



# Rananim

The Journal of the D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia

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## The Wyewurk Saga Continues

What has happened to Wyewurk? To recap. Originally called "Idle Here" (and, incidentally, the first California bungalow in Australia), Wyewurk was built in Thirroul on the NSW south coast by Roy Irons about 1911, occupied by D.H. Lawrence May-August 1922, holiday house of Southwell family 1919-c1940, then commandeered by a "sitting tenant" till 1981, when bought by its present owner, estate agent Michael Morath. It was last heard of when it was being threatened by "Cape Coddling", and the Save Wyewurk Committee was formed, under the chairmanship of Professor Manning Clark, to ensure its heritage value was maintained, a conservation order having been



*Lawrence at Wyewurk in 1922 (photo: A.D. Forrester)*

placed on it by a prudent NSW State Government. A subsequent inquiry decided - to our dismay - that "tasteful" changes could be made to the historic bungalow, and an architect was assigned to draw up extension that would help Mr Michael Morath accommodate his growing family.

In the event, nothing happened.

It is now more than two years since the inquiry and we believe that permission to alter Wyewurk in any significant way has now lapsed. According to local information, Mr Morath's family is living elsewhere.

*(Cont'd page 2)*

## DHL Society of Australia Formed

THE formation meeting of the D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia took place on 14 November 1992 in the tiny municipal library of Thirroul on the New South Wales South Coast.

Thirroul was an appropriate venue for such a meeting. Lawrence

rented 'Wyewurk', a Californian-style bungalow, perched on the cliff overhanging Thirroul beach while he wrote his Australian novel, *Kangaroo*, in 1922.

Chaired by Robert Darroch, author of *D.H. Lawrence in Australia*, the assembled group of 11 Lawrence

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# A POSTCARD FROM FRIEDA

In January, 1937, Frieda Lawrence sent a postcard to Sydney from Concord, Massachusetts, probably while she was driving around the United States with her future husband, Angelo Ravagli.

The card shows three horses in a field, and is a scene at the Kiowa ranch, San Cristobal, New Mexico. Dated 11 January 1937, it is addressed to Miss Ilka Foster, and it says:

THANKS VERY MUCH FOR THE LETTER AND I WAS GLAD TO HEAR FROM AUSTRALIA AND GET A BULLETIN. BEST GREETINGS.

FRIEDA LAWRENCE

Miss Forster (not Foster, as Frieda spelled it) lived at Glenugie, 11 Addison Road, Manly, NSW. She apparently put the postcard in one of Lawrence's books, Aaron's Rod, and it lay there

for many years. (She died in 1975).

It was found by a Sydney woman, Mrs Yvonne Maley, among her father's books after his death. Her father, Vincent Wright, was a Sydney journalist, but she does not know how the book came into his possession. He did not mention the postcard to her during his life, and the only possible connection is that he lived at one time at Manly, near Addison Road, and the family had relations in Addison Road.

Here's a small puzzle for Lawrence scholars: was some contact made with the Forster family when the Lawrences were in Sydney in 1922? Or had Miss Forster simply read, in *Not I But the Wind*, Frieda's remark: "I wonder if the Bulletin has retained its character?" and sent her a copy of the Bulletin, perhaps via her publishers, Heinemann?

- Margaret Jones.

(Cont'd from p 1)

## D.H. Lawrence Society Formed

enthusiasts included Joe Davis, author of *D.H. Lawrence at Thirroul*, Wendy Joliffe, the Thirroul librarian, Raymond Southall, Steve O'Connor, Beverley Burgmann, Andrew Moore, John Ruffles, authors Margaret Jones and Sandra Jobson, and Inga Davis.

An interim committee was elected. Professor Raymond Southall became President, Beverley Burgmann, Secretary, and Steve O'Connor, legal officer whose first task was the preparation of a draft constitution.

The resolutions passed included the designing of a letterhead and logo for the society, the publication of a journal and the printing of promotional postcards based on photographs of Wyewurk.

For further information about the Society, contact:

**The Secretary, D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia, PO Box 100, Millers Point, NSW 2000, Australia. A membership form is on the back page.**

## The Wyewurk Saga Continues

(Cont'd from page 1)

The owner himself, is, however, occasionally seen there, and it appears that he is using the cottage for what it was originally intended - a holiday bungalow. It's a bit rundown, but the important point is that it is still there, and intact.

Its future? That is difficult to determine. The conservation order on Wyewurk is still an interim one, and Mr Morath's objections to the order also still stand. We face the prospect, perhaps, of yet another inquiry.

Needless to say, we believe that the interim conservation order, at the very least, should be made a permanent one. We also believe

that Wyewurk should not be allowed to deteriorate further, and we will support any moves by the Heritage Council, the National Trust, or any other authority to ensure that it is properly maintained.

So there it stands, literally and in every other respect. It is one of the objects of our Society to see that Wyewurk is preserved and, hopefully, eventually put to some use that would retain both its architectural and literary significance, and contribute even more to Australian culture than it has already..

If our Society has no other use, that aim would be purpose enough.

# By Steam Train to Thirroul

They went to Mullumbimby by the two o'clock train from Sydney on the Friday afternoon

Lawrence and Frieda departed from "Sydney Station" in 1922, a much grander construction than the "collection of tin sheds" that had served as the terminus since the first train had run in NSW in 1855. Built in 1906, the still-standing stone terminus served as the central departure point for all Sydney's suburban trains (which were then steam-hauled) and the four main lines, of which the Illawarra or South Coast Line was the shortest, terminating at Nowra, about 45 miles further south from Thirroul.

They settled themselves right at the front, in one of those long open second-class coaches with many cane seats and a passage down the middle.

The carriages assigned to the two o'clock train to Kiama in the contemporary (1921) timetable were EHO, a guard and luggage van, and four side door compartment non-corridor cars coded LFX (second class), BX (first class), CX (composite first and second class) and LFX. Also listed for this train were other carriages to be detached at Wollongong. On Monday to Friday these were two FA with one CCA additional on Mondays. The FA were non-

lavatory suburban cars and quite different to the other cars on the train. They had a centre aisle design with access from end platforms and the rows of seats could be turned over to face the direction of travel. The seat squabs and backs were padded and had a rattan covering from 1899 to the 1940s in second class, replaced by leather in first class. These end platform cars, after interior rebuilding to several styles, last worked on the Illawarra Line in 1978.

The train ran for a long time through Sydney, or the endless outskirts of Sydney.

The two o'clock train from Sydney was scheduled to stop at Hurstville, Oatley, Como, Sutherland, and then all stations to Kiama to arrive there at 6.10 pm. It is likely that a locomotive of the P6 class (later C32) hauled the train, as there were 191 in service by 1911 and they were the most numerous passenger locomotives in NSW. These simple yet rugged locomotives were first built in 1892 and some travelled over four million kilometres in a service life of over 70 years. One of these locomotives worked the last steam-hauled passenger train to the Illawarra in 1965.

"Como", said the station sign. And they ran on bridges over two arms of water from the sea,

and they saw what looked like a long lake with wooded shores and bungalows: a bit like Lake Como, but oh, so unlike.

In the few years prior to the opening of the first section of the Illawarra railway to Hurstville in 1884, the engineer-in-chief, John Whitton, had constructed bridges and earthworks on main lines to double-track dimensions so that the single line could be duplicated cheaply when required. However, approval for this additional expenditure on the Illawarra railway was refused, so a single-track bridge was constructed across the Georges River at Como. Only five years after its opening the single line was duplicated south of Hurstville except for the Georges River crossing. This single-track bridge remained a bottleneck until a new double-track bridge was built in 1972, and the old bridge is now used for a water pipeline and a bicycle path.

The land grew steeper - dark, straight hills like cliffs, masked in sombre trees.

The Illawarra railway climbs to its summit near Waterfall, but when Lawrence and Frieda travelled south from Waterfall it was by a new route. The old route was more direct, but was very steep and difficult to work, and Lawrence and Frieda were spared

(Cont'd page 10)

## BUT WHY *Rananim*?

THIS is the first issue of *Rananim*, the journal of the newly-formed D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia. To those familiar with Lawrence, our journal's name will need no explanation, though perhaps some justification.

Like the Phoenix symbol that also graces our cover page - this one taken from a drawing Lawrence made himself - the theme of *Rananim* runs through Lawrence's creative life.

There is some question exactly what it originally meant, but all agree it came from his Russian friend, S.S. Kotliansky (Kot). For Lawrence, *Rananim* seemed to mean a place where things were better, where what he was searching for might be found - a place even where he could set up the sort of utopian society he envisaged, to which he and his trusted

friends could go and live in happiness, if not harmony.

We chose the name *Rananim*, after considering various alternatives, because Australia was part of Lawrence's search for his *Rananim*. His quest did not end in Australia (nor did he find it elsewhere), but that, as others have pointed out, no doubt has more to do with Lawrence than Australia.

Yet Australia did provide some of the ingredients of *Rananim*, as he indicated in the last chapter of *Kangaroo*:

"Do you wish you were staying?"  
"I-I," stammered Harriet, "if I had three lives, I'd wish to stay. It's the loveliest thing I've ever known."  
"I know," he answered, laughing. "If one could live a hundred years. But since one has only a short time -."

On page 11 of our journal we have used the title "Bits". It is intended that this will become a regular column of short items, very much like Lawrence's beloved "Bits" page in *The Bulletin*.

With this journal we hope to encourage people interested in Lawrence, his works (especially his "Australian" works), his time in Australia, and most importantly, the preservation of Wyewurk, to contribute pieces short and long.

The founding editor is John Lacey, to whom contributions can be sent, or suggested, at this address:

D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia,  
PO Box 100, Millers Point,  
Sydney, NSW 2000,  
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# Letters of

Much of what is unknown about D.H. Lawrence's stay in New South Wales - particularly whether there is more than literary invention to the secret army plot of his Australian novel *Kangaroo* - might be explained if we knew more about his movements between his arrival in Sydney on Saturday, May 27, 1922, and his departure 76 days later.

There is much keen debate on this matter. Some, like myself, have Lawrence travelling up to Sydney from his holiday cottage in Thirroul and meeting all sorts of people, including Major Jack Scott and Major-General Sir Charles Rosenthal, whom "The Darroch Thesis" maintains were the leaders of a real secret army, portrayed by Lawrence in the novel as Jack Callcott and Ben Cooley. Others, such as Joe Davis (author of the recent *D.H. Lawrence at Thirroul*) and Bruce Steele (editor of the Cambridge University Press forthcoming edition of *Kangaroo*), contest this.

At this remove - more than 70 years on - it is not easy to reconstruct Lawrence's time in Sydney and Thirroul. The main source materials are his letters (and diary), Frieda's autobiography, and *Kangaroo* itself. These have been pored over, by none so closely as myself, without finding anything which others might regard as decisive to resolve the present argument. If, however, the Darroch Thesis is correct, then, hidden in these and other materials, should be clues to the truth. Even the most innocuous sentence or reference could, if properly read, contain something significant.

Take, for example, a sentence in Lawrence's letter to Mabel Dodge Sterne [Luhan] dated June 9, 1922. From

"Wyewurk, Thirroul", the letter, first published in 1933 in Mrs Luhan's *Lorenzo in Taos*, informs his future hostess of his arrival date in America, adding, "Here I have not let anybody know I am come". Then follows these, at first glance, apparently casual seven words: "I don't present any letters of introduction."

What is Lawrence referring to here? We know that he arrived in Sydney bearing at least one letter of introduction. This is clear from a letter he wrote to Mrs Anna Jenkins (his West Australian helpmeet) misdated 28/5/22 (actually 30/5/22). In it Lawrence says: "I found your letter to Mr Toy - but I don't know if I shall present it." This same Mr Toy letter is also mentioned by Frieda Lawrence in a note to Mrs Jenkins written in early July 1922 - when *Kangaroo* was almost finished. Frieda said: "Lawrence has not presented the letter yet to the *Bulletin* man."

## The Bulletin

Mr Toy's office address would have been the *Bulletin* building in lower George Street, near Bridge Street. Lawrence, neither in his letters nor in *Kangaroo*, makes any mention of going there. But was it Mr Toy's office address that Lawrence was given? That would seem natural, if it had been offered with some business purpose in mind. Yet there is compelling evidence that the address Lawrence had for Mr Toy was his home address. For in the NSW electoral roll for Mosman there is listed a Bert Frank Toy, journalist, residing at 51 Murdoch Street. This is an address familiar to anyone who has read *Kangaroo*. It is the identical street number and street name that Somers gives to the hansom cab driver who takes him, his wife Harriett, and their pile of luggage from Macquarie Street to Torestin, their fictional house in Sydney - next door (impossibly) to 50 Murdoch Street, where Jack Callcott lives in a house called Wyewurk.

Frieda implies that Lawrence did not present the Toy letter. It seems he just borrowed the address. Yet we have good reason to believe that Lawrence *did* go to Mosman. Early in *Kangaroo* he describes a visit to Mosman's Bay (even

using its correct name) and he borrows several house names that could have been observed in the vicinity of 51 Murdoch Street (in particular Wolloona and Cooe). Moreover, he calls labour leader Willie Struthers' office "Canberra House", perhaps borrowing the name from 51 Murdoch Street, which was known as "Canberra Flats". He also describes Harbour views that seem to have been observed from somewhere in Mosman or Neutral Bay.

Of course, the Toy letter could have been pressed on a reluctant Lawrence, a friendly gesture which he subsequently disdained. Maybe Bert Toy was the only person Mrs Jenkins knew in Sydney. There are, however, two more likely possibilities. One is that Lawrence was contemplating writing for money - of which he was very short - and that Bert Toy was put forward as a handy contact in the paid-writing field. Also there is the possibility that, as Lawrence travelled towards Sydney, he deliberately canvassed for letters of introduction.

To explore this latter possibility it is necessary to backtrack Lawrence's pre-Sydney movements. We can take as a starting point his decision in late 1921 to quit Europe for the New World. All sorts of Rananim were in play. America attracted him, as did the South Seas. China, too, and Africa. But it was to Ceylon he went. There he probably had no need of letters of introduction, for he was to join "a friend called Brewster, who went with wife and child from here [Taormina] last autumn to Kandy, Ceylon". Lawrence and Frieda sailed on RMS Osterley from Naples on 26/2/22.

## Something strange

In Ceylon something strange happened. On their last two days there, Lawrence and Frieda travelled down from Kandy to visit Mr Justice Ennis and his wife Ethel in their substantial bungalow, Braemore, in Bullers Road, Colombo. This was not Lawrence's normal milieu. Yet he was clearly welcome at Braemore. The Lawrences stayed the night there - despite the fact that the Ennises were bidden that evening to attend, and did attend, a gala ball in honour of the visiting Prince of Wales. Later Lawrence asked his UK publisher

# Introduction

to send a copy of *Women in Love* to Mrs Ennis. It is probable that Lawrence met the Ennises at Nuwara Eliya, the fashionable hill station above Kandy to where the colonial elite of Ceylon repaired during the hot months of March and April, and to where Lawrence, too, escaped for a day from the stifling heat of the Brewsters' bungalow, Ardnaree. As the local newspapers indicate, on the day the Lawrences were there, so too were the Ennises.

Once on his travels, Lawrence's major concern, money apart, was his onward logistical arrangements. He seems to have arrived in Ceylon with the intention of staying perhaps a year, then going on to Taos and Mabel Dodge. There he would have dollars, extensive literary contacts and an assured place to stay. So letters of introduction would not have been high on his list of needs. However, within days of arriving in Kandy his plans widened to include the possibility of going on to Australia, and thence to America. The genesis of this change seems to have been his contact with Australian fellow second-class passengers on the Osterley between Naples and Colombo. Whatever happened during that passage seems to have determined the direction of his steps after Ceylon. The first letter he wrote after arriving in Kandy [23/3/22] informed his American agent Mounsier: "I doubt if I shall stay very long in Ceylon. Probably in a few months move to Australia...", reflecting a very sudden change of plans, his previous letter from Colombo [also to Mounsier, 14/3/22] saying: "...think I shall love these tropics".

On 28/3/22 he wrote to Mrs Jenkins, with whom he had shared a table on the Osterley, proposing that he and Frieda come on to Perth, adding: "Tell me if you think we *should* like W. Australia - if not we'll go straight to Sydney." Mrs Jenkins no doubt told Lawrence he *would* like W. Australia, but that was unnecessary, for he was coming anyway, as he told her in a postcard sent on 3/4/22: "...shall come right on - probably by boat from Colombo April 24th" and adding, "but I think we'll just stay a day or two in Perth, then go on, either south in WA or to Sydney."

This means that Lawrence's

Australian arrangements were quite advanced prior to his April 24 departure from Ceylon. He told Mary Cannan [5/4/22] and Mabel Dodge [10/4/22] that he planned to spend a period in Australia, either in WA or Sydney, adding - and this is significant - that if WA didn't suit him, he would go on and try Sydney. This implies that before leaving Ceylon he had given some thought to what a period spent in Sydney might entail (he booked his steamer tickets through to Sydney). It is almost certain that the logistics of going to, and perhaps staying in, Sydney would have been raised when the Perth visit was being discussed. We know that Lawrence mixed gregariously on the Osterley, his encounters with the Australians aboard revising his opinion of the country and its people. Many of these Australians would have been familiar with Sydney. Some may have offered help with Lawrence's future travel plans.

It is worthwhile to speculate whom these "hypothetical" other Australians might have been. The probability is that they would have come from Sydney. The Osterley second-class passenger list of Sydney disembarkations gives only six adult names, all men. It is reasonable to speculate that one of these six may have been Lawrence's Sydney contact. Of the six, four disqualify themselves for various reasons<sup>(1)</sup>, leaving two: C.A. House, journalist, and D.G. Hum, importer. As Hum boarded the boat at Naples with Lawrence, and as his is the only Sydney name in Lawrence's address books, it is probable it was he who was Lawrence's main source of information about Sydney, and the person who may have offered further assistance should Lawrence decide to come on to Sydney. The likelihood is that he was sitting at the same table with the Lawrences and Mrs Jenkins.

## The Hum puzzle

Yet there is also something puzzling about Hum. The address Lawrence recorded for him in his address book contains at least one mistake: Chatsford instead of the correct Chatswood (he may also have written "Carita" instead of the correct house name, "Casita"). Lawrence did not correct this mistake. Had he

written to Hum at this incorrect address, the letter would still have been delivered, but Hum would have noticed so gross an error and no doubt corrected it. Either Lawrence did not write to this address, or he did not have occasion to write again. However, the address he wrote down for Mrs Jenkins was not *her* Perth address, but an address in London. Yet we know Lawrence wrote to Mrs Jenkins in Perth. So her address must have been recorded elsewhere, perhaps on a calling card. With it may have been Hum's business card, giving his office address of 38 Carrington Street, and it may have been to this address that Lawrence wrote.

Less than a hundred yards from Hum's office was Thomas Cook's Sydney branch in Martin Place, and it was Cook's that Lawrence gave to his numerous correspondents as his Sydney forwarding address. Had he given Hum's address - as he gave Mrs Jenkins' address in Perth - we would know for certain that the two renewed their acquaintanceship in Sydney. If, however, Lawrence had written to Hum at the same time he wrote to Mrs Jenkins from Kandy on March 28, informing him he was coming to Sydney, he would have been aware that Hum could not have sent him a reply before he left Ceylon on April 24, as the mails from Ceylon took at least 40 days to Sydney and back (while he *would* have got a reply from Mrs Jenkins in Perth). Indeed, the earliest moment he could have received a reply from Hum, or anyone in Sydney, was on his arrival in Perth on May 4. It may be indicative that Lawrence decided to discard the West Australia option, and instead take the first available boat to Sydney, *immediately* after he arrived in Perth, and picked up his mail from Mrs Jenkins (he wrote to Mabel Dodge on 4/5/22: "Got here this morning. Shall have to wait a fortnight or so for a boat to go to Sydney."). An encouraging letter from Hum would explain this abrupt decision to forsake WA, and the security of Mrs Jenkins' Perth hospitality.

Although on the Osterley there may have been people in addition to Hum who offered help in Sydney, we know of none. Indeed, it is a singular fact that in all of Lawrence's voluminous correspondence there is not a single published letter from anyone in Sydney. In Perth, where he

spent a scant fortnight, we know of several people whom he met and with whom he later corresponded. Even in Melbourne, where he spent a single night, he had a correspondent, J. Elder Walker. But from Sydney and Thirroul, where he spent 76 days, there is *nothing* - except some unpublished correspondence with an English migrant couple he met on the boat from Perth. Not even Hum seems to have written to him after he left Sydney. He gathered no addresses - but see below - nor did he send (boat friends apart) books to anyone in Sydney, his customary mark of gratitude. Altogether a curious, and perhaps significant, lacuna.

Lawrence had made his decision to go to Sydney between March 14 and March 23, so it was there in Ceylon, in Kandy, where he would have started to make preparations for such a trip. What these preparations might have been can, perhaps, be deduced from what he did the next time he was planning to go somewhere strange and foreign. That was almost a year later, in America, when, after finishing correcting the typescript of *Kangaroo*, he decided to make a trip to Mexico.

### **‘ Could you give me one or two letters of introduction to anybody nice. ’**

The infamous “last page” of *Kangaroo* was posted to his UK agent Curtis Brown on 10/2/23. On the same day he wrote to his American publisher Seltzer informing him of his plans and asking him to recommend books about Mexico. On 21/2/23 he wrote to Bessie Freeman asking: “Could you give me one or two letters of introduction to anybody nice. I don’t know if I should use them, but I might be glad.” And on 22/2/23 he wrote in similar terms to Seltzer: “If you can get me an interesting letter of introduction to anybody, do.” We don’t know if Lawrence received or used the requested letters of introduction, but we do know that he made similar requests to other people. In a letter to Bessie Freeman, written on 11/4/23 from Mexico City, he mentions that “Mrs Nuttall - to whom Dr Lyster gave us a letter - offers

a house here in Coyacan, a suburb here.”(2)

It is reasonable to assume that Lawrence’s pre-Sydney behaviour was similar to that pre-Mexico. Indeed, his need for whatever assistance letters of introduction might offer would have been even more pressing in Sydney. Apart from Hum - from whom he had yet to receive any reply - he knew nobody there. He must have realised that he might have to spend weeks, even months, in a place he knew nothing about. He was almost broke. He would have been in urgent need of advice about how and where to live cheaply. A careful and prudent traveller, Lawrence would have sought whatever assistance he could find.

Such assistance may have been found in Kandy and Ceylon. But he may also have found it on the various ships he took to Sydney, and perhaps in Western Australia as well. At least the ships, whose passenger manifests we have, provide us with a list of possible names. Shipboard acquaintanceships are notoriously productive of offers of friendly advice and assistance (as Frieda remarked). And, interestingly, in *Kangaroo* we find a hint of some shipboard contact, Callcott telling Somers that Cooley had heard about him “from a chap on the Naldera”, adding: “That’s the boat you came by, isn’t it?” No one disputes the fact that Lawrence’s Australian novel is highly autobiographical. Does this, too, reflect an actual incident?

Researcher John Ruffels has speculated that one of Lawrence’s fruitful shipboard acquaintances might have been that turbulent Sydney Catholic priest, the Rev. M. O’Reilly, who was with Lawrence on the Malwa between Perth and Sydney. But a careful analysis of the passenger lists, Sydney domicile, yields no new name that could, at first glance, have introduced Lawrence to the sort of people who knew about a real secret army in Sydney, and who could have led him to Scott and Rosenthal. That, however, is not to dismiss the possibility that the passenger lists could yet provide the missing clue. For there is strong - indeed compelling - anecdotal evidence that Lawrence’s contact with the real secret army was via a shipboard encounter. Of course, that contact could still have been Hum, who unquestionably moved in the right circles in Sydney, and who appears suspiciously similar to the character Trewhella in *Kangaroo*, who is partly responsible for introducing Somers to Cooley.

Yet it is on land, in Ceylon, where Lawrence first decided to go to Australia, that the search should start. This is

where he would have begun canvassing for letters of introduction. The Brewsters would have been of no help, and we know that at Ardnaree, high above the lake, he was not of a sociable disposition. Yet at Nuwara Eliya, and later in Colombo with the Ennises, he would have had the opportunity, had he run across anyone with Sydney contacts, to seek introductions to people who might prove helpful.

**W**hile Lawrence was in Ceylon, so too was the Prince of Wales, and the colonial elite were en fete. There were many visitors from Australia, as the contemporary papers report. Many would have come from Sydney, or had contacts there. Colombo was a mandatory port of call on the shipping route to and from Australia. It was also a major entrepot to the sub-continent, where many Australian officers had gone after the war(3). In this milieu Lawrence could well have picked up useful letters of introduction. Alas, if he did, the names that may have been written on the envelopes are not known to us.

It would seem that this line of inquiry has reached a dead end. However, if, as would now seem likely, Lawrence *did* gather one or more letters of introduction in Ceylon, then we could legitimately speculate that they would have been obtained from people who knew someone in Sydney. So one way forward might be to turn the question around, and ask whom in Sydney might Lawrence have later met as the result of Ceylon-supplied introductions? A wide net, admittedly, but one if selectively cast could yield something.

We are helped by the fact that Lawrence could not, while in NSW, have met many Sydney people at all. Most of the time he was down in Thirroul, writing the 180,000 words of *Kangaroo*. Moreover, he would have needed to have met the sort of people we are looking for in the first week or so. We know that Lawrence spent Saturday, Sunday and part of Monday of that first week in Sydney. He probably also came up on the Thursday to collect his trunks, and may have stayed till Saturday. It seems likely that any Ceylon-supplied contacts would have been followed up during these two brief periods.

From the evidence of the novel we have a pretty good idea where Lawrence went that first week. Two Sydney trips stand out - one to Narrabeen via Manly, and at least one to Mosman and its environs. (He probably travelled somewhere on the Harbour the first

Friday - for he uses in *Kangaroo* a ferry collision that happened that day.) It is virtually certain that the former trip, to Narrabeen, on the day after he arrived, was made in connection with his urgent need to find cheap accommodation. It is just as certain that following this trip he rejected any notion of staying in Sydney - even in cheap "winter rates" shacks at Narrabeen - and decided instead to travel down to Thirroul and rent the real Wyewurk. This decision was almost certainly taken on that first Sunday, probably as a result of something he was told that afternoon. The key question is: whom did Lawrence meet during that Sunday afternoon, at or near Narrabeen, who was familiar with Thirroul, and knew that Wyewurk was vacant?

The obvious candidate is Hum. If, as seems likely, he was Lawrence's initial contact in Sydney, then he is the most likely person to have suggested the trip to Narrabeen (and possibly nearby Collaroy). But, so far as we know (and his son confirms this), he had no Thirroul connections whatsoever. However, there is another candidate. If we were to be looking for someone in Sydney with both Thirroul connections and links to Scott and Rosenthal, then we have another very obvious group of candidates: members of the Friend family. The Friends were the most prominent Sydney family in Thirroul, owning perhaps the biggest house in the town and having business links with both the local shipping company and the local coal mine. A prominent member owned the whole of the other side of Craig Street, opposite Wyewurk, selling the last parcel of it only months before Lawrence's arrival. The Friend family firm advertised in every issue of *King and Empire*, the journal of the Scott-Rosenthal "front" organisation. Members of the Friend family were part of a similar organisation Scott mobilised in 1930. Friends were on the boards of companies closely linked to Scott and his family. And, most importantly, the Friends had strong links with Collaroy.

#### Haunting coincidence

But can we link Lawrence with the Friends? Here there is a strange, indeed haunting, coincidence. If we were - as we have been enjoined<sup>(4)</sup> - to look in the passenger lists of the (three) ships that brought Lawrence to Sydney, searching for people Lawrence may have met who might have helped him in Sydney, and if we were to find the name Friend there, it would jump from the page, and almost everything would fall into place. And on the Osterley list of people disembarking

in Sydney there is the name Friend - Mrs M.K. Friend of Laurel Park, Burradoo. She is a member of the Friend family and, had Lawrence met her, she would not only have been in an ideal position to recommend Thirroul and probably Wyewurk, but her male relatives, to whom she could have provided Lawrence with introductions in Sydney, were very close, in every respect, to Scott and Rosenthal. However, there is a problem. She boarded the Osterley in Colombo. Indeed, Lawrence must have almost crossed with her on the gangplank, he disembarking, she boarding. So near and yet so far.

Of course, it is possible that somewhere in Ceylon Lawrence came across people who knew the Friends. Maybe it was the Ennises. We do not know. Certainly this would explain much, and would fit in with what we already know. Yet Lawrence told Mrs Luhan he *didn't* present his letters of introduction. It may be, however, that here he was only referring to introductions to *their* sort of people - literary people, the sort of people he wanted to avoid in Taos. On the other hand it may have been that his line of contact with the Friends (if it was the Friends) was more direct: a telephone number or an address that Lawrence may have written to from Perth, giving his Cooks reply address. Again, we do not know. Maybe coincidence, so harped on by Lawrence in the opening chapters of *Kangaroo*, played some sort of role.

When dealing with such an ephemeral subject as Lawrence's movements in Australia and Ceylon in 1922, it is inevitable that speculation plays an important role. Speculation about the use of the plural in the phrase "letters of introduction" has, I believe, added some light to the possible genesis of *Kangaroo*. Speculation might also prove useful in elucidating another mystery about Lawrence's Australian period.

For when it was said above that Hum's was the only Sydney name Lawrence recorded, this is not quite true. It is the only Sydney name in his address books, or in his published correspondence. But he did record one other Sydney name and address. At the back of a notebook in which he wrote out his translation of four Sicilian short stories, he also wrote this:

Chan On Yan  
Kuo Min Tang  
Chinese Nationalist Party  
PO Box 80, Haymarket  
Sydney N.S.W.

It might be interesting to speculate why Lawrence recorded this strange name and address. Its existence has always been a bit of a puzzle, for there is no other reference to Mr Chan nor the KMT, although in *Kangaroo* there is some mention of Sydney's Chinatown area (Somers buys a custard apple there) and a Chinese features in the novel in the person of Cooley's servant.

Where did Lawrence pick up this name and address? Presumably he either saw it somewhere and made a note of it, or else he was given it verbally and wrote it down. But why? What possible use could such a name and address have been to Lawrence? To try to answer this possibly significant question it may be worthwhile to speculate *when* it was written down.

The notebook in question contains four stories published in 1928 in Lawrence's translation of Giovanni Verga's *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The notebook also contains some lines of verse, a fragment of a projected work about Mabel Dodge Luhan, 10 lines of Italian phrases, and some exercises in Spanish. From Lawrence's letters we know he had been reading Verga in Sicily in 1921. Late that year he seems to have decided to translate some of Verga with a view to publishing. He began with the novel *Mastro-don Gesualdo* which occupied some of his time in Ceylon. On the boat to Perth he wrote to Lady Cynthia Asquith that he was translating *Mastro-don* and *Novelle Rusticane*. Just before arriving in Sydney he wrote to Mountsier that he had posted "the final *Novelle Rusticane* MS. from Perth" (and implies that Mountsier already had the *Mastro-don* MS.). Tedlock in his *D.H. Lawrence Manuscripts* says Lawrence may have been working on the *Cavalleria* notebook in Australia between May and August 1922. Keith Sagar, in his *D.H. Lawrence: A Calendar of his Works*, says Lawrence wrote the four *Cavalleria* stories in August 1922, adding his belief that they were written on board the Tahiti on the way to America. (After completing the first four stories, Lawrence put the translations aside, only completing them in 1927.) From this we can deduce that Lawrence was using the notebook either in Australia or shortly afterwards, and that what he wrote in it was probably his next literary task after he completed *Kangaroo* on July 15.

Despite what Sagar says, however, there is good evidence that Lawrence started the *Cavalleria* notebook and translations in Thirroul, probably soon



# The Man Who Really Did

Once acclaimed as "a brilliant and versatile journalist", Bert Toy is now almost forgotten. His name receives a one-line mention in the Australian Encyclopaedia, and that is all. Yet he was the editor of the pages of the *Bulletin* which provided D.H. Lawrence with the stories for the "Bits" chapter of *Kangaroo*.

How did it happen that Bert Toy was so fitted to help Lawrence recover from his writer's block, and satisfy his need for authentic Australian colour?

The Toys were a Cornish family from London who spread out through Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales.

Bert's father was a grazier near Cobar, and Bert was born there in 1878. He grew up to be a champion swimmer and an excellent horseman, representing NSW in lacrosse.

His journalism career began working for the *Parkes Independent* and he was acting editor (at a very young age) when he left for the Western Australian goldfields in the mid-1890s.

After failing to find his own El Dorado, he returned to journalism on the *Coolgardie Pioneer* and moved on to the *Coolgardie Miner* in 1898. It was in *Coolgardie* that he earned his nickname of "The Boy Editor", apparently because of his youthful looks and the fact that he was not much more than 20 at the time.

As the gold got harder to extract, Bert upped-sticks

and headed for the big smoke: Perth. There he joined the *Morning Herald* as a reporter. When war broke out in South Africa Bert was sent to the Transvaal as a war correspondent attached to the West Australian contingent. So much was he in the thick of things, that he earned a Mention in Despatches. After the war he returned to the *Morning Herald* where he was put on to "special assignments".

His wanderlust, however, moved him to apply for the editorship of a New Zealand paper, the *Wairarapa Age*, at Masterton. On being appointed, he remained in New Zealand for five years, taking time out only to return to Sydney to marry Nellie Lowing at Marrickville in 1902. A daughter, Sadie, was born in 1904.

Bert was lured back to Australia to join the literary staff of the *Sydney Morning Herald* where he remained until 1916. His employers appreciated his services, the *SMH* later describing Toy as "a brilliant and versatile journalist".

He set up home in Neutral Bay and was to reside in various parts of what was then called "the North Shore" for the rest of his life. In 1916, at the height of the war, he moved from the *SMH* to the *Sydney Sunday Times*, accepting owner Hugh McIntosh's offer of the editor's chair.

After a stint on the *Sunday Times* he transferred to the *Sydney Sun* apparently in the inferior job of sub-editor, though the *Sun* was the better newspaper. After that he

## Letters of Introduction

continued from page 7

after July 15. A.D. Forrester, who met Lawrence on the Malwa, mentions that Lawrence was writing something when he visited Wyewurk in early August (and there is a Forrester photo, taken during that visit, of Lawrence writing in a notebook). As well, as Tedlock notes, the *Cavalleria* notebook bears the same watermarks as the third notebook of the *Kangaroo* holograph (but not the first two). It would seem likely that the two notebooks were bought at the same time (or from the same shop), almost certainly in Australia, probably - see below - on a visit to Sydney in June(s). In which case the Chan On Yan address *could* have been written down as early as then.

We can, perhaps, take this speculation a little further. Note that the address that Lawrence wrote down was a *postal* address. For whatever reason Lawrence recorded Mr Chan's name and address, it was not to pay him a personal visit. He must have had in mind to write a letter to Mr Chan at that address. Yet he almost certainly knew the actual KMT address, for it is on a direct route from Central Station to Chinatown (and to the accurately-

described Trades Hall, where the fictional Somers visits Labor leader Willie Struthers). Indeed, the imposing KMT headquarters in Ultimo Road, opened the pervious year, could hardly be missed. It may well have intrigued a novelist looking for "local colour". Lawrence could, of course, have gone in, asked for, and been given Mr Chan's name and postal address, but this seems unlikely for language and other reasons. He might have read the name and address in some publication and jotted it down. But a very careful reading of the publications Lawrence had access to in Thirroul and Sydney reveals no such reference. It is far more likely that someone gave him Mr Chan's name and business postal address. It might be useful to speculate how this might have happened.

One scenario is that Lawrence, running out of space in his first two *Kangaroo* notebooks, took the opportunity of a visit to Sydney to buy two new notebooks(6). On this same hypothetical visit he may have fallen into conversation with someone during which the KMT or some other local Chinese

subject was mentioned. The other person might have known Mr Chan, may even have had his business card, and read out the postal address to Lawrence, who noted it down on the only thing he was carrying, his new notebooks. This would fit in with the fact that the address is on the last lined page of one notebook. Lawrence then using the front of the other to start the third part of the *Kangaroo* holograph.

If our speculation that Lawrence bought the two notebooks about the time he was coming to the end of his second notebook is correct, then this would put it around the same time he wrote to Mabel Dodge and Mountsier - June 21 - saying that he was more than half-way through his novel and was "slightly stuck". This "slightly stuck" reference could mean that he had run out of material and was looking for further or new ingredients. So some interest in the KMT for the purpose of pushing forward a stalled narrative could provide a motive for noting down such a bizarre name and address. At least it is a possibility.

But who was Mr Chan On Yan? - and who might have known him well enough

# Live at 51 Murdoch Street

made the move that was to settle the rest of his working life, joining the *Bulletin* - then at the height of its fame - as the sub-editor of the "Aboriginalities" page. The job was ideal for Bert, enabling him to draw on the experiences of a lifetime.

Contributors hiding behind such pen names as Bill Bowyang and The Gouger sent to him their tales of snakebite cures and other snippets of the contemporary Australian scene, all of which were lovingly pruned and polished into witty "pars" by the capable Boy Editor. Later he was also given the *Bulletin's* women's page to edit and to which he brought the same wit and touch of irreverence to the weekly chronicle of Australia's suburban society. So successful was he that later he was given his own women's magazine to edit, the *Bulletin's* short-lived sister publication, the *Woman's Mirror*.

## The Toy-Lawrence connection

As pointed out in the accompanying article, the connection between Lawrence and Bert Toy was potentially much closer than literary borrowings. When Lawrence was in Perth on his way to Sydney in 1922 he was given a letter of introduction to Bert Toy by his West Australian hostess, Mrs "Pussy" Jenkins.

From Lawrence's letters it can be assumed that he did not present the letter to Toy. Yet from what Lawrence says in the early chapters of *Kangaroo* it seems he did travel to Neutral Bay and it is just possible that he may have called

at Toy's address and found him not at home.

Interestingly, the only contemporary record - apart from the shipping lists - of Lawrence's arrival in NSW appeared in the *Bulletin's* Woman's Page. This argues for some knowledge by the *Bulletin* of Lawrence's presence in Sydney and it is possible to speculate that Mrs Jenkins may have written to Bert Toy to alert him to a possible visit from the Lawrences. The item in the *Bulletin* was certainly laudatory of Lawrence, remarking on the fact that he tarried in Western Australia and that his novels were "craftsmanlike". It also deprecated Lawrence's wowserish critics.

There is no doubt that Lawrence was an avid reader of the *Bulletin* while in NSW. He lifted an entire story about an Australian native cat, failing to attribute it correctly to "The Gouger" (otherwise known as the Australian novelist Ion Idriess). And, of course, there is chapter 14 of *Kangaroo*, called truthfully "Bits", for it contains bits of the *Bulletin*.

It is also worth noting that when Lawrence died in 1930 an item marking his passing appeared in the Woman's Page of the *Bulletin*, although by that time Toy had moved over to become managing editor of the *Woman's Mirror*.

Bert continued on until a painful illness laid him low in 1930 and he died the following October. His obituary spoke of him as a "loyal colleague and a sound journalist...There was no more popular man among press men...he had the affection of everyone." - **John Ruffels**

to offer his name and address to Lawrence? Chan On Yan was the special representative of Dr Sun Yat-sen, the KMT leader in China. He came to Australia in 1921 to open those very same KMT headquarters in Ultimo Road, Haymarket. He remained in Australia, visiting local Chinese communities, for more than two years, before returning to China. He was undoubtedly the leading Chinese dignitary in Australia between May and August 1922.

We also know of somebody who knew both Lawrence and the Sydney Chinese community. This was none other than Lawrence's Osterley shipmate, D.G. Hum. As Hum's son told John Ruffels in 1988: "My father did considerable business with China in the 1920s, mainly with firms operating in Shanghai...it is possible he obtained introductions to those firms through Australian Chinese." And in another letter to John Ruffels, a local Chinese community leader, Mr W. Seeto, wrote: "Carter & Co [Hum's firm] had a very close relationship with the Chinese community. When I came to Australia in 1943 I saw some old local Chinese

newspapers and the name of Carter & Co was advertised in them." It is very likely that D.G. Hum would have been invited to such an important social event as the opening of the new KMT headquarters, and there introduced to the chief guest. So Hum was in a position to provide Lawrence with the hitherto mysterious name and address he wrote down in the *Cavalleria* notebook.

As far as we know, Lawrence made no use of this contact, just as he did not follow up his introduction to Mr Toy of the *Bulletin*. No doubt something else presented itself to release him from his "slightly stuck" predicament, enabling him to go on to finish *Kangaroo*. Yet if he *had* written to Mr Chan, what would his letter have contained? Almost certainly a letter of introduction from Gerald Hum. So to the other possible letters of introduction, we could add this speculative one.

It would be fascinating to know what Lawrence had planned for the possible intrusion of a Chinese element into his Australian novel. An assault on Willie Struthers' headquarters by the denizens of Dixon Street, outraged at Labor's

White Australia policy? Perhaps Cooley's Chinese manservant might have been a secret KMT operative. Or perhaps there may be more than we realise in a line in a letter, dated November 1, 1922, to Sydney Labor renegade George Waite from the Chinese Nationalist Association in the Haymarket. The line reads: "I don't want Scott on the job, neither do you, I'm sure." (7) - **Robert Darroch**.

## End Notes

1. Mainly because they were not Sydney residents.

2. Mrs Nuttall was an American archaeologist living in Mexico City. Dr Lyster is unidentified.

3. One of whom, of course, was Captain Bertie Scrivener, whom Lawrence met on the Malwa. In my 1981 book, *D.H. Lawrence in Australia*, I speculated that it was through Scrivener that Lawrence may have met Scott and Rosenthal, relying mainly on the fact that Scrivener's mother was the head of a Sydney charity called the Harbour Lights Guild, Lawrence making use of that name in the novel. This speculation might still hold some truth. However, further research by myself and John Ruffels has failed to find any other sign, in *Kangaroo* or elsewhere, of any

(cont'd page 11)

# Letters

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter concerning "Wyewurk". The delay in forwarding this reply is regretted.

At this stage, the interim conservation order on the property is still in force and will remain so until the Minister determines the owner's objection to the proposed Permanent Conservation Order. An inquiry to hear this objection has yet to be convened.

It is believed that no work has been undertaken on the property since the order was made. The approval under section 60 of the Heritage Act for alterations to the building has expired.

Yours faithfully,  
R. Power, Manager,  
Heritage Branch,  
Department of Planning,  
Sydney.

Dear Robert Darroch,

Many thanks for including me in your mailing list and sending me your latest report on the Wyewurk saga. It is a great relief that some mysterious Deux ex Machina has plucked the Lawrence house from the jaws of improvement. And I am very glad that you have not given up hope of restoring it to some meaningful life.

Good luck!  
Yours,  
Dymphna (Clark).

Dear Ms S Jobson

Thank you for your inquiry about the status of Wyewurk 3 Craig Street Thirroul. Wyewurk was Classified by the Trust on May 16 1988 as an intact house and garden. Its significance is also derived from its association with DH Lawrence (see enclosed Classification Report). The property is protected under the Heritage Act 1977. This requires that any development application for the property be referred to the Heritage Council.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Davies  
Director Conservation.  
The National Trust of Australia

Dear Mr Darroch,

Many thanks for sending me the most recent news of Wyewurk. It is important to keep up to date. What sum would be required for the Heritage Trust to buy Wyewurk outright? Could we mount a world-wide drive to buy it? Grand designs!

Yours,  
Rosemary Howard,  
Editor,  
D.H. Lawrence Newsletter,  
D.H. Lawrence Society (UK),  
Nottingham, UK.

## Coming up in future issues

- ☐ Paul Eggert on The Other Lawrence House
- ☐ John Ruffels on Wyewurk's Visitors' Book
- ☐ Sandra Jobson on an Incident at the Cafe Royal
- ☐ Robert Darroch on the Aldington-Lawlor letters (How *Kangaroo's* Introduction Came to be Written)
- ☐ Margaret Jones on Geoffrey Dutton and DHL
- ☐ DH Lawrence in Ceylon
- ☐ The Fred Esch Papers
- ☐ The Curious Incident of the Estate Agent in the Day

## By Steam Train to Thirroul

Cont'd from Page 3

the horrors of the old Otford tunnel. This tunnel was almost a mile long, on a steep 1-in-40 grade, while a curve at the southern end scooped in any south or south-easterly wind from the sea, and there were many occasions when trains stalled in the tunnel, producing very unpleasant conditions for the passengers and danger for the crew.

However, in 1920 a new route was opened through a much shorter new Otford

tunnel to emerge high on the mountain-side of the Stanwell Park amphitheatre before crossing the 215-ft-high brick arch viaduct, still the highest in Australia.

Then the train came out on the sea - lovely bays with sand and grass and trees, sloping up towards the sudden hills that were like a wall.

When the Illawarra railway was electrified in 1985, the Stanwell Park viaduct suffered from subsidence, forcing the closure of the railway for a period. The whole coastal railway from Waterfall to Thirroul has always suffered from landslips, rockfalls and mudslips, so various plans for its relocation and the replacement of the remaining single-track tunnel at Coal Cliff have

been regularly mooted.

The train jogged on again - they were there. The place was half and half. There were many tin roofs - but not so many. There were the wide, unmade roads running so straight as it were to nowhere, with bungalow homes half-lost at the side.

Thirroul, originally known as Robbinsville, was not only a South Coast holiday resort, but had developed as an important railway operating centre, being equipped in 1917 with a new marshalling yard and locomotive roundhouse, sited there mainly to service the coal trains that plied between the various South Coast collieries from north to south. -John Lacey.

# Bits...

The "logo" of the D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia (see below) - Lawrence, with 'roo rampant - has been drawn especially for us by Garry Shead, the artist who painted half of the famous Brett Whiteley-Garry Shead diptych of "D.H. Lawrence", and who has recently exhibited a separate series of pictures on Lawrence, *Kangaroo*, and Wyewurk. Shead is one of a long line of Australian painters, musicians and writers for whom Lawrence's period in Australia provides contemporary and continuing inspiration.



Lawrence apart, Thirroul attracts some odd people. The late, great Brett Whiteley chose to die there, alone in a local motel room that he had made his holiday home, around the corner from the local fish shop that sent up his evening meals, ignorant of the recipient.

One unusual Thirroul inhabitant was that mysterious ASIO operative Dr Michael Bialoguski, who brought the Russian spy Vladimir Petrov in from the cold. A few years previously, in 1948, he was working in Thirroul as a local GP. (Any further information on Bialoguski's Thirroul years should be forwarded to the editor.)

The republican debate in Australia has sparked a controversy about what comprises, or might comprise, the "canon" of Australia's "sacred books". In April this year, the newspaper the *Australian* published one list which nominated works by Patrick White (naturally), Henry Lawson, H.H. Richardson, C.E.W. Bean, W.K. Hancock - and D.H. Lawrence, the only non-Australian.

Misinformation about Lawrence, Wyewurk and Thirroul is still rife, despite our best efforts. A recent copy of the UK magazine the *Spectator* included an article by sports columnist Frank Keating (no kin) about his trip to Australia, where he enjoyed an excursion to Wollongong to take in a Steelers game. He described his trip back to Sydney past "the house where Lawrence and Frieda set up home on the South Coast of NSW". This famous abode, he told his readers, was "a fisherman's cottage at Stanwell Park". Our letter of correction was not published.

It is strange how a rumour can get around. One of our interim committee-members was holidaying in Burradoo, a tiny hamlet between Bowral and Moss Vale, on the southern NSW highlands. She had been deputed to establish the location of a house, Laurel Park, which has a most tenuous connection with Lawrence (a fellow passenger on the Osterley, which took Lawrence from Naples to Colombo, gave her home address as Laurel Park, Burradoo). A few local inquiries pin-pointed the house and established that the 1922 passenger had, indeed, lived there. End of research - except that within days a rumour was flying around the Bowral district that the author of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* not only had visited the area in 1922, but actually had rented Laurel Park. We had to quash that one quickly.

Although this is to be mentioned in a future Ranim article on Lawrence in Ceylon, it is worth reporting here that today, on the road from Colombo to the airport, can be observed a sign advertising a nearby guest house with the name, Torestin, just as on the Mansfield Road in Nottingham a similarly-named house still stands. So where did Lawrence get this name of the house that his fictional character Somers rents in Sydney in *Kangaroo*?

## End Notes con'd from page 11

continuing contact between Lawrence and the Scriveners, nor any connection between them and either Scott or Rosenthal.

4. A Melbourne gentleman recalled that his mother, who was something of a literary hostess in the 1930s, was told by a leading Australian commercial identity that the answer to the question of how Lawrence stumbled across a real secret army in Sydney in 1922 was "to be found in the passenger list of the boat that brought Lawrence to Sydney". (Private interview.)

5. In fact Lawrence used four notebooks for *Kangaroo*, each different (see Tedlock's *Lawrence Manuscripts*). The second was apparently purchased in Baden-Baden, Germany. The third, which we assume he bought in Sydney (Thirroul would not have had a wide selection of suitable notebooks), was a school exercise book. The *Cavalleria Rusticana* notebook had the same watermark at notebook 3. But what about notebook 4? It seems different to both 3 and the CR notebook. Why did Lawrence interpolate it? Why not use the CR notebook, on whose second-back page was the KMT address? The answer might be found at the front of the CR notebook, where two pages have been torn out. One, according to Tedlock, has evidence of text. This might be explained by Lawrence, while still writing 3, starting the CR notebook with something else. Thus it was "occupied", forcing him to buy another notebook, only later tearing out the pages to start CR. If this analysis is correct, then it would add weight to the supposition that Lawrence wrote down the KMT address before starting the final *Kangaroo* notebook.

6. Why two notebooks? Because he knew it had already taken two to get half way, so he would probably have bought not one but two more.

7. We have no way of knowing which Scott that Waite's KMT correspondent was referring to. It might not have been Jack Scott. Yet the letter refers to the treatment of Chinese aliens, a matter of concern to the Australian intelligence services, of which Major Jack Scott was a leading member, particularly in the 1930s, when he was detailed to spy on the Japanese business community in Sydney. His job at the outbreak of war in 1939 was to round up German aliens.

# Lawrence sur l'herbe

To launch the DH Lawrence Society of Australia, a meeting will be held, *al fresco*, in that Lawrentian Sydney setting, the Palace Gardens (a.k.a the Royal Botanic Gardens), on Sunday, November 21, at 12 noon.

We will rendezvous next to the rose garden pavilion, which is within a short cooee of the main gates in Macquarie Street (opposite number 139, near where Mrs Scott's guesthouse was) where Lawrence set the opening scene of *Kangaroo*. (If the weather is inclement, we will adjourn to the pavilion itself.)

We - the interim committee - chose this site for its centrality (Wyewurk would have been preferable, but impractical), and because of its connection with Lawrence

Sometimes, from the distance behind them, came the faintest squeal of singing from out of the "fortified" Conservatorium of Music. Perhaps it was one of these faintly wafted squeals that

made a blue-overalled fellow look round, lifting his thick eyebrows vacantly. His eyes immediately rested on two figures approaching from the direction of the conservatorium, across the grass lawn.

The "official" part of the meeting will be to elect a committee for the first year. We would very much welcome volunteers to join the committee. If you are interested (we plan to meet once a quarter - so the duties will not be onerous), please write a note to the acting secretary, Beverley Burgmann, at PO Box 100, Millers Point, Sydney 2000, along with your membership application.

A copy of the draft constitution, which is modelled on the constitution of the British DH Lawrence Society, is enclosed with this first issue of the *Journal*. If it is deemed fit, we will adopt it at the November 21 meeting.

This may sound very casual. It is delib-

erately so. Although we intend the society to be active in such excellent causes as the preservation of Wyewurk, and we intend the *Journal* to contribute to knowledge and interest in Lawrence, we nevertheless are determined to keep the activities of the DH Lawrence Society of Australia as enjoyable and as informal as we can. It is not the intention of the society to put Lawrence on a pedestal and worship him.

Lawrence in *Kangaroo* described Australians as a happy-go-lucky race of people

The same good-humoured, right-you-are approach from everybody to everybody. "Right-you-are! Right-O!" .... They were really awfully nice.

And that's the way we want to keep it. So please join us on Sunday, November 21, at noon for the meeting and, if you feel like having a picnic afterwards, bring some sandwiches or whatever else you like.

## HOW TO JOIN

WITH this first issue of *Rananim* we are providing an application form for membership of the D.H. Lawrence Society of Australia. Membership is open to anyone, here or abroad, interested in Lawrence. Membership is \$30 per year for subscribers in Australia and \$A50 for overseas subscribers (to cover postage). However, for the first 50 membership applications received \*, we can, through the generosity of Angus & Robertson and publisher Tom Thompson, offer an added incentive: a free copy of the latest edition of *Kangaroo*, the Australian Imprint edition, carrying a cover painting of Wyewurk by Australian artist Gary Shead, and an introduction by our President, Professor Raymond Southall. Membership of our Society will also entitle subscribers to regular issues of *Rananim* each year.

\* 20 copies will be reserved for overseas subscribers. Postmark date will determine eligibility.

### THE D.H. LAWRENCE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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I enclose a cheque for \$A30 (\$A50 for overseas subscribers).



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