



## ***FEDERATION FACES AND PLACES IN NORTH SYDNEY: A WALKING TOUR***

A guided walk around the streets and laneways of North Sydney focusing on our Federation connections, including the former residences of Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, Sir Edmund Barton and Dugald Thomson. Along the walk, view the changes in the North Sydney landscape since Federation and the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **FEDERATION 1901 – BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS**

*At the turn of the year 1900 to 1901 the city of Sydney went mad with joy. For a few days hope ran so high that poets and prophets declared Australia to be on the threshold of a golden age... from early morning on the first of January 1901 trams, trains and ferry boats carried thousands of people into the city for the greatest day of their history: the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia. It was to be a people's festival.*

Manning Clark, Historian

It was also a people's movement and 1901 was the culmination of many years of discussions, community activism, heated public debates, vibrant speeches and consolidated actions. In 1890 the Australasian Federal Conference was held in Melbourne and the following year in Sydney. In 1893 a meeting of the various federation groups, including the Australian Native Association, was held at Corowa. A plan was developed for the election of delegates to a convention.

In the mid to late 1890s it was very much a peoples' movement gathering groundswell support. In 1896 a People's Convention with 220 delegates and invited guests from all of the colonies took place at Bathurst - an important link in the Federation chain.

Following the People's Convention, a second National Convention met between 1897 and 1898 in three sessions – Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. The referendum on the draft constitution adopted at these sessions fell short of its required majority in NSW. Amendments were drafted and the 1899 referendum proved successful.

In 1900 delegates went to London to negotiate the enactment of the Bill. On 5 July 1900 the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act was adopted and given Queen Victoria's assent on 9 July 1900.

The official ceremony to commemorate this auspicious event began on 1 January 1901; Governor General Lord Hopetoun officiated at the ceremony held in Centennial Park. Edmund Barton sworn in as interim Prime Minister. Barton was officially elected Prime Minister on 20 March 1901, and on 9 May 1901 the first Commonwealth Parliament was opened by Duke of Cornwall and York in Melbourne.

North Sydney was not without its Federation connections and has four prominent faces attached to it:

**Edmund Barton** – Australia's first Prime Minister lived in North Sydney at his home, *Miandetta*, in Carabella Street (now demolished).

**Henry Parkes** – represented the electorate of St Leonards (which became North Sydney) in his last 10 years serving in Government.

**Joseph Palmer Abbott** – lived in North Sydney at one of North Sydney's heritage landmarks today – *Tarella* in Amherst Street and was a New South Wales delegate to the Federal Convention.

**Dugald Thomson** – lived in Holbrook Avenue in his home *Wyreepi* (now *Sunnyside*) and was our first federal member of Parliament.

**George Dibbs** – Sydney businessman and former owner of *Graythwaite*, Union Street, North Sydney, was the Premier of New South Wales three times. George Dibbs was a delegate to the Inter Colonial Convention in Sydney and a leader of the Anti-Federation league as he was unhappy with the type of federation proposed.

**Richard O'Connor** – a lawyer and journalist owned (and sometimes resided in) *Wenona* on Lane Cove Road, now Pacific Highway from 1898 to 1902. In 1911 the property was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy and became the Mater Private Hospital. A NSW delegate to the federal convention 1897-98 and attended the federation convention in Bathurst held in 1896.

## **HOW DID NORTH SYDNEY REACT TO FEDERATION?**

Three of the local Boroughs – Borough of St Leonards, Borough of East St Leonards and Borough of Victoria amalgamated in 1890 to provide more efficient services and facilities to their constituents. Australia was also in the grip of a depression following the boom of the 1880s.

Building a bridge was on our minds and we voted in Henry Parkes who campaigned against George Dibbs to get us the connection we deserved... but alas, no bridge until 1932.

We were being connected in other ways – the Hornsby to St Leonards line was opened in 1890 and the extension to Milsons Point was completed in 1893.

In the 1890s our population grew from 17,000 in 1891 to 22,000 in 1901. Water, sewerage and sanitation systems were installed in the 1890s providing much needed infrastructures to prevent disease and poor health.

Changes were occurring at a steady pace and influencing the way people lived, worked and travelled to and from work and home.

North Sydney would not have escaped the flavour of Federation – it was everywhere in newspaper articles, editorials and letters, in discussion groups and meetings. Sir Henry Parkes, at a meeting at St Leonards (now North Sydney) in 1889 promoted his idea of an Australian Constitution with two Houses of Parliament.

## **How did North Sydney vote in the referendums of 1898 AND 1899?**

In NSW 1898 – overall 52% voted yes

In NSW 1899 – overall 56% voted yes

In St Leonards (North Sydney) in the 1898 referendum 45% voted yes and in 1899 48% voted yes. North Sydney voted conservatively. However, it did increase its vote along with most of the Sydney suburbs in the 1899 referendum.

⇒ *WALK BEGINS AT ST THOMAS' REST PARK, 250 WEST STREET, CROWS NEST.*

**(NB: Tour Stops are correspondingly numbered on the attached Federation Faces and Places Walking Tour Map)**

**1**

### **ST THOMAS' REST PARK**

The former St Thomas' Cemetery was the first burial ground established on the North Shore. It was established in 1845 with a gift of four acres to the Anglican Parish of St Leonards by the prominent landowner and merchant Alexander Berry.

Alexander Berry donated 4 acres of this northern portion of land to the parish for the burial place of his wife Elizabeth (Edward Wollstonecraft's sister). The Neoclassical pyramid in the centre of the Rest Park was erected in her honour. Edward Wollstonecraft and Alexander Berry are also buried here.

St Thomas' Rest Park contains the graves of many notable North Sydney residents including Charles Badham, the descendants of William Blue, Andrew and Mary Eaton, Conrad Martens and his family, George Lavender, Rev William B. Clarke, Commodore Goodenough and Judge Ellis Bent.

In 1967 the Cemetery was handed over to North Sydney Council by an Act of Parliament granting the area as 'community land'. It was renamed St. Thomas' Rest Park and reopened in 1974. This was North Sydney Council's first Heritage project preserving a historic site and providing public access to its history and heritage.

⇒ *WALK NORTH ALONG WEST STREET. TURN RIGHT INTO AMHERST STREET AND STOP AT TARELLA.*

### **AMHERST STREET**

Amherst Street was named after Lord William Pitt Amherst, Governor General of India from 1823-1828.

**2**

### **TARELLA**

One of North Sydney's strongest links to



Federation in both heritage building and prominent identity is that of Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott and *Tarella*, his family residence from 1886 to 1900, at 3 Amherst Street Cammeray.

*Tarella*, built between 1885 and 1886, is a beautifully restored two-storey Victorian mansion rarely seen in this part of North Sydney. Most houses constructed in the 1880s were located in the southern parts of the municipality and constructed in rows of terraces. *Tarella* was threatened with demolition for a roadway and sought after for demolition and development of townhouses but a conservation study established its heritage significance and it is now listed on Council's heritage register, along with the Register of the National Estate and the National Trust.

*Tarella* belongs to a period in North Sydney's history that is associated with an economic boom, prosperity and the emergence of a constructive local government on the lower North Shore. It represents the classic Victorian Italianate style of architecture which is typical of the boom-time and has changed little during its 115-year history. It still has the original stable building for the carriage once used by its former owners and the large stained-glass window on the first floor landing is still intact.

*Tarella* was the subject of a bitter battle in 1982/83 when the owner at the time, Mr John Hawkins, sought to have the Council rezone it for commercial use to make it more appealing for sale. The Heritage Council supported the owner's application. Council approved the rezoning and the property came into the hands of Atlantic Computer Systems who restored *Tarella* for use as offices. The Warringah Expressway construction resumed much of the backyard but the fact that the house still stands is a tribute to the efforts of community action and concern for its preservation.

## **SIR JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT (1842-1901)**

Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott was a noted solicitor, Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1880 and Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1890 to 1900. He was a leader in constitutional reform and played a leading role in major changes in land and fiscal legislation and parliamentary procedure. He was an avid campaigner for Federation and was a New South Wales delegate to the 1897-98 Federal Convention that was to frame the Constitution for the Commonwealth of Australia.

Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott was born in Muswellbrook, New South Wales into a squatter's family. After an education in Sydney, including final years at The King's School, Joseph Palmer Abbott returned to Glengarry, the family station in the Upper Hunter region in 1857.

The next fifteen years saw Abbott establish a legal practice and become one of New South Wales's most noted solicitors, specialising in land cases. In 1872 he was appointed to the Supreme Court of New South Wales in the Maitland district.

In the 1870s Abbott began a warm personal correspondence with Henry Parkes but over the next decade their political views diverged with Parkes being a supporter of free trade and Abbott advocating protectionist policies.

In 1880 Abbott entered politics and won the seat of Gunnedah. Throughout his parliamentary career he sought to reform parliamentary proceedings in the 'bear garden of Macquarie Street'. He disliked partisan politics and sought to restore his relations with Parkes.

As the futility of political and economic barriers between colonies became more and more obvious Abbott became an influential federationist. As Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1890 to 1900 he was able to exert pressure for Federation and parliamentary reform.

According to the North Sydney Council rate books of 1900-1901 (when Edmund Barton was Prime Minister and in Parliament in Melbourne) Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott is listed as the 'person in residence' at *Miandetta*, Barton's family home. When Sir Joseph died in 1901 *Tarella* was sold to Mrs S. Tyson.

⇒ ***PROCEED EAST ALONG AMHERST STREET AND TURN RIGHT INTO MILLER STREET.***

### **MILLER STREET (NORTH)**

Miller Street is named after William Miller, Assistant Commissary-General of Government Provisions, who purchased some of the land granted to Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Thomas Walker on the North Shore.

⇒ ***CONTINUE ALONG MILLER STREET, CROSSING OVER THE WARRINGAH EXPRESSWAY. TURN LEFT INTO ROSALIND STREET. PROCEED ALONG TO ANZAC AVENUE AND ANZAC PARK.***

**3**

### **ANZAC AVENUE, ANZAC PARK AND ANZAC MEMORIAL CLUB**

Anzac Avenue is adjacent to the Anzac Memorial Club. Both the Avenue and the Park commemorate the servicemen who fought in WWI. The War started at a point in Australia's history when Federation was only 13 years old.

The North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club had its beginnings with the Soldiers' Club in 1918 which held its meetings in a number of buildings in North Sydney. In 1936 the North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club was formed under the guidance of Mr Victor Duncan and The Club grew from strength to strength. When sufficient funds were available, a deputation approached North Sydney Council for assistance in purchasing the land where the current Club now stands.

The Anzac Memorial Club's foundation stone was laid on November 22, 1941 by the Mayor of North Sydney, Ald. J. Cramer, representing the citizens of North Sydney, and Major-General Fewtrell representing the soldiers.

The land immediately in front of the North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club was known as Bellevue Park. In 1992 the Anzac Club requested that this land be included under the title of Anzac Park so the parks on either side of Anzac Avenue could share a common name.

Anzac Park was originally part of Green Park before the construction of the Warringah Expressway.

The World War I Memorial Statue that stands in Anzac Park opposite the Anzac Club was erected by the North Sydney Tramway Staff and originally stood at the Tramway Depot in Military Road. It was unveiled on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918 and was later moved to its present site.

The turpentine trees behind the Memorial were planted in 1995 as part of the Australia Remembers commemorations. For this occasion North Sydney Council redesigned the Park and planted the trees in the formation of a battalion. Turpentine trees were chosen because of their upright appearance and the strength and durability of their timber. The lone olive tree in front of the turpentine grove is a symbol of peace.

⇒ ***FROM ANZAC PARK CROSS OVER ERNEST STREET AND TURN INTO LYTTON STREET.***

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## **LYTTON STREET**

Lytton Street is home to a number of North Sydney's heritage buildings. It was formerly known as Walker Street. The present day Walker Street was to have continued north across St Leonards Park.

The Lytton Street Cottages, at 22-30 Lytton Street, form a group of small, working class residences. They are rare surviving examples of this type of housing, having been built between the 1860s and 1901 at which time Lytton Street was an extension of Walker Street. Individually the buildings are representative of their type and period but together they create a nineteenth century streetscape which contrasts with the larger Federation buildings further south in Lytton Street.

No 26 Lytton Street is a rare surviving example of a Victorian stone cottage, built in the 1860s as a dairyman's home.

Other notable heritage buildings in Lytton Street include the pair of late Victorian (Victorian Filigree) townhouses built in 1892, at 8 and 10 Lytton Street. These houses are typical of the housing development that followed the establishment of tram services in North Sydney in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The three early 20<sup>th</sup> century townhouses on the corner of Falcon and Lytton Streets are handsome buildings in the Federation Queen Anne style.

## **HEALTH AND MEDICINE IN NORTH SYDNEY AT THE TIME OF FEDERATION**

From the late 1880s, and particularly after Federation, the North Shore saw a proliferation of public and private hospitals. This was a result of a growing population without direct hospital

services. In the decade leading up to Federation a more diverse and affluent population was settling in the North Sydney area as a result of improved transport access to the city.

The Plague had a major impact on North Sydney around the time of Federation. 1900 saw the first outbreak of plague in Sydney. The crowded inner Sydney suburbs were seen as undesirable places to live while North Sydney was viewed as an attractive residential alternative.

Prior to 1900, the death rate in North Sydney, like the rest of Sydney, was high. This was particularly the case for babies and young children. The high percentage of child deaths was largely due to poor sanitation, lack of sewerage systems, open drains, and insufficient medical care. A clean piped water supply and improved sanitation services were in place by the next decade and the subsequent infant mortality rates decreased reflecting these technological advances and social development.

The isolation of the North Shore and the difficulty of conveying patients to Sydney Hospital across the Harbour led to a push for the establishment of a local North Shore hospital.

## **NORTHCOTT NEUROLOGICAL HOSPITAL**

The first cottage hospital in North Sydney, established around 1887, was later replaced by the newly built Glen Garland Hospital in 1906.

Glen Garland Hospital, at 11 Lytton Street, has a long continuous history as a hospital. It is a fine building designed in the Federation Filigree style. During the earlier decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Glen Garland was part-owned by Dr. Roger Mackinnon, a prominent local physician, also known locally as owner of one of the first motor cars on the North Shore. Eleanor Mackinnon (Q.B.E), his wife, was founder (worldwide) of the Junior Red Cross in 1914.

Glen Garland was acquired by the RSL and opened as Northcott Neurological Hospital in 1951.

⇒ *PROCEED SOUTH ALONG LYTTON STREET TO ST LEONARDS PARK.*

**5**

## **ST LEONARDS PARK**

Many of North Sydney's public spaces and amenities can be traced back to the vision of William Tunks, the first Mayor of the Borough of St Leonards. He had the foresight to set aside public parks and reserves for the future.

St Leonards Park, originally known as 'The Reserve', sits on forty acres of land bounded by Falcon, Miller and Ridge Streets and the Warringah Expressway. Prior to European settlement the Cammeraygal, the traditional owners, would have occupied the local area.

The Park was dedicated in two portions. In 1867 the first portion was set aside for public

recreation and cricket. The second portion, in 1869, was set aside for public recreation.

Alderman Tunks' personal interest in St Leonards Park was legendary. He is said to have walked there nearly every day to supervise the positioning of paths and the planting of trees and shrubs, many of which are said to have come from his own garden. As a testament to his public works and enthusiasm for setting aside public parklands, the Tunks Memorial Fountain was erected in St Leonards Park in 1885.

St Leonards Park is home to a number of significant monuments which are valuable to the cultural identity and history of North Sydney – the North Sydney War Memorial in Ridge Street, the Tunks Memorial Fountain, the WWI artillery gun. It is also home to the Music Shell, Depression relief works, North Sydney Ovals 1 and 2 with the stands and grounds, the Avenue of Figs, the Mollie Dive Function Centre, the Grandstand Kindergarten and has open land for recreation.

## **NORTH SYDNEY OVAL**

North Sydney Oval has been home to many different sports and recreational activities. Both Ovals No1 and No2 are steeped in sporting history and tradition. It was cricket and football (all codes) that dominated the use of the grounds on a seasonal basis. The grounds have been home to Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club, Australian Rules Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, Cycling and Athletics. Many school carnivals and junior sporting competitions took place on the grounds.

North Sydney Oval was home to the North Sydney Bears, the local team that had their golden years in the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. North Sydney District Rugby League Club was formed in 1908 but it wasn't until the early 1920s that they made it to the premierships. Duncan Thompson (for whom the pavilion/grandstand is named) played with the 1920 team and along with players Cec Blinkhorn, Harold Horder and Herman Peters won the 1920 City Cup.

North Sydney Bears' Grand Final against Newtown in 1943 was watched by a record crowd. North Sydney lost 34 - 7. Frank Hyde was captain of the 1943 side and he recalls that day:

*Everything was against us: the referee was against us, the touch judges were against us, the ball boys were all against us, the ball bounced the wrong way every time we went to play it and even with all that they only just won by the skin of their teeth 34 - 7! I think that story tells itself.*

Due to changes in Rugby League football in Sydney in recent years the North Sydney Bears merged with Manly Warringah and the newly formed club no longer plays on North Sydney Oval after a sporting tradition of over 90 years. The Northern Spirit Soccer Club now occupies the grounds and continues the game of football on the Oval.

Northern Suburbs Rugby Union Football Club was founded in 1909, and along with Eastern and Western Suburbs, shares the distinction of being the oldest district rugby club in the Sydney competition. Known today as the Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club it had a long association with North Sydney Oval.



**6****NORTH SYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL**

This memorial was designed by Frank Thorp of Peddle, Thorp and Walker, Architects. It was officially unveiled by the Governor General, Lord Stonehaven on October 10, 1926. The Monument is constructed of yellow trachyte stone, decorated with bronze and brass lettering, wreaths, plaques and railings. This impressive Memorial commands a prominent position at the top of Walker Street.

⇒ **CROSS ST LEONARDS PARK TO RIDGE STREET. PROCEED EAST ALONG RIDGE STREET, NOTING THE HOMES AT 91-95 RIDGE STREET. CONTINUE ALONG RIDGE STREET TO THE OUTLOOK FACING SOUTH OVER THE WARRINGAH EXPRESSWAY.**

**7****RIDGE STREET**

Nos 91-95 Ridge Street are closely associated with the history of medical services in North Sydney. *St Malo*, at 95 Ridge Street, is a Victorian house built c1884 and is associated with the St Ives Church of England Hospital located in a house nearby (demolished 1956). *St Malo*, originally known as *Lamorna*, was the home of the Methodist minister, Rev. Dr. Kelynack who left it in 1887 to be President of Newington College. The house was renamed *St Malo* in 1903 by Nurse Gertrude Walker who started a hospital there at the time. Following the opening of St Ives C of E Hospital in 1941, *St Malo* was used as nurse's quarters.

*St Helen's*, at 91 Ridge Street, is a fine example of an Italianate Villa dating to c1887. The original owner was Francis Punch, the first Mayor of the Borough of North Sydney. In 1967 *St Helen's* was purchased for additional nurses quarters. In 1970 the Hospital's name was changed to the North Sydney Community Hospital. In 1992 the hospital relocated to the western suburbs.

**CHANGES IN THE NORTH SYDNEY LANDSCAPE**

*They're shifting old North Sydney  
Perhaps 'tis just as well –  
They're carting off the houses  
Where the old folk used to dwell.*

The first line of Henry Lawson's "Old North Sydney" inspires a strong visual image of change and upheaval. Change has certainly been a constant aspect of the North Sydney landscape from its first days of settlement.

Whether or not you would agree with his second line, North Sydney has witnessed many shifts in its urban landscape since its beginnings as a township in 1838. Whether these shifts are 'just as well' is a very personal perspective and many who enjoy the environs of the area today would most likely disagree.

The last lines of "Old North Sydney"

*But now we're busy strangers,  
Our feelings we restrain –  
The Spirit of North Sydney  
Shall never come again .*

conjures up emotions about a place – a place of strangers and disruptions, shifting from a comfortable way of life to an uneasy newness. Its reference to ‘the Spirit of North Sydney’ as being lost and irretrievable evokes sadness and perhaps a lack of hope for the future.

The above poem was written by Henry Lawson in 1909 for the *North Shore and Manly Times*. Henry Lawson, one of North Sydney’s famed former residents, knew well its streets and laneways, its people and places

In the last 50 years North Sydney has experienced a great deal of change. You only have to look around you to see the layers of history that remain, revealing a rich cultural landscape reflecting a variety of periods and styles depicting our residential and commercial development patterns. However, equally and sadly, much has been lost – Aboriginal sites, houses and buildings, maritime and foreshore industries and community gathering places.

Why these places in our landscape have gone forever raises many questions. Aboriginal occupation of the north shore ended abruptly as the Europeans discovered the place and its amenities. The early Colonial and Victorian houses, built on Aboriginal land subsequently granted to our pioneer settlers, were demolished for ‘progress’. This new wave of development of infrastructures for a growing urban environment saw hundreds of houses and buildings lost for important transport links, such as roadways and railways to move a burgeoning population from the upper north shore to the city and back again. The resumptions at the time of the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge devastated a whole ‘Victorian’ town that was Milsons Point. Later in the 1960s the Warringah Expressway cut a swathe through the heart of North Sydney and once again buildings tumbled down. The second wave of development struck with a vengeance and houses built in the Federation and Inter-War period experienced the flat building boom of the 1960s and 1970s and the high-rise boom of the 1980s and 1990s.

Resident action groups and strong community protests have ensured that, in spite of these waves of demolition, elements of North Sydney’s heritage have survived, are recorded on Council’s heritage inventory and protected by its *Local Environment Plan*. North Sydney’s recent *Heritage and Cultural Resources Study* examines heritage in a new light and attaches cultural value to the bricks and mortar of a place. These new guidelines have been incorporated into Council’s *Development Control Plan* to provide further protection.

Our harbour foreshores have also experienced drastic change, to the point where hardly a boat building/repair yard, gas works or coal loader can be seen today. These important and city building landmarks have been replaced, in the main, with residential developments capturing as much as possible of the beautiful harbour vantage points available to them. Following in the footsteps of previous North Sydney Councils, open space provisions continue to be relentlessly pursued and in recent times have resulted in the return of the Waverton Peninsula Industrial Sites to open space. This is the subject of current masterplans, interpretive plans and conservation management plans. These sites, important for their place in North Sydney’s and Sydney’s industrial history, will be interpreted so that visitors will

gain an understanding of the past uses of the site and their significance in our cultural landscape.

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## WARRINGAH EXPRESSWAY



By the very nature of its location North Sydney has always been an important link in the chain of communication between north and south. The Bridge, the early ferries, tram and train travel, the Warringah Expressway and the tunnel have all had their effects on the nature of the place. In some ways these have resulted in a strengthening of the community's resolve to maintain ties and create a sense of place that is uniquely North Sydney today.

In the 1960s the building of the Warringah Expressway provided an important transport corridor for Sydney but led to the demolition of hundreds of houses, public buildings and local landmarks, such as the North Sydney Orpheum. The demolition wake created a rift valley right through the heart of North Sydney and split its eastern and western communities.

*Down Little Arthur Street, one of the main thoroughfares affected, the wreckers have done a great job. Where there were more than a score of homes on either side of this narrow, sloping road there are now only a decaying six. They are like teeth rotten at the roots... The street was pregnant with feeling – in one corner agitation, over their stillness... Seated on a verandah, of No. 28, brooded Mr Pat Hamilton, 85... He sat wordlessly for a few moments, then said "My son was born here – I like the old place – been in it fifty years.*

*Outside her home at No 4 stood Mrs Lillian MacWilliams, a widow who detested more than anything the expressway's invasion of her privacy. She looked up at her cottage roof and sighed. "It's 100 years old. When they told me I would have to leave it the news took my breath away.*

Pix Magazine 7 September 1963

*This photo was taken not long before the house (302 Alfred Street) was demolished – around 1960, I think, or '61? It's my mother standing there so proudly... it was a wonderful old place – I still dream about it and wake up regretful...*

Kate Grenville

However it was believed that the Expressway



would take pressure off North Sydney's streets and improve traffic flow across the Bridge into the city from the North Shore. North Sydney Council's Town Planner at the time, Mr Maurie Ross, believed that "the construction of the Expressway would mean a reduction by about 60 per cent in traffic flow through Victoria Cross". Mr Ross thought the resumed properties were "old homes on small building blocks" and that only a small percentage were of good standard.

The construction was complex, involving extensive excavation - 1,500,000 cubic yards of earth and rock, 60,000 cubic yards of concrete for the roadway and shoulders, construction of 22 miles of kerb and guttering and five miles of piping and stormwater drains, as well as overbridges for vehicles and pedestrians. (Department of Main Roads newsletter c1966)

The first section of the Warringah Expressway, from the northern end of the Bridge to Miller Street, Cammeray was opened to traffic by Sir Roden Cutler, Governor of New South Wales, on Tuesday 18 June 1968. The extension beyond Miller Street to Naremburn opened in September 1978 followed by the Gore Hill Freeway in more recent times.

The Expressway has been the subject of much discussion over the years and its pros and cons debated both within and outside the North Sydney community. There have been proposals to roof over the Expressway and re-establish the link severed by the roadway and at the same time create new parks and infrastructures such as hospitals, car parks and entertainment venues. Ted Mack, former Mayor and local Federal and State representative, was a strong proponent of this scheme.

**⇒ CROSS OVER WARRINGAH EXPRESSWAY AND DOWN THE STEPS INTO ALFRED STREET. WALK NORTH ALONG ALFRED STREET. TURN RIGHT INTO WINTER AVENUE. WALK ALONG WINTER AVENUE AND TURN RIGHT INTO BENT STREET. PROCEED SOUTH ALONG BENT STREET, KEEPING TO THE TOP PATH. ENSURE YOU FOLLOW THE LEFTHAND SINGLE- FILE FOOTPATH RIGHT AROUND THE STEEP DESCENDING CURVE AND TURN LEFT INTO EATON STREET.**

## **EATON STREET**

The brothers, William and Andrew Eaton, Scottish stonemasons, settled in Blues Point in 1857. They built the first stone churches of Lavender Bay. Andrew was elected Alderman of the first Borough of St Leonards Council in 1867. His son, Andrew, was an Alderman on the first Borough of North Sydney Council in 1890. Eaton Street was named after a branch of the Eaton Family whose house, *Glenrock* was situated at the eastern end of Ridge Street. Eaton Street was formerly the eastern end of McLaren Street.

At the corner of Eaton Street and Nook Lane we come to a single storey sandstone Georgian cottage thought to have been part of Henbury Villa, owned in 1885 by a Mr Blair. The property is described in "Municipality of North Sydney History and Progress, 1788-1938" as "Blair's fruit garden" where "fruit of every description was grown". This late nineteenth century house is a rare example of the period when houses on town fringes were located on large plots with extensive gardens, often market gardens. The building's Victorian Georgian features include a full-length hipped ogee front verandah on timber posts.

⇒ WALK EAST ALONG EATON STREET TO INTERSECTION OF EATON, MONTPELIER AND RAWSON STREETS.

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## THRUPP'S ESTATE (later Montpelier Estate)



The North Sydney Federation connection with Sir Henry Parkes is an interesting and complex one. Thrupp's Estate (also known as Thrupp's Grant or Thrupp's Farm, now Neutral Bay) plays an important part in this connection.

In 1878, Thrupp's Farm on the lower North Shore was available for leasing. In that year Sir Henry Parkes leased 62½ acres on the Farm at £93.15s per annum for 15 years. It is not clear whether or not Sir Henry took up residence in the area. Other sources note that Sir Henry Parkes owned property in the area of Neutral Bay known as the Montpelier Estate (coincides with maps of Thrupp's Estate).

## SIR HENRY PARKES (1816-1896)

Sir Henry Parkes, the 'Father of Federation', was Member for St Leonards (the former name for North Sydney) in 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891 and 1894. He was Premier of New South Wales five times. Sir Henry Parkes won the seat of St Leonards from the Premier George Dibbs in 1885 with a strong campaign including his stance on building a bridge for Sydney and a promising the citizens of the north side of the Harbour to build the bridge – "*Now who will stand on my right hand and build the bridge with me?*"

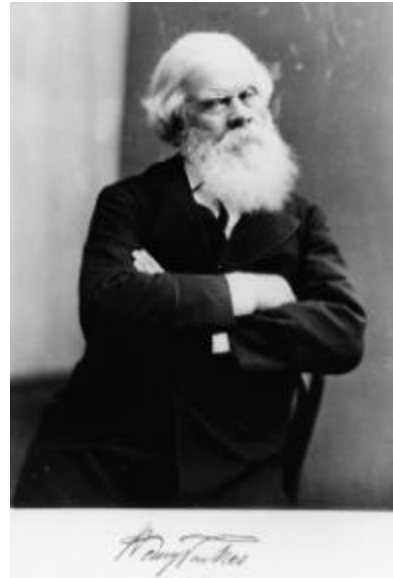
Born in Warwickshire, England into a tenant farming family Henry Parkes received a 'very limited and imperfect' education. He worked as a labourer on roadworks and in brickpits before taking an ivory turner's apprenticeship.

In 1836 Henry Parkes married his first wife Clarinda. The next few years were difficult with business failures and a move to London in search of better opportunities. Henry and Clarinda decided to migrate to New South Wales and arrived in Australia in 1839.

During the 1840s and 1850s Henry Parkes was engaged in unsuccessful business ventures

which resulted in financial difficulties. By the 1850s Parkes had become heavily involved in politics and in running his newspaper, the *Empire*. The Empire folded in 1858.

Parkes had a vision of New South Wales being a fair-go society with wage justice and a strong public education system. He had an abiding interest in public transport, especially in railways as “iron arteries” of the country. Parkes was committed to health, welfare, preservation of forests and to social change through political processes. He was first elected to the New South Wales Parliament in 1854 and helped introduce laws which improved hospitals, prisons and the lives of small farmers. He set up inspections of hospitals and brought to Sydney nursing sisters trained by Florence Nightingale.



From the 1860s onwards Parkes talked on many occasions about the need for the states to federate. In 1889 he gave the ‘Tenterfield Oration’ calling for a Convention of Australia’s leading men to discuss Federation. His campaign for a federated Australia resulted in the federal Conference and the Australasian Federal Convention of 1890-91. While Parkes’ model for Federation was not chosen, it was used as a basis for the final version of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia. He died in 1896 before he was able to see Federation come to fruition in 1901.

The town of Parkes in New South Wales is named after him as is Parkes Street in Neutral Bay.

⇒ **TURN RIGHT INTO RAWSON STREET AND WALK SOUTH TO KURRABA RD INTERSECTION AND ANDERSON PARK.**

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## **ANDERSON PARK AND SIR CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH**

Anderson Park was named after Alderman William Anderson, Mayor of North Sydney 1914-1918. The area was dedicated as a park just before Federation in 1898.

Anderson Park was the site of aviation history making in Australia on 17 July 1934 when crowds of onlookers watched for hours while Air Commodore Charles Kingsford Smith and Captain P.G. Taylor waited patiently for favourable conditions before taking off in the Lockheed Altair plane Lady Southern Cross in which they later made the first trans-Pacific flight from Australia to America. Both Taylor and Kingsford Smith had close family ties with the Lower North Shore. Local residents recall the excitement of the day:

*There was a big crowd of people there... He said he was waiting for a favourable breeze – Kingsford Smith – so we waited all day practically. It was about half past three, I think, in the afternoon that he decided to get in the plane and they took all the [electrical] wires down... and then we all went down to the end of the runway, like near the water, and we were standing there and so it took off from there. We wondered where he was gunna go!...*

Frank Cox

*As he took off over the water, he still didn't seem to rise. I think – later I've read – that he was having a joke with us. He could have risen a bit earlier but it wasn't until he was well past Neutral Bay wharf that he started to rise at all and then the people starting cheering madly, talking excitedly...*

Joan Hall

⇒ **WALK SOUTH ALONG CLARK ROAD PAST THE MARINA. TURN LEFT INTO HIPWOOD STREET.**

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## **HIPWOOD STREET AND THE FEDERATION PERIOD 1890s-c1915**

Hipwood Street was formerly known as Water Street when waters off Careening Cove came over the mudflats now reclaimed as parkland. Joseph Hipwood was a tailor in Bond Street, Sydney, who came to live in the area about 1875. He later became an alderman on the Borough of St Leonards.

With Federation new methods of transport, such as the motor car, developed. Trams replaced horse and cart. The population of North Sydney increased as the economy improved. A new, different post-1890s depression spirit of architecture developed. There was an influx of architectural influences. Queen Anne, Arts-and-Crafts, Art Nouveau styles were promoted by the print media. There was much discussion about the Australianness of buildings and a new awareness of adapting housing to the Australian climate. Federation also saw a new emphasis placed on the use of Australian motifs for designing homes, fabrics; artists began incorporating these designs into art and craft more than ever before.

Hipwood Street, in Kirribilli, has several examples of Federation architecture. The Hipwood Street Terraces Group at 2-12 Hipwood Street are a row of five two-storey terrace houses in the Federation Filigree style. The terraces were built for Mrs Louisa Wright in 1908 following the reclamation of the head of the bay in the 1890s. Despite a number of alterations over the years the terraces are still representative examples of period housing in the area, particularly of the more working-class nature of Careening Cove compared to other nearby areas.

Number 11 Hipwood Street is an elegant two-storey home designed in the Victorian Free Classical style. It was built around 1870 for the Loxton family who acquired the property from James McLaren.

⇒ **WALK SOUTH ALONG TO THE END OF HIPWOOD STREET AND TURN LEFT INTO MCDUGALL STREET**

## CAREENING COVE CONSERVATION AREA

In the early years of white settlement, the shores of the cove were used for careening or overhauling ships. At one time it was also known as Slaughterhouse Bay and Shairps Bay, being the site of James Milson's and William Shairp's slaughterhouse and meatworks.

Careening Cove was part of a land grant given to James Milson in 1824. The waterfrontage was used for maritime purposes throughout the nineteenth century. Milson's land remained within the family until the 1880s after which sections were subdivided for residential housing.

Milson Park, a notable open space area, was created during the 1890s by reclamation of the head of Careening Cove. The slope of the land around the cove forms a natural amphitheatre for Milson Park.

After the bay was reclaimed there was rapid and extensive development with a number of houses being built in the 1860s and 1870s overlooking the Cove. The south side of the tip of the peninsula was a significant wharf area, particularly for use by the Wunderlich company for importing Marseilles roof tiles in the 1890s. The foreshores of Careening Cove were later used for boat building and repair which remained the dominant local industry until the 1960s.

Today the Careening Cove Urban Conservation Area contains many Federation era cottages and villas that are largely intact. A unifying element throughout the Careening Cove area is the use of sandstone for foundations, random or coursed block, steps, fencing and retaining walls. The houses are mostly brick, dark in tone with lighter upper storeys, often with bay windows. Roofs are mostly terracotta. Many houses have been sympathetically modified by the addition of verandahs, balconies, bay windows and picture windows to capture the views.

The streetscape of Careening Cove is very varied with irregular angled intersections which follow the contours of the land, outward views, hillside terraces and gardens and mixed street tree plantings. Footpaths with sandstone kerbs are a feature of some local streets. Dead-end streets are a characteristic feature of the area where roadways meet the foreshore. These streets often end with a landscaped neighbourhood park. Harbour views are spectacular.

## ENSEMBLE THEATRE

78 McDougall Street is the site of the Ensemble Theatre, a converted timber-framed, corrugated iron clad boatshed, now used as a theatre and rehearsal space. Previously the site and the building were part of the local boat building and repair industry.

**⇒ WALK ALONG MCDUGALL STREET. TURN RIGHT INTO WILLOUGHBY STREET, LEFT INTO CARABELLA STREET AND PROCEED ALONG CARABELLA STREET**



## CARABELLA STREET

Carabella Street is home to many Federation style buildings of early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These buildings include:

- **Elemang**, contained within the grounds of Loreto Convent's school administration section. Elemang was built in 1851-52 for James Milson Jr, the son of James Milson. An early landowner in the area. James Milson Jr was the owner-occupier of the house until his death in 1903. In 1904 the property was subdivided and in 1907 Elemang was acquired for a Convent Girls' School.
- **Torness** at 56 Carabella Street, and 58 Carabella Street, built in 1900 in the Federation Filigree style are a pair of two-storey semidetached houses. These city townhouses have been used as such throughout their history, were restored in the 1970s and remain in excellent condition.
- **Keston**, a Federation Arts and Crafts style building at 31 Carabella Street. 'Keston' was the house of Major G. Bowen from the 1850s. It appears to have been rebuilt around 1912 as a large federation-style house. 'Keston' was taken over in the 1960s by ASIO as their Sydney headquarters.
- **Ormiston**, a Federation Queen Anne style building at 11-27 Carabella Street

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## MIANDETTA

Carabella Street, Kirribilli, is one of the highlights of our Federation walk. It is the street on which *Miandetta*, the Barton family home, stood until the early 1960s. The house, at 67 Carabella Street, was replaced by the existing flat building, *Quarterdeck*. *Miandetta*, (pronounced My-andetta), was home to Sir Edmund Barton and his family from 1896 to 1906 during the formative years of the Commonwealth of Australia. This house played an important part in both the family and political life of Sir Edmund Barton.

On Thursday April 26 2001, as part of Council's Centenary of Federation program, Cr Penny Scardifield, Deputy Mayor, unveiled a commemorative plaque at the site on behalf of Cr Genia McCaffery, Mayor of North Sydney:

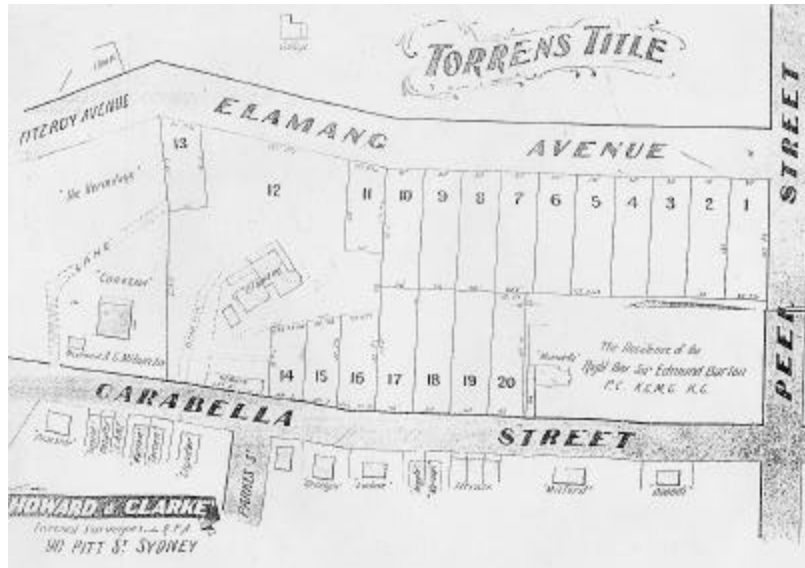
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*On this site once stood Miandetta, the former residence of our first  
Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton, who dedicated his services to a federated nation  
"One People, One Destiny"*

*Miandetta was the North Sydney home of Sir Edmund Barton and his family from  
1896 – 1906.*

*In 1959 the house was demolished as part of the flat building trend of the day; the first  
resident moved into Quarterdeck apartments in 1961.*

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## SIR EDMUND BARTON

Sir Edmund Barton, Australia's first Prime Minister, was born in Glebe, New South Wales in 1849, one of 11 children. From 1896 to 1906 Barton lived in North Sydney at *Miandetta* (pronounced My-andetta), a substantial Victorian residence owned by Mrs Florence Williams, in Carabella Street, Kirribilli, overlooking Sydney Harbour with easy ferry access to the city and his legal practice. Barton and his family (wife Jeanie and three children) moved into *Miandetta* when the Federation movement was at its peak. He used it as his Sydney headquarters (as described by Dr G Bolton) -

*Reporters found the house accessible to the ferry terminal at Milsons Point. Young men prepared to work hard for Federation travelled across the Harbour on those Sunday evenings when it was open house at the Bartons, and often found that when everyone else had retired for the night their host would keep them up into the small hours planning the next moves in the Federation strategy.*

As a young student at Sydney Grammar, Edmund Barton developed a passion for the classics and cricket. He was a school captain in 1863 and 1864 and attended Sydney University where he majored in classics with minors in mathematics, physics, French, and English literature. Barton was taught by the renowned Classics Professor, Charles Badham.

Edmund Barton married Jeanie Ross at Newcastle and they set up their first family home in Stanmore, the first of many homes. They had two sons, Edmund Alfred and Wilfred, later followed by a daughter, Jean Alice.

Barton's early legal career was a transient one. He moved around country New South Wales handling defense cases gaining him the skills and qualities to succeed as a lawyer with a political career on the rise. He won the election to the Legislative Assembly as the University of Sydney representative when he stood on a platform of free trade, land law reforms, free, secular and compulsory education and the extension of the railway into central Sydney.

He entered a government ruled by two 'master politicians' – Parkes and Robertson. The burning issues of the day centred on education, free trade and law reform and Barton would have been in sympathy with these causes although he later shifted to the side of the protectionists in the first Federal Parliament.

In 1883 he was elected Speaker of the House and set about increasing the powers of this position enabling the Speaker to curtail repetitious debate and suspending offenders in the House. While attributed with strong British affiliations, he also began to talk about the possibility of a federated Australia at this time.

A robust character in many ways, Barton favoured food and drink as another form of relaxation apart from cricket, his first love. The Athenaeum Club in the city offered him comfort and solace from his busy careers, and he regularly split his priorities between his family, the Club and public life. Barton was known affectionately as 'Tosspot Toby', a description his great grandson today suggests was most likely due to a bipolar disorder causing his changing moods and behaviour. Toby is a nick-name the Barton family pass down to their male children. (pers.comm..Dr David Barton).

Barton, while disagreeing from time to time with Parkes in Parliament, was most impressed with his famous Tenterfield address and his 'call for federation'. Barton wrote to Parkes and offered him his support for the 'federal cause'. Parkes, a consummate politician, realised that he needed Barton's (a protectionist) support as Parkes (a free trader), knew a federated Australia would only be achieved by a bipartisan approach.

Barton attended the Bathurst convention – the people's convention – with over 200 delegates – at this stage of federation politics, Barton was popular and indeed topped the polls as a delegate to the convention. In the Sydney Morning Herald he was described as: "undisputedly the strongest and ablest of the federationists."

He sacrificed income and professional advancement for the cause. Barton was nominated as the interim prime minister in late 1900 - he was to be the first prime minister of a federated Australia at the turn of a new century and at the birth of our nationhood.

Edmund Barton was a man of his time, his politics reflecting the attributes of the day. It was the Barton government that introduced the infamous White Australia Policy and ignored the Aboriginal population entirely. They also were not enthusiastic about the women's suffrage movement which was making its mark on the world scene. Following his prime ministership Barton was appointed to the High Court in 1903 until his death in 1920. He died while on holidays in Medlow Bath and was given a state funeral at St Andrew's Cathedral. He is buried at South Head Cemetery.

⇒ ***PROCEED DOWN CARABELLA STREET TO HOLBROOK AVENUE. TURN LEFT INTO HOLBROOK AVENUE TO SUNNYSIDE (WYREEPI).***

## HOLBROOK AVENUE

Holbrook Avenue is the last North Sydney Federation Connection we visit on the Federation Walk. As far as architectural style is concerned Huntingdon Apartments at 6 Holbrook Avenue are an example of Federation Free Style architecture of the 1920s with the hooded casement windows and a decorative parapet. The Walder, at 19 Holbrook Avenue, is a Federation Freestyle five-storey apartment block, an early example of waterfront apartment buildings.

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### WYREEPI

From 1904 to 1922 *Wyreepi* (now *Sunnyside*) at 11 Holbrook Avenue was the home of Dugald Thomson, the first Federal Member for North Sydney and Minister for Home Affairs. *Wyreepi* was built around 1862 for Robert Hunt, later Deputy Master of Sydney (Royal) Mint. It was sold to the North Shore Ferry Company in 1899 and leased to Dugald Thomson in 1904. Dugald purchased the house in 1910 and renamed it *Wyreepi*. The house is now named *Sunnyside* and is on the National Estate Register. It is privately owned.



*Wyreepi* is a picturesque Victorian Rustic Gothic waterfront house, an example of the waterfront mansion developments of the area in the mid-1800s.

### DUGALD THOMSON (1849-1922)

Perhaps North Sydney's strongest Federation connection is through its first Federal Member of Parliament, Dugald Thomson, a popular and respected local community member and Federal Member of Parliament.

Born in London in 1849, Dugald Thomson migrated to South Australia (Adelaide) at the age of two. With the gold rush of the 1850s the Thomson family moved to Victoria but Dugald was sent back to Liverpool in England to complete his education and to be trained in his uncle's Liverpool business. He returned to Melbourne in 1866 where he joined the merchant firm of Robert Harper and Co. for whose firm he set up a Sydney branch office in 1877.



Dugald Thomson was managing partner until an accident in 1892 forced him to retire. In the 1870s Thomson established the North Shore Steam Ferry Co. Ltd. with J.P.Garvan.

An early advocate for building a bridge across Sydney Harbour and a member of the Railway Extension League to extend the railway line from Redfern to Circular Quay, Dugald Thomson also worked hard in Parliament to have the North Shore line extended from its terminus at St Leonards down to the harbour at Milsons Point. The success of his endeavours resulted in the settlement of a large suburban population along the North Shore line.

As a resident of North Sydney he contacted the Colonial Secretary about Government plans to join Sydney and the North Shore with a bridge or tunnel. He investigated several designs, deciding that a bridge was the best choice because it would “form a link between two government tramways and possibly two government railways”.

In 1894, as an advocate for free trade policies, Thomson was elected member for Warringah in the NSW Legislative Assembly. He retained the seat in the 1895 and 1898 elections and served as Member for Warringah until June 1901.

Unwavering in his support for Federation he entered the First Commonwealth Parliament of Australia in August 1901 as Member for North Sydney, making him our first Federal Member. Dugald Thomson held the seat unopposed until he retired in 1910. From August 1904 to July 1905 he was Minister for Home Affairs in Sir George Reid’s Cabinet. As a Federal Member Thomson held a leading position in Opposition and served on several committees including the Select Committee on Decimal Coinage (1901-1902), the Royal Commission on the steamer *Drayton Grange* (1902) and on the Royal Commission on the Navigation Bill (1906).

The local newspaper at the time of Federation, the North Shore and Manly Times, published many articles on Thomson, focussing on his personal character as well as his political activities. He was a popular and highly regarded member of the local community, “ever to the front in public matters”, despite the fact that the community of North Sydney and the electorate of St Leonards were in two minds as to whether or not they wanted Federation. Just after his election to the House of Representatives in the First Federal Parliament in 1901, the North Shore and Manly Times described Dugald Thomson as being:

*A man who would not blow his own trumpet, ...immensely popular with every class of the community, ... he has ever had the welfare of the district at heart, ... his popularity of today is in reality the outcome of many years of good and faithful service.*

Dugald Thomson was a supporter of philanthropic institutions and he took a great interest in the welfare of soldiers. He was associated with the founding of Graythwaite Convalescent Hospital and was Chairman of the North Sydney War Memorial Committee and of the King Edward Memorial Fund. For 35 years he was a member of the Highland Society, holding the positions of vice-president and senior vice-president for a number of years. Dugald Thomson died on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1922 at his residence, *Wyreepi* in Kirribilli.

**⇒ TURN AROUND AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ALONG HOLBROOK AVENUE. TURN LEFT INTO CARABELLA AVENUE. PROCEED ALONG TO KIRRIBILLI AVENUE.**

**15****KIRRIBILLI HOUSE AND ADMIRALTY HOUSE**

Nos 109 and 111 Kirribilli Avenue are better known as Admiralty House and Kirribilli House respectively. Admiralty House is the Australian Government Governor General's Sydney Residence. Kirribilli House is the Prime Minister's Sydney Residence.

Kirribilli House, one of the best known and most well situated houses on Sydney Harbour, is a picturesque Victorian Rustic Gothic mansion of the 1850s, situated on a peninsula with grand harbour views. The land on which Kirribilli House stands was part of a lease of Admiralty House (*Wotonga*) from Robert Campbell to Lt. Col. Gibbes. The house was built in 1855. In January 1920 it was acquired by the Commonwealth Government and in 1958 it was refurbished for use as Prime Ministerial residence.

Admiralty House, or *Wotonga*, built in 1843 in the Victorian Regency style, has been associated throughout its history with a succession of prominent Colonial administrators and businessmen. It was purchased from private owners by the NSW Government in 1885 to become an Official Residence for Royal Navy Commanders. It remained so until 1913 when it became the Australian Government Governor General's Sydney Residence.

**⇒ TURN RIGHT INTO KIRRIBILLI AVENUE AND THEN LEFT INTO BEULAH STREET. NOTE THE VIEW ACROSS TO THE OPERA HOUSE. TURN RIGHT INTO WARUDA STREET. PROCEED ALONG WARUDA STREET TO THE DR MARY BOOTH LOOKOUT.**

North Sydney is fortunate to have so many slot views and glimpses of Sydney Harbour and its environs. Our next stop, Dr Mary Booth Lookout, provides stunning harbour views.

**16****DR MARY BOOTH LOOKOUT**

Dr Mary Booth OBE was founder of the Memorial College of Household Arts and Science at 63 Kirribilli Avenue. The college operated from 1936-1952 and provided courses for girls aimed at upgrading the status of housewives. Dr Booth, a feminist, was awarded an OBE in 1918. She died in 1958. In 1961 funds from the College were provided for the Dr Mary Booth Scholarship for female economics students at Sydney University.

Dr Mary Booth lived in Kirribilli and was dedicated to the health and welfare of women, children and servicemen. Apart from social issues, Dr Booth was committed to the environment. It is due to her efforts that this part of our harbour foreshore is public parkland today.

Dr Mary Booth Lookout once formed part of "The Dingle" estate redeveloped for flats in the 1960s. Dr Booth lived adjacent to "The Dingle" and advocated for the foreshore reservation to be set aside. She gained the support of local residents and groups such as the Tree-Lovers' League of Kuring-gai, the Anzac Fellowship of Women and the National Trust. Dr Booth was the founder of The Women's Club in 1901 and the Anzac Fellowship of Women in 1921.

⇒ **RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK ALONG WARUDA STREET AND TURN LEFT INTO KIRRIBILLI AVENUE. PROCEED WEST ALONG KIRRIBILLI AVENUE.**

## **ELSIMERE AND STUDLEY ROYAL**

At 55 and 59 Kirribilli Avenue respectively (best seen from the harbour), Elsimere and Studley Royal are two elegant Victorian waterfront mansions built around 1880 for Paul Talbot, a woolbroker at Circular Quay. Elsimere and its neighbour Studley Royal are Victorian Tudor and Victorian Regency style homes respectively and are representative of the late 1800s development of the Kirribilli foreshores. They are rare examples of Victorian waterfront mansions of the period that have survived intact. Both houses are privately owned.

⇒ **CONTINUE WEST ALONG TO THE END OF KIRRIBILLI ROAD FOR SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE BRIDGE AND THE HARBOUR FROM MILSONS POINT.**

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## **SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE RESUMPTIONS**

*Preparations for the Harbour Bridge, was a phrase frequently heard upon the lips of people during the years 1923, 24 and 25. But the preparations differed very widely in kind, and the immediate effect of the various preparations was felt by people in varying degrees.*

Rev. Cash in Spearitt's  
Sydney Harbour Bridge: A life

There are varying accounts of the number of demolitions in the leadup to the major construction work for the Bridge in the Milsons Point/Kirribilli area. Rev. Cash tells us that 500 businesses and homes went, others reported 300 to 400. Whatever the figure, its toll would have been immense as people struggled to find alternative locations for their businesses or places to live.

*There was certainly no uprisings and there were certainly no demonstrations that I recall - it was something that happened... people might not have had much say in matters in those days. It was a question of-do as your told- or else... [the businesses] moved further north and would have amalgamated or got involved with people in Mount Street and those places... The Harpers, our neighbours, had a wood joinery shop in Alfred Street and one of their specialities were making crosses and crucifixes to go on coffins and we used to get the rejects.*

Victor Wills

*I remember all the houses being pulled down... all the houses in Alfred Street. There's four houses built by a Mr. Feeley with all the secondhand bricks... there's four houses in Young Street, Neutral Bay and I often think when I used to see them, I wonder do they know they got their second wall, the cavity wall, is made of the history of North Sydney...*

Roy Lock

These were also hard times in between the war years, leading up to the great crash of 1929 and the worldwide depression that followed. The tough times persisted until World War II broke out in 1939. In many cases the displaced local residents, whose families had lived in the area for many years, had to relocate and re-establish themselves. But it wasn't only houses that were lost to the Bridge. Churches, halls, transport terminals, and other local landmarks were demolished to make way for modernity.

Compensation for these residents and shopkeepers was the subject of much debate at the time:

*It is expected that the leaseholder will receive compensation for the unexpired term of leases, and that tenants will be dealt with considerately.*

Daily Telegraph 11/9/1926

North Sydney Council became involved in the resumption debate and expressed its concern about adequate compensation:

*For over two years we have been hammering at the Government over this question of compensation... we are quite aware that in law the people who did not hold leases when the properties were resumed have no claim to compensation; but, considered from the point of view of simple justice, these claims should be given consideration... we feel that the dispossessed tenants and business people are being unjustly treated...*

E.M. Clark, North Sydney Deputy Mayor,  
Daily Telegraph 8/9/1926

*... a shop on the corner of Willoughby Street and Broughton Street, it was a general store. I don't think we had much to do with that. On the corner of Broughton Street and Burton Street was another shop which was Gardener's paper shop and previously was run by Mr. Hand. Manning's the Chemist was close to St. John's Church... further down there was De Losi's fruit shop which was shifted on three occasions; firstly from Alfred Street when the bridge project started, then to the corner of Burton and Broughton which is now occupied by the archway for the bridge. Then they moved to the corner of Burton Street and Humphrey Lane... the bridge really cleaned all those shops out...*

Victor Wills

While the majority of the people on the north side saw the building of the Bridge in a positive light and a modern necessity, the effects of the widespread neighbourhood demolitions impacted on the social networks of the place. Not only did neighbourhoods break down and disperse, undermining existing community support, but streetscapes were dramatically altered and places of communal gatherings were shifted and changed forever.



All of these changes within a local landscape have great impact on the memories of those who witnessed the change. Major changes to streets, laneways, parks and gathering places on the North Sydney foreshore were the direct result of the contrasting needs to connect with the city, progress into the 20th Century and the desire to embrace a new way of living.

*... Campbell Street was the first street up from the ferry and there were two sides of the road there and they were packed with houses, and then the next one was Pitt Street and they all went right to where they are now, there's Upper Pitt Street still. It came right up to St. Aloysius College, then Fitzroy Street went. Such a number of houses that went...also in there was factories, an enormous laundry in between the houses... between Pitt Street and Campbell... terrace houses and cottages but well built, English style in those days you would say...*

Florence Innes

**Our North Sydney Federation Faces and Places Walking Tour ends here, at the corner of Kirribilli Avenue and Broughton Streets. The nearest public transport is a short walk the hill to Milsons Point Station.**

Compiled for Heritage Week April 2001 by:

Margaret Park, Council Historian

Ouranita Karadimas, University of Technology Sydney

## NORTH SYDNEY AT THE TIME OF FEDERATION TIMELINE

- 1890            Railway line completed to St Leonards  
                 Amalgamation of three boroughs to form North Sydney Municipal Council  
                 Pastoral Finance Association Woolstore opened at Kirribilli on site of  
                 ‘Beulah’ and ‘Theulda’  
                 St Johns Presbyterian Church opened at Neutral Bay
- 1891            Oaks Steam Brickworks closed  
                 Neocratine Safety Explosives Company in Liquidation  
                 First test drilling for coal on Cremorne Point  
                 Northbridge Suspension Bridge constructed by North Sydney Investment and  
                 Tramway Company
- 1892            Water supply connected to Ryde Pumping Station via reservoir at Chatswood
- 1893            North Sydney Investment and Tramway Company in liquidation  
                 Second test drilling for coal on Cremorne Point  
                 Electric Tram line opened from Ridge street to Spit Junction  
                 Mosman Municipality seceded from North Sydney  
                 North Shore Railway completed to Milsons Point  
                 Cable Tram extended to Crows Nest
- 1895            Catholic Church in Miller Street rebuilt
- 1899            Folly Point Sewerage Farm completed and put into operation
- 1900            Second vehicular ferry service established from Dawes Point to Blues Point  
                 Electric tram extensions to Hayes Street, Neutral Bay and to The Spit  
                 Electrification of earlier cable-tram line to Crows Nest  
                 Bay Road Railway Station renamed Waverton Station  
                 North Shore Ferry Co. reconstituted as Sydney Ferries Ltd
- 1901            Australian Commonwealth established
- 1902            Subdivision of Cremorne Peninsula begins  
                 Foundation stone of Royal North Shore Hospital laid at Gore Hill  
                 St Josephs Convent and school opened in Mount Street
- 1903            Opening of Royal North Shore Hospital  
                 St Aloysius College opened at Milsons Point
- 1904            North Shore Cottage Hospital closed

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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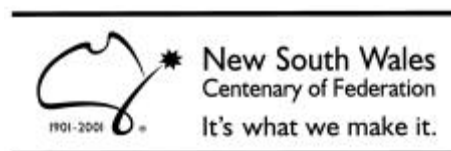
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Barbara and Douglas Webb and the Thomson Family



*A North Sydney Centenary of Federation Community Committee sponsored event  
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