

BOURKETOWN WALK

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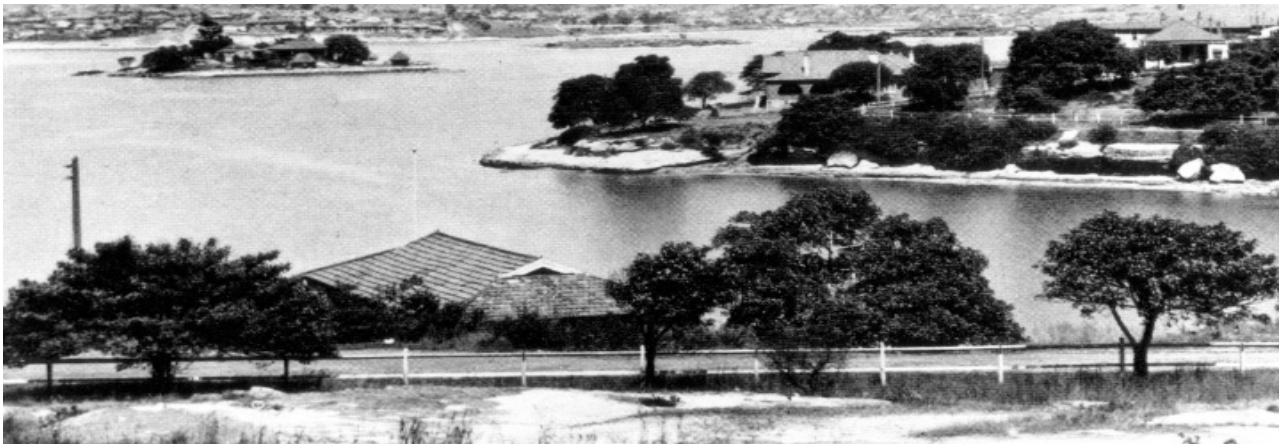
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Acknowledgements

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If you have photographs of the local area that you would be willing to lend for copying we would be delighted to hear from you. We are able to make copies and return the originals to you.



Sisters Crescent with view towards Rodd Island, 1940

Introduction

Bourketown is Drummoyne's oldest subdivision. Established in the 1840s it extended from Millar Street to South Street and from Lyons Road to Iron Cove and had as a centrepiece Bourke Square.

Streets were named after prominent public men: Father Joseph Therry, Father William Bernard Ullathorne, Archbishop John Bede Polding, Attorney-General John Hubert Plunkett, Governor Sir George Gipps, Colonial Secretary Edward Deas Thomson, Archbishop William Grant Broughton and Major George Barney (n.b. the original spelling of Thompson Street was Thomson).

Rawson Avenue was later named in 1908 after the Governor, Sir Harry Rawson visited the district. A subdivision soon after extended Bourke Town to the present day Janet Street. The Tranmere Subdivision of 1883 covered the area from Bourketown to Formosa Street.

The Wangal People - Indigenous Australians of the Canada Bay Area

Prior to European settlement the area now known as the City of Canada Bay was occupied by the Wangal clan (also spelt 'Wann-gal') whose name was derived from the word for their country. The Wangal were a clan of the Darug (sometimes spelt Dharug) tribe or language group. They called themselves the Eora, meaning 'the people'.

The Wangal clan's territory is thought to have originally extended from Darling Harbour, around the Balmain Peninsula, including Goat Island (called Me-mel or Memill), almost to Parramatta in the west. The Parramatta River formed the

northern boundary although it is uncertain how far south their land extended. The Wangal are believed to have occupied the area for over 20,000 years.

First contact was made with local Aboriginals of the Wangal Clan by Captain John Hunter who led an exploration of the Parramatta River. On 5 February 1788 while having breakfast, he was met by Wangal at the location now referred to as Breakfast Point. The Wangal called the area Booridiow-o-gule.

During the summer months, the Wangal gathered much of their food from along the Parramatta River. The food consisted mainly of fish and shell fish and the remains of these meals, known as shell middens, may still be seen at Rodd Park (Rodd Point). Today few traces of Aboriginal occupation survive in the Canada Bay area other than a few cave painting sites, rock shelters and middens.

1 Iron Cove Bridge

The first bridge across Iron Cove was opened to traffic in 1882. The bridge was a low-level bridge 300 yards long. The low deck prevented most sailing boats from entering Iron Cove, although the cove had a depth of two fathoms in mid-channel. The present Iron Cove Bridge was completed in 1955. The sandstone abutments of the 1882 bridge survive at both sides of Iron Cove Bay.



Iron Cove Bridge

3 Natural Foreshore

A small strip of natural foreshore that has survived road works and other development remains at Sisters Bay. It is one of the few places in Drummoyne where the original natural foreshore is publicly accessible. Rock edges, sandflats and mangroves such as those found here were once common in the Drummoyne area.

2 Drummoyne Pool

Drummoyne Pool was built in 1904 at a cost of £3000 and had major extensions in 1914. It is one of the oldest Council pools in Sydney and was cut out of solid rock with a concrete wall erected to keep out seawater. Drummoyne Pool was leased by swimming coach Harry Gallagher in 1950. Gallagher trained both Dawn Fraser and Jon Henricks at the Drummoyne Pool.



Drummoyne Swimming Pool, 1949



Drummoyne Swimming Pool, 1961



Henley Marine Drive, 1959.

4 Henley Marine Drive

Henley Marine Drive was one of the first foreshore drives in the Sydney area and became a prototype for others. Construction of Henley Marine Drive began in 1910 and includes extensive sandstone seawalls to allow reclamation of land. This is now part of the Bay Run and is popular for its excellent views across Iron Cove.

5 South Street

Number 5 South Street was the home of Henry Selfe from 1892. It retains much of its original detailing, notably the iron lace on the ridge of the roof.

6 Drummoyne Public School

Land for Drummoyne Public School was acquired in 1886. The original, temporary wooden building, was replaced in November 1897 by a brick building to house 170 students. Additions to accommodate girls were completed in 1900. The first school assembly hall in NSW was built here in 1911, although the building has been altered. A second storey addition was made in 1915. The school grounds retain a number of mature trees believed to date from the 1920s, including Canary Island Palms, Cypress Pine, Hoop Pine and ornamental olive trees.



Drummoyne Public School with Bourketown Square, 2005

7 Thompson Street Houses

This group of houses were built circa 1895 and to the same designs. Another of the same design is located in Plunkett Street. The houses are named from east to west *The Laurels*, *Glendenning* and *Wyncroft*.

8 Bourketown Square

Bourke Square was to be the centrepiece of Bourketown. A statue of Governor Bourke was planned for the square but was never erected. 1841 reports suggest it was delayed by problems with finding good quality stone, but there are no known reports that the statue was ever erected.

The electric light at the centre of the square is a relatively elaborate example of a surviving cast iron standard light. It would have originally been a gas light that was converted to electricity.



The Laurels, Glendenning and Wyncroft, 53-57 Thompson Street, 2009

9 Drummoyne Reservoir

The elevated reservoir was built in 1910 by the then Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage. At the insistence of Thomas Henley, the concrete tower was added in 1912. The tower copied a similar one at Bellevue Hill that had been built as a lookout for military purposes. The Bellevue Hill tower was demolished, making the Drummoyne tower unique.



Drummoyne Reservoir, 2009



Butcher shop, 54 Thompson Street, 2008

10 Butcher Shop

There has been a butcher shop in this location since 1924 when it was occupied by Leslie Lane Butcher and later by Leslie Lane and E. Erickson Butchers. Smallgoods were sold from the small shop at the rear of the site (facing the school).

11 Alma, 66 Thompson Street

Alma was built for Archibald Howie, a stonemason. After migrating to Sydney from Scotland, he established the prominent building company Howie Brothers, later Howie, Moffat & Co.

They were responsible for a series of major buildings, including part of Garden Island, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, additions to the Australian Museum and the city vegetable markets. Archibald's brother John Howie, also a mason, was the clerk of works for the construction of the Sydney GPO. Archibald Howie died in 1923.

Howie's son, Sir Archibald Howie, joined his father's building company and was later elected to the Legislative Council and served as Sydney's Lord Mayor in 1936 and 1937.



Alma, 66 Thompson Street, 2005



Drummoyne Baptist Church, Bowman Street, 2005

12 Drummoyne Baptist Church

One of five churches in Bourketown, this is a modest church built in 1913.

13 Drummoyne Presbyterian Church

The foundation stone for the Drummoyne Presbyterian Church was laid in 1912 and the church opened on 20 April 1913, replacing an earlier church on the site built in 1898. The earlier building is now part of the Sir Thomas Henley Memorial Sunday School, completed in 1939. Stained glass windows in the church were designed by the early twentieth century artist Norman Carter.

The steeple is a feature of the building, visible along Marborough Street. On the opposite side of College Street is the Presbyterian Church Manse, built circa 1920.

14 Drummoyne Fire Station

The Drummoyne Fire Station was erected in 1896. It is a good example of a Federation arts and crafts style fire station, probably designed by the Government Architect Walter Liberty Vernon. The style was quite common at the time and Drummoyne's example is notable for its integrity.



Drummoyne Presbyterian Church, 1970

15 Formosa and College Streets

The Tranmere Estate subdivided the section of Bourketown bounded by Lyons Road, Formosa Street, South Street and Iron Cove Bay in 1883. The blocks between Formosa and College Streets originally had single allotments continuing from Formosa Street through to College Street.

These were all purchased by Thomas Henley who subsequently developed them with a mix of semi-detached and detached housing. The groups of semi-detached houses were gradually subdivided and sold from c.1942. They remain fine groups of Federation period housing, many with high quality detailing to their gables and verandahs.



35 and 37 College Street, 2007

16 Drummoyne Uniting Church

One of a number of churches in Bourketown that indicate the importance of this area in the early development of Drummoyne. The Uniting Church was built as a Methodist Church in 1910. A church hall is located at its rear.

17 St Bede's Anglican Church

The first Anglican church on this site was a timber building constructed in 1884. It was moved to the rear of the site to make way for a brick church completed in 1901. A rectory was built in 1910.

An addition to the church in the 1920s failed to keep up with the growing population and a new church was proposed. Thomas Henley, who had his home at the present 23 College Street, did not want his water views obstructed, so he gave the land on the opposite side of the road plus a generous donation for the site of a new church.

Prominent architect Emil Soderstein designed the new church and the building was complete in 1931. The rose window at St Bede's was designed and made by Alfred Handel.



Drummoyne Uniting Church, 2007

Discover Bourketown Walking Tour

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