except for building the huge shed over the original quarry site.

Andrew Hardie McCulloch, a wealthy politician, businessman and lawyer built Eurama in 1882. He and his wife were the maternal grandparents of the author Eleanor Dark who later lived in Katoomba. McCulloch had visions of a grand country manor and commissioned George Allan Mansfield to design it.

The local builder Patrick (Paddy) Ryan built the house of stone quarried from the site (under the site where the large shed now stands) and from Sir James Martin’s land nearby.

The coat of arms above the main door is that of McCulloch. The young stonemason responsible for the coat of arms (Stephen, P264, suggests his name may have been Sweetman) erred in carving VIET ANIMO, the motto should read VI ET ANIMA, By Strength and By Courage. Costs were about 13,000 pounds with McCulloch having bought the site from Sir Alfred Stephen for 3,800 pounds (Norton, P3) in 1881. Sir James Martin felt the price of the land was worth “a good deal more” (Ibid).

McCulloch named the property Weemala, said to be an Aboriginal word meaning “expansive view”. McCulloch spent large sums of money to develop the extensive grounds. However, toward the end of the decade McCulloch began to suffer financial difficulties and sold the property to JW Cliff in 1889.

Cliff sold the property to George Evans in 1899. Evans also purchased the neighbouring property Numantia, a wooden cottage nearer the railway line built in 1877 for Sir James Martin, then Chief Justice of NSW. Evans transferred the name Weemala onto Numantia and renamed the original Weemala, Eurama. This has been the source of considerable confusion since and at times the sources discovered have suffered from this confusion.

ECB McLaurin grandson of George Evans, recalls that McCulloch used Eurama as his home and Weemala as his lodge and private railway station. He describes Eurama as a “magnificent stone cottage” consisting of “at least three bedrooms, a dressing room with a tower above it, drawing room, dining room, two bathrooms, sewing room, storage rooms, kitchen, bakery, cellar, dairy and many wooden outbuildings”. There was “a beautiful bow window” at the end of the drawing room. Mr John Watkins reports that the interior walls were timber veneered to a height of three metres.

The ceilings of the living rooms were painted pale blue and decorated with flowers and other designs. The front hall had a dark coloured dado and tiled floor. Furnishings were by Lyon Cottier and Co who installed the “lyncrusta walton” dados. The house was surrounded by verandahs with a large underground well sealed with a concrete top and a windmill above (see 1636/4 and JW/8). The windmill was engaged by climbing a ladder and rotating the blades.

Photographs JW/1, JW/12 and 1636/4 and painting JW/16 indicate that the verandah on the east and south side of the house had been extended and enclosed early last century. Mr Watkins reports that a visitor at one time reminisced how, in the 1920s, he had spent time at the home for social occasions and slept on cots erected on this verandah. The visitor recalled how cool the verandahs had been after hot days. Another female visitor in her eighties informed him that the social life at Eurama with the MacLaurins had been very fine.

CONSTRUCTION

The following is quoted verbatim from a four-page document supplied by Mr M Barton and gained from Mr J Watkins, previous owner of Eurama. This document was compiled in 1970 by Mr Norton at the request of Mr L Watkins who intended to again restore Eurama.

Unfortunately, dispute arose between Mr Watkins and some members of the local historical society and these plans were not realised. The issue causing conflict was Mr Watkins’ plan to roof with tiles rather than the original slate and lead. A large stack of tiles is currently near the ruins of Eurama, the remains of this intention.

Internal evidence in the first paragraph suggests that it was written in 1970 soon after Eurama’s destruction by fire. This has been confirmed by Mr John Watkins. The photographs and drawings referred to are not held.

“The house was built entirely of stone. The exterior walls being mainly squared rubble in courses with ashlar quoins and lintels. Interior walls were random rubble with roughly squared quoins and lintels. The stone was Hawkesbury Sandstone of good quality – well cut and laid. On the longer spans – over bay windows on the northern and eastern elevations and along the ridge of the cool room – imported rolled steel joists were used. Three inch cast iron drain pipes, imported from Glasgow, carried roof water to the reservoir under the courtyard. Ceilings were made of lathe and plaster at least one inch thick. Interior walls were plastered to about an inch thickness with a soft sandy plaster which was covered with a very thin but extremely hard finishing coat of Keen’s plaster. The latter material was also used to run the dados and cornices. In the living room and bedrooms a stencilled pattern decorated the walls. In one of the smaller bedrooms the pattern still remains after suffering fire and nearly two years exposure.

Floors were of timber with a minimum air space of about 18 inches. The bearers 4” x 3” and joists 8” x 2” – where traces survive – were built directly into the walls. The cellar floor was stone. Verandah floors on the northern and eastern sides were timber whilst the entry verandah floor was tiled. Other verandahs and the rear courtyard were paved with stone flags.

The roof was framed in timber and covered with large slates. Lead seems to have been used extensively – regardless of cost – for flashing. The Tower floor was completely covered with lead.

Verandahs were framed in timber with timber posts and roofed in corrugated iron. Canopies over windows on the western side were constructed of sheet iron on timbered cantilevered frames.

Roof gables were decorated with fretworked timber facias and infills topped with timber finials.

Verandah posts were fitted with decorated brackets, probably made from timber. Cast iron balustrades were fitted to the verandahs on the northern side and probably continued to the verandah on the eastern side.

Windows were most likely box frame - there now being a large number of weights lying about the ruins. Most windows were fitted with shutters. Perforated metal fly screens were fitted to the cool room windows.

A hot water system comprising a very large tank installed behind the kitchen stove supplied hot water through pipes in the roof to the kitchen and bathroom. The system was in operation during the residency of the Browns and possibly may have been installed when the house was erected.

A large brick arched reservoir about 12 feet deep underneath the courtyard was the main water supply. A second tank or well was situated near the cool room. Water for house use was pumped by a windmill near the south east corner of the courtyard.

In the valley to the north of the home was a dam. On the other side of the valley was another pool –swimming (?) – 12-ft. square and 6-ft. deep cut into rock.

South west of the house and close by was a gardiner's (sic) cottage, a huge laundry and a large shed containing two coach houses, large stables, three carpenter's rooms, wood rooms and cow bails. Little trace of these buildings remains.

An extensive garden surrounded the home. There were many miles of constructed and bordered paths with stone steps on the inclines running into the bush. One such path ran for five miles to a very beautiful waterfall at the bottom of a gully. Along the way bridges made hugh (sic) tree trunks with steps cut in led over water courses. Every few miles tables and chairs were erected either under large trees or in one of the caves for the benefit of the walkers.

All gardens and paths near the house were bordered with glazed terra cotta tiles with a scalloped edge. Paving around the house was of brick or stone.

Close by the north east of the house was a large rockery and croquet lawn. A tennis court was about a quarter of a mile to the east.

PRESENT CONDITION

As can be seen in the photographs only the stone work and a few bits of timber remain. The house and garden were burnt out in late 1968. The garden area has since become overgrown.

The stonework is still in good condition overall. The lintels of some interior doorways are cracked and the arch to the sewing room is slightly displaced.

Much of the plastering and all of the dados and cornices have fallen.

***Regretably (sic) the house has suffered from the hands of the vandals. The brick arch of the bakery oven unspoil (sic) by fire is now broken.

However, during its occupancy the house and garden must have given comfort and pleasure to its numerous owners.

***Due to the absence of all roofing the roof lines as shown on the accompanying drawings are to some small degree assumed. No trace remains of gable or verandah decoration."

THE GARDEN

Almost nothing seems to remain from the original gardens. When McCulloch bought the property, the grounds were much improved, “an asphalt tennis court, a large flag staff and some fine stone steps were cut and set in an attractive pathway made to a charming “lake” made by a dam built across a gully between his house and the Badham’s” (Stephen, P265). The stonemason who carved the crest above the main door also carved a lion’s head on a projecting rock on the side of a track below the tennis court.

ECB MacLaurin notes that Eurama was overgrown when George Evans bought the property and that he had to cut his way through blackberry from the front gate to the house. As a child he remembers Eurama being “full of birds” with many black cockatoos.

Various colours of boronia grew in the gullies including a pure white variety. In the years following the turn of the century, Mrs MacLaurin had great difficulty with thieves entering the property stealing waratahs and rock lilies that were then sold in the Sydney market. During the Great War, waratahs were harvested and sold in Sydney with the proceeds being given to the War Chest. MacLaurin also recalls wax plants as common (M/2,P3).



The grounds included two tennis courts, one grass and one asphalt and a swimming pool cut from the living rock on the edge of the valley on the Faulconbridge side, opposite Eurama house. The garden was extended to cover the environment of the asphalt tennis court on the ridge east of the house.

Evans resolved to make Eurama into a unique property (MacLaurin 1, P6). Many stone-bordered paths were built throughout the gullies doing much of the work himself on weekends. The gullies were laced with clearly defined paths and were the home of a great wealth of bird and animal life, wallabies and lyre birds being common as were flannel flowers and rock lilies. The definition of these paths is still clearly evident and

the path to the cave known as the Amphitheatre, stretches approximately one kilometre to the south east.

Plants were apparently imported from “all over the world” and were exchanged at times with JH Maiden, Curator of the Sydney Botanical Gardens, who sometimes stayed at Eurama (M/1,P6).

The dam built when McCulloch bought the property was a central feature of the garden. Fishing for yabbies was a favourite amusement until the dam was washed away in a heavy storm. Large concrete blocks were washed down the gully and are still where the storm left them.

When Evans bought the property “the dam was rebuilt, though not so high, and the pretty lake in the glen still exists today” (Stephen, P266) Obviously, the dam is currently much smaller than the original as a result. Evans maintained a rowboat on the dam as he saw rowing as the best form of exercise. Mr Watkins has supplied photographs of the dam being used by swimmers (JW/6/7/11).

The valley leading down to the dam was gradually terraced and paths developed. The original steps leading from the formal garden down towards the dam still exist. The hillside has been carefully sculpted so that many cuttings in the rock directs rainfall down into the dam. The paths are carefully built down to the dam to allow some ease of access and offer various viewing points.

Exotics were planted across the terraces. A photograph (1636/1) of the dam is extant but of unknown date showing evidence of terracing and pathways but displays little in the way of planting. Large conifers are evident below the dam with natural vegetation on the Faulconbridge side. The dam wall clearly required considerable effort to erect. As this photograph was in the possession of Mr MacLaurin it may be dated to the very early twentieth century at the latest.

MacLaurin refers to the swimming pool cut from solid rock to the north and above the lake. (M/2,P2-3) Norton (P3) details the size of the swimming pool. At least four of these rock cuttings exist on the original Martin property.

The original owners were very clearly aware of the need and manner to collect and conserve water as is evidenced by the number of tanks, the dam and the cuttings, as well as the shaping of the hill face above the dam.

At one time Evans attempted to plant an orchard on the level area below the dam where ease of watering was a benefit. A six-foot wire netting fence was erected to protect the fruit trees he had planted but wallabies jumped the fence “so relentlessly that he had to give up the idea of an orchard.” (MacLaurin 1, P7)

Mr John Watkins informs that after the 2001 bush fires the area was so severely affected by the intensity of the heat that no vegetation remained below the dam. The area is most

suited to an orchard, he informs, as there is a slight northerly gradient with deep, good soil that would suit an orchard.

The large cave to the east of the house, known as the Amphitheatre, was furnished with tables and chairs. A photograph (1636/2) displaying these tables and chairs is extant with Mr D Thetford sitting at one. Mr and Mrs Thetford were employed about 1910 by Mrs MacLaurin to care for the house and garden, Mr Thetford also acting as a chauffeur who milked the cow. MacLaurin reports (M1, P8) that Thetford at one time found some skeletons in a cave in one of the valleys “linked to each other by leg irons” presumably the remains of convicts who had attempted to escape from the road gangs possibly at Bull’s Camp further west.

On at least one occasion at the end of the nineteenth century (M/2,P2) the Amphitheatre was the site of a “magnificent feast” where prominent politicians and businessmen were “superbly dined and wine until late into the night”. (M/1,P7) (So much so that some had great difficulty ascending the slope through the darkness, some being “not strictly sober”.)

MacLaurin (M/1,P8) describes the garden as magnificent with “huge camellias and a wide lawn with a very large pterostermum (sic) tree, the shape of Anthony Hordern’s famous advertisement, in the middle lawn in front of the house”. This tree was blown down in a severe storm in the 1930s or 1940s (M/2,P2). A camellia was planted outside the kitchen door.

An avenue of “pine trees” lead from the house to the gate beside Weemala with the pine cones being used for the bath heater. (M/1,P15) Mr John Watkins reports that this avenue was of radiata pine and was removed by him and his father with the last tree being felled in 1976. The avenue was replaced by the current row of tallwood at this time.

The photograph JW/2 shows the top drive and avenue of radiata pines at some time prior to the purchase of the property by Mr Watkins. Mr Watkins informs that the current driveway is the original route laid down when Alphington was built. The driveway route takes direction from Weemala roughly square to the rail line to Eurama and then to the southern end of the house, around the building to the front door on the northern side.

Transport would deliver residents and guests at the front door after travelling around a circular garden that is, at present, a low, circular mound. Mr Watkins reports that this was a flower garden only. A port wine magnolia (in a poor state) remains to the left of the front door and is possibly evident in photographs of the site at the turn of the last century. JW/13 displays a pathway leading past the gardener’s cottage towards the front door and circular drive. A flourishing flower garden is evident.

At one time John Watkins had cleared the drive in the original configuration. The driveway surface seems to have been kept in a level but natural state. Mr Watkins stated

that he had not come across any evidence to suggest that the drive had ever been surfaced with any medium.

A large Norfolk Pine is pictured in JW/9 and 1636/4. Mr John Ward who lived in Weemala at the time of its destruction (1982) told Mr Watkins that the tree was blown down in 1965 during a severe storm. When the Watkins bought Eurama an “enormous” hole remained that was later filled in with a bull-dozer. Photograph JW/9 shows the tree possibly from the tower of Eurama.

Two cairns were built by Mr Evans to the east of the home and of unusual construction. Photograph JW/10 is a female figure atop one of them. Paths were constructed immediately to the south and north of the cairns. These paths connect to the east of the northerly cairn and the path then travels roughly 100 metres to the north-east to the asphalt tennis court. Remains of the tennis court are evident.

It has been suggested that Eurama was surrounded by four large, terraced gardens supported by retaining walls. Mr Watkins informs that he has no knowledge of these gardens. He suggests that the only terraced gardens on the properties were in front and to the north of Alphington. There is currently evidence of retaining walls and stonework in this area. It would seem that the only formal garden around Eurama house is that to the north, near the front door as is evidenced by JW/13.

As well, it has been suggested that Chinese heritage roses were in the Eurama gardens. The source of this is unknown but Mr Watkins suggests that the roses were in the formal garden in front of Numantia cottage, that Sir James Martin was known to have grown heritage roses there.

Currently, Cootamundra wattle is spread across the properties. This was, Mr Watkins suggests, introduced in the early twentieth century and is now a pest.

ASSESSMENT

Alphington, though the mountain retreat of the Chief Justice of New South Wales, now exists as a home some kilometres away. Upon its removal to its current site 83 years ago, it was rebuilt in a different configuration to suit the needs of the new owners. Other than the suspicion of previous habitation suggested by the obvious shaping of the land, nothing on the original site suggests the previous existence of the home. The site has been corrupted to the point where, in the time of the current owner, a derelict Ford truck was buried with the use of a large earth-mover near the easterly telegraph pole.

Metchley, destroyed by fire at the turn of the twentieth century, has attracted little attention since and Western House decayed to the point where it was demolished and has likewise gained little interest.

It is clear, though, that Weemala and Eurama are of greater historical significance.

Weemala, though not part of the property purchased by Eurama Vision Pty Ltd and currently owned by State Rail, is significant due to the status and historical significance of the original owner and his political and social connections. Though only the courtyard remains, the property represents a time when the wealthy and powerful citizens of the developing colony and nation had opportunity to own and enjoy highland retreats.

The site is significant because of what remains and more importantly because of what it has been and who experienced the property. It is clear from the political views of Parkes and Martin that Weemala was a site where the foundation of the nation was discussed, if not shaped.

The ideal would be a re-construction of the home and restoration of the courtyard area. An extension of the sandstone wall along the railway across the length of the property purchased by Eurama Vision Pty Ltd, is not seen as a disincentive if the wall were to be constructed in a manner sympathetic to the existing original stone work.

Eurama is significant not because of the high status of those who lived there but due to its stature as a once grand country retreat and the evidence that exists of lifestyle, prestige and privilege particularly during the period c.1890-1930.

The dam, sculpted hillside, rock pools and wells are very significant examples of water collection and conservation. To some degree, they display an understanding of water that society is only currently re-gaining. Of the water features, the dam is of the greatest significance in that it is central to the garden and to the very existence of the original site as a habitable property. Very little evidence exists to suggest details of the extent and nature of the garden around Eurama, however, the descriptions of a grand garden and the attendance of the Curator of the Botanical Gardens on a regular basis at one time indicate that this was not a garden of small stature by any means.

CHRONOLOGY

1867	Railway to Wentworth Falls opened
1876	Sir Henry Parkes purchased 500-600 acres at Faulconbridge and built a wooden cottage Stonehurst
	Numantia railway platform officially opened (9 October)
1876-7	Sir James Martin, Chief Justice and associate of Parkes bought 900 acres adjoining Parkes' land between Faulconbridge and Linden.
	Sir James Martin sold land to Sir Alfred Stephen GCMG
1877	Portion of this land sold to Professor Charles Badham

	Numantia built by Sir James Martin
	Alphington built by Sir Alfred Stephen
	Metchley built by Prof Badham
1878	Western House built by Prof Badham
1879	Parkes built a second wooden cottage to the south of Stonehurst naming it Faulconbridge
1881	Land sold to McCulloch by Sir Alfred Stephen
1882	Eurama built for McCulloch by Paddy Ryan
	Alphington sold to AH McCulloch (March)
1884	Death of Prof Badham (26 February)
1886	Death of Sir James Martin (4 November)
1889	Eurama sold to JW Cliff
1891	Numantia platform closed to the public (August)
1894	Death of Sir Alfred Stephen (15 October)
1896	Death of Sir Henry Parkes (27 May), buried Faulconbridge
1899	Weemala and Numantia sold to George Evans, names changed to Eurama and Weemala respectively
1900	Soon after this year Metchley destroyed by fire
	Western House demolished early this century
1910	Death of George Evans
1911	Eurama purchased by EE MacLaurin
1918	Alphington sold to Mr Scanlan and Mr Bailey
	Alphington moved to Great Western Highway
1926	Eurama sold to Mrs Katherine Nathan
1928	Eurama sold to Mrs Daisie Elaine Brown
1955	Eurama sold to CC Graham
1956	Death of Mr Scanlan
1967	Eurama sold to Mr RW Adams, real estate agent (Sydney)
1968	Restoration of Eurama
1968	Eurama destroyed by bushfire (28 November)
1970	Eurama sold to Mr Watkins, timber merchant
1982	Weemala destroyed by bushfire
1988	Site of Bicentennial event for children's open-air theatre
2004	Eurama Vision Estate created
2005	Eurama Vision Estate opened

THE SOURCES

Copies of photographs held and supplied via Springwood Library Local History Collection, provenance Mr ECB MacLaurin. References are those applied by the library:

- 1636/1 Ornamental lake at Eurama
- 1636/2 Cave at Eurama with D Thetford
- 1636/3 Mrs Emily Ethel MacLaurin

- 1636/4 Eurama
- 1636/5 Eurama also showing Alphington
- 1637/1 Western House owned by Prof. Badham
- 1637/2 Shed/garage at Eurama
- Col HN MacLaurin (KIA 1915) (CEW Bean, P520)

Copies of photographs held and supplied by Mr J Watkins via Mr Mark Barton.
References are those applied by the author:

- JW/1 Eurama earlier than 1636/4 and 1636/5 taken in the 1890s judging by clothing and growth of vegetation
- JW/2 The top driveway at Eurama
- JW/3 View of “Eurama - pool in middle”
- JW/4 View of bush
- JW/5 Unknown figures
- JW/6 Swimmers in the pool
- JW/7 Four swimmers in pool
- JW/8 View of the windmill at Eurama
- JW/9 View possibly from the turret at Eurama
- JW/10 Unknown figure
- JW/11 Five swimmers in the pool
- JW/12 View of Eurama possibly in similar time as JW/1
- JW/13 View of Eurama through pathway of terraced garden
- JW/14 Driveway to Eurama
- JW/15 Titled “Sunday morning – Eurama”
- JW/16 Photocopy of painting of Eurama (including Sir Alfred Stephen’s home Alphington quite close by and to the west), flag pole atop turret flying a flag, stone wall and steps with garden stone wall across eastern face of Eurama
- Numantia Cottage (Searle, P 29)
- Alphington (Searle, P 32)
- Danville (Searle, P 38)
- Faulconbridge and Numantia : 1876-1882 (Searle, P 6)
- Sir James Martin’s Numantia Estate, 1884 (Searle, P32)

These are not of reproduction quality. Three photographs and three slides are held by Mr John Watkins given him by Mr RW Adams. They show Eurama before and possibly after restoration and are of excellent quality. Details of fretwork above windows etc are clearly evident. I am informed by Mr Watkins that these will be forwarded upon settlement and will be valuable for restoration purposes.

Article: Journal and Proceedings, Royal Australian Historical Society, Vol.XXXI, Part IV, Sydney, 1945, Pp 249-276, “Numantia, A Place of

Disillusioned Aspirations”, Alfred E Stephen being a retiring presidential address delivered at the Society’s Annual Meeting, 27 February, 1945.

Personal recollections recorded by Mr ECB MacLaurin titled Blue Mountains Memories recounting some events of his life while living at Eurama. Mr MacLaurin was the son of Mrs EE MacLaurin who bought the property from the Perpetual Trustee after the death of her father Mr G Evans who had bought Eurama in 1907. Referred to in text as M/1.

Further, though much briefer, notes also recorded by Mr ECB MacLaurin in 1974 (M/2).

Report by HG Norton Provenance Mr John Watkins. This report was prepared for his father, Mr Lesley Norman Watkins in 1970 to assist in an intended but not realized, second restoration of Eurama.

Folio map supplied by Springwood Library.

Searle, Allan E, The History of Faulconbridge, Linden and Woodford, Springwood Historical Society, 1977.

Interviews: with Mr John Watson, previous owner of Eurama; Mr Lindsay Paish, past President of Springwood Historical Society and the late Mr William McIntyre, also past President of Springwood Historical Society undertaken during February, 2004.

Acknowledgement is made of photographs and maps in this work taken from Allan E Searle’s ‘The History of Faulconbridge, Linden and Woodford’ published by Springwood Historical Society, 1980. Mr Searle has made no reference to the sources of these and approval for use has been sought from the Society.

Acknowledgement is made of the photograph of Colonel HN MacLaurin, Commander 1st Australian Infantry Brigade from CEW Bean, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Volume 1, (Angus and Robertson, 1942) facing P 520.