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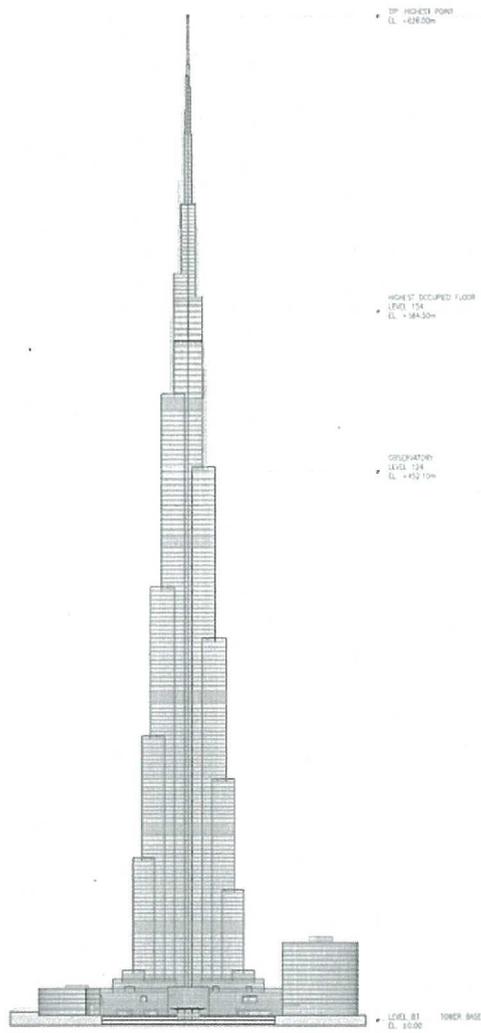
My Essay on the Beautiful Botany Bay  
2018 Ron Rathbone Local History  
Competition

There are many beautiful places around the world but there is only one Bayside Council and you can only find it here in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. The Bayside encompasses various suburbs including Arncliffe, Wolli Creek and Rockdale to name a few. It is an area rich not only in history, that dates back to 1770 when the first settlers arrived but also in architecture, culture and a big variety of people from all corners of the globe.

Since people first settled in the Bayside Council, most of the development and infrastructure has been slow however the decisions made by a lot of influential people over the last 200 years have helped to shape it into the thriving community that we know today.

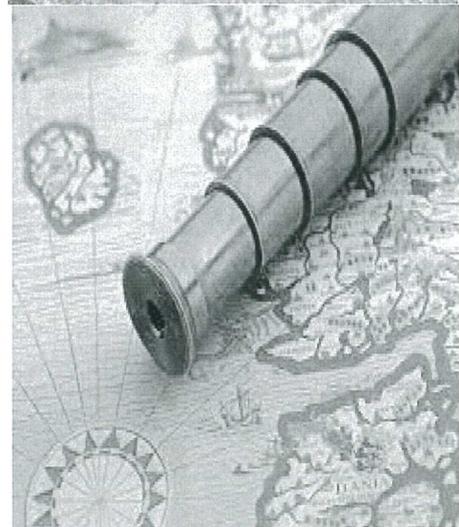
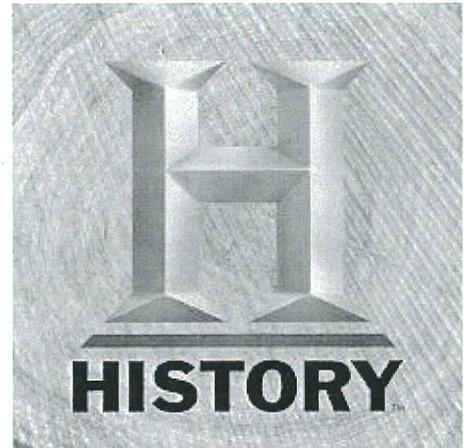
In short the Bayside Council continues to grow every year and we want it to be well established as one of the best places in the world to live. For my essay I decided to focus on two of the most important elements of the Bayside Council, the History and the Architecture

Architecture



SOM

BUILDING ELEVATION



### British Settlement

The history of Botany Bay dates as far back as Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 1770. That is the day a British Sailor first landed in Kurnell on the banks of Botany Bay. He sailed all the way to Australia on his magnificent ship called the HMS Endeavour. Soon after he arrived in Botany Bay colonisation of the new continent began. First they decided to call the area Stingrays Harbour because of the large number of stingrays they caught. However, Cook also noticed the large quantity of beautiful plants in the area. Hence the name Botany Bay was born and luckily it has stuck ever since that day. 18 years later another British sailor landed in Australia. Governor Arthur Phillip sailed his big ship HMS Supply into Botany Bay on 18<sup>th</sup> January. A couple of days later the rest of the ships in the first fleet arrived in the same area to found the penal colony. Unfortunately, they decided that in their opinion the land was unsuitable for settlement and development because there wasn't enough fresh water. The swamp probably also played a part in their decision to move. They thought it could render the settlement to be unhealthy.

### French Settlement

James Cook was not the only explorer that decided to sail to Australia in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1788 Frenchman Jean François de Galaup, comte de Laperouse arrived somewhere in Sydney Cove. Unfortunately, tremendous gale force winds prevented him from entering Botany Bay. Luckily though when he eventually arrived the British people welcomed him and his men courteously. They offered the French much needed assistance and supplies after their arduous voyage from Europe. They decided to spend six weeks in Botany Bay. The French decided to establish an observatory and they also wanted to hold Catholic masses. On the 10<sup>th</sup> March Laperouse decided to sail to various islands in the Pacific including New Caledonia, Santa Cruz and the Solomon's. He made the wise decision to give his journals, charts and his letters to the British. They took his documents on one of the naval ships in the first fleet all the way back to Paris. Unfortunately, Laperouse and his men were never seen again.

## History of Brighton Le Sands Architecture, Infrastructure and Development

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Most of the major infrastructure and development didn't occur until 1884. That's when they built the first railway station in the area. It opened with a line to Hurstville via Rockdale. They also decided to build a few streets and roads that most of the people in the bayside area may already be familiar with including Bay Street and Goode Road. They also decided to build a couple of bridges over the Muddy Creek. One of the most important individuals responsible for building the infrastructure they we know today is developer and merchant Thomas Saywell. In 1885 Thomas Saywell decided to build a tramway from Rockdale to the beach. He thought that a single track was best. Then they erected a tram depot on West Botany Street. The tram was eventually replaced by buses in 1949. More development began in the 1890's when they thought that the land was unsuitable for agriculture. Therefore, the decision to build a resort was made instead. In that decade they had various building projects in mind including public swimming baths for men and women, the wharf and finally in 1895 Thomas Saywell decided to build a race course.

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botany\\_Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botany_Bay) Accessed 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Brighton-Le-Sands,\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Brighton-Le-Sands,_New_South_Wales)  
Accessed 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018

In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century they built a post office and it opened its doors in 1903. They also started a ferry service to allow people to travel the area. Then after World War 1 they decided to expand the area. They built many more roads and streets including Crawford Road and President Avenue. They built houses for the local inhabitants. They also decided to build a church. Then they built a variety of shops to satisfy the needs of the local people including a butcher, a green grocery and a milk bar. Eventually Brighton-Le Sands Primary School was built way back in 1916. They constructed two buildings. The first was for infants in their first couple of years of primary schooling and the second for the main upper primary school.

Of course, you can't have a community without medical services. The Pacific Private Hospital was constructed and originally located on the Esplanade. In 1930 they decided to move to Queens Road then they decided that they needed bigger facilities to be built on Bay Street and West Botany Street probably due to the increase of the population.

After World War 2 the people of Brighton decided to acquire all available and suitable land for housing. This is when Brighton began a major period of growth. They built a lot more streets, roads and avenues to allow the people easy access to their homes.

## History of Arncliffe

Land development in Arncliffe began back in 1809. They decided to use the land for agriculture. They cut down a lot of trees in the forest to pave way for roads. They also built a dam in 1839 and a number of villas and houses.

### Architectural Styles

Houses in this suburb have one of three architectural styles and they are Victorian, Federation or Californian Bungalow.

#### **The Victorian House 1840-1890**

This style of architecture only comprises 10% of the total number of houses in the city of Rockdale.

Features of these homes include:

- They have a single storey with an asymmetrical plan.
- Each room has a high ceiling.
- They also include a veranda, a parlour and a drawing room.
- Rendered painted brick wood walls (some may have been built of stone or timber)
- Walls were usually plastered and painted.
- Built with iron or slate roofs and a number of chimneys.
- Interior design includes elaborate cornices and marble or stone fireplace surrounds

### Where to Spot Victorian Architecture

In the residential areas of Rockdale, Bexley, Arncliffe and Carlton.

NSW Gov Website

[http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/pages/pdf/development/arncliffe\\_hert\\_walk.pdf](http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/pages/pdf/development/arncliffe_hert_walk.pdf)

Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018

NSW Gov Website

[https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/Pages/Heritage\\_Architecture.aspx](https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/Pages/Heritage_Architecture.aspx)

Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

## The Federation House 1890-1915

4

This style of architecture thrived towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and all the way until 1915. It is well represented in the suburb of Rockdale. Throughout the various suburbs of Sydney, a number of houses have been built with this style including Bexley Primary School and Arncliffe Public School. Features of these houses include:

- They have the same floor plan as Victorian houses.
- Red brick walls or some were built from stone or timber
- Slate roofs with corrugated iron used for the rear end section.
- A veranda featuring decorative timber.
- Casement and headlight windows at the front

### Where to Spot Federation Architecture

The Schools of Art in Rockdale, Bexley and Carlton.  
The fire station and old post office in Arncliffe.  
Various detached and semi-detached houses in residential areas.



The Federation House (1890-1915)

## The Californian Bungalow 1915-1940

The third and final architectural style is the Californian Bungalow. Many people use this term to describe houses that were built between the First and Second World War. About 20% of all the buildings in the city were built with this style of architecture.

Features of these homes include:

- These houses are informal and asymmetrical structures.
- They have a veranda with decorative timber.
- They are built with dark liver coloured bricks, cedar shingles, stone stairs and lead light windows.
- They have a driveway for vehicles.
- They have a corrugated iron roof at the back.

### Where to Spot Californian Bungalows

You can spot this style of architecture throughout the suburb of Rockdale. There are also high concentrations of Californian Bungalows in the following suburbs Brighton, Bexley and Arncliffe.



The Californian Bungalow (1915-1940)



The Victorian House (1840-1890)

NSW Gov Website

[http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/pages/pdf/development/arncliffe\\_hert\\_walk.pdf](http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/pages/pdf/development/arncliffe_hert_walk.pdf)

Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018

NSW Gov Website

[https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/Pages/Heritage\\_Architecture.aspx](https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/development/Pages/Heritage_Architecture.aspx)

Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

Wolli Creek was originally known as Woolly Creek probably because of all the weeds and their thick appearance. They decided to alter it slightly to Wolli Creek and named it after an adjacent creek that runs into Cook's River through the northern border of the border of the original Turrella settlement.

They decided to release the land in a series of land grants for the first time back in 1809. A man called William Packer was lucky enough to receive the largest section of the land. The following year the remaining lands grants were reissued by Governor Macquarie.

Then a man called Reuben Hannam was also granted land in 1825 on the banks of the Cook's River. The following year more people decided to purchase land including Alexander Brodie Spark and then 10 years later he eventually built his own home called Tempe House designed by John Verge. Alexander decided to call his house "Vale of Tempe". The name comes from a beautiful valley in ancient Greek mythology and it is located at the foot of Mount Olympus. To this day many people here regard it as one of the best houses in Sydney.

From 1863 – 1865 a female philanthropist called Caroline Chisholm leased Tempe House as a boarding school for young women. Back then they decided to call the estate Greenbank. They had large and spacious rooms. They had plenty of fruit trees in their orchard. All of this made it an ideal place for Caroline to carry out her work.

In 1884 they decided to sell the estate to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. They wanted to use it as a charitable refuge for women. In 1888, the architects at one of Sydney's architecture firms decided to add the impressive Saint Magdalen's Chapel. They designed various building projects over the years including the Archbishop's Residence and Saint Patrick's College in Manly.

The area became predominantly industrial until the late 1990's when they planned a lot of redevelopment for the suburb. Originally the name North Arncliffe was chosen however residents were not happy with that name for unknown reasons. They decided to petition to the council because they wanted to vote for a better name. Out of all the possible options Wolli Creek was chosen as the most popular name. Wolli Creek was officially declared a suburb in 2002.

Nowadays Wolli Creek is a mixture of predominantly industrial precincts with high quality and high density urban environments for living, working and of course recreation.

We anticipate that the future of Wolli Creek to be a sprawling community with over 15,000 residents not to mention a couple thousand workers.

## History of Wolli Creek Valley

The valley used to be occupied by the indigenous people of Australia called the Bidjigal people. They had close contacts with groups in Botany Bay and the Cook's River. Their traditional lands are known nowadays as Western, North Western, South Eastern and Southern Sydney. Sometimes the Bidjigal are thought to be a part of the Dharuk people and also part of the Eora people.

If they were a subgroup of either the Dharuk or Eora people then it likely that they would have spoken a variety of Dharug, one of the Yora languages.

After an unfortunate outbreak of smallpox, it is likely that the valley may have provided refuge for the broken clans sometime after 1788. Then in 1790 they decided to combine their clans into new groups.

In the 1830's a number of British settlers decided to settle in the valley and most of the land was granted to them. Unfortunately, development was a little slow for unknown reasons.

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century they created small farms on the southern side of the creek and also the open country side at the western end of the valley. We think that many of the smaller farming properties on the northern shore did not undergo a lot of modification because there appears to be no evidence of this to any significant extent.

In the late 1830s and early 1840s many of the original grants were combined to form larger properties.

They decided to build roads including Unwin's Bridge Road and a road that connects with the Illawarra Road. That road is now known as the Princess Highway. The most significant of the properties located within the survey area was 'Ballater'. This was a property formed in the late 1830s through the break-up and reconsolidation of the original allotments. These lots came into the possession of Leslie Duguid, a Scottish banker, merchant and speculator who worked closely with other Scots including James Mudie and Alexander Brodie Spark. 6

In Ballater Estate there is a ten-room weatherboard house, stone kitchen, two 10 acre paddocks, gardens and lastly an orchard with various fruit trees. Duguid had drained the low-lying land and had undertaken irrigation. This is one of the earliest records of this farming technique in New South Wales.

We think that the irrigated land may have been used later as a location by the Chinese market gardeners in an area that is now known as Turrella Reserve. There have been many notices of sale for the property. Unfortunately, the homestead was destroyed by fire in 1875. Then they decided to subdivide the property with a man called Joseph Carruthers and then he owned the larger portion of Ballaters Estate.

In the later end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century much of the southern shoreline was occupied by industries including tanning, wool washing and boiling down work. When they drained the waste directly into Wolli Creek they had the reputation as one of the most polluted waterways in Sydney.

On the northern side of the creek a number of small-holdings such as the King and Burrell farms were formed in areas where there was sufficient soil to allow small-scale vegetable growing. The main activities undertaken on these farms were pig and poultry raising.

In the 1920's and 1930's the Chinese market gardeners decided to farm intensively on by sides of the creek. During the years of the depression the valley was also used as temporary shelter by many homeless people. They had temporary dwellings that varied in scale from modified rock shelters to complexes with gardens and paths.

From the 1940s onwards the southern side of the creek was intensively developed for both housing and light industry. Unfortunately, the former Chinese market gardens were gradually abandoned because of the bad weather including flooding and economic changes.

## Modifications to the Valley

Since the 1950s large portions of the valley have been subject to both regrowth of the remnant native vegetation and by weed infestation. The valley has also been subject to the dumping of refuse and fill including localised dumping of domestic refuse and also large scale landscape modification. An area in the south and south east is where you can most evidently see an example of the dumping of the building rubble. It has been used for landscaping purposes in the Turrella Reserve.

When you go to the northern and north eastern portions of the reserve you can see that it has been covered by fill that has been subsequently covered by turf. They decided to deposit rock fill along the Wolli Creek shoreline.

In the 1920's they started the construction of a local sewer line on the northern side of the Creek. They want it to extend from the western side of the area to the western side. Then they cut through the sandstone bedrock in a number of locations and that resulted in the creation of low scarps. There is also photographic evidence to suggest that soil or silt was excavated on both sides of the Creek, particularly in the west. A number of small borrow-pits appear on aerial photographs of the 1940s and 1950s.

It is likely that construction material such as sand or gravel was taken from these pits to use as fill at other locations. In the 1930's they constructed the east Hills Railway and this inadvertently affected the southern shoreline of the creek in a number of locations including the railway embankment close to the creek at Bexley and the market gardens in the east. The line effectively isolated large tracts of land between the railway reserve

The course of the Creek itself has also been modified in a number of locations.

7

The southern shore of Waterworth Park was subject to uncontrolled reclamation during the early 1950s. The site was the location of a municipal tip and refuse was progressively dumped into both Wolli Creek and the Cooks River.

They decided to modify the course of the creek in the 1940's with the construction of the Hartill law Avenue Bridge. They had a bend in the creek and they decided to replace that with a straight channel underneath the centre of the new bridge.

From the Mid 1950's to the early 1960's they did a lot of reclamation work with the use of rubble and dredged fill associated with the modification of the both waterways thanks to the expansion of the Sydney Airport.

### **History of the Development and Expansion of Sydney Airport**

Sydney Airport was founded in 1920. In 1933 they decided to expand it and they saw the arrival of the first runway. In 1953 they decided to name the airport Sydney Kingsford Smith International Airport after an important Australian pilot.

In the 1960's they added a third runway next to Botany Bay. This was an important decision because it enabled the airport to increase its overall capacity. In 1970 they finally opened the international terminal and now they are able to accommodate the biggest planes in the world including the Boeing 747 that is often used at this airport.

More expansions are in the works over the next 20 years. They want to build a tall office block, parking garages and additional terminal expansion.



Sydney Airport Guide Website

[http://sydney-syd.airports-guides.com/syd\\_history.html](http://sydney-syd.airports-guides.com/syd_history.html)

Accessed 11<sup>th</sup> July

Wolli Creek History

[http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/Wolli\\_Creek\\_Arch\\_Report\\_smallest.pdf](http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/Wolli_Creek_Arch_Report_smallest.pdf)

Accessed 8<sup>th</sup> June

Wolli Creek History

<http://www.wollicreeknsw.com.au/a-brief-history-of-wolli-creek-nsw-2205/>

<http://www.wollicreekresidents.com.au/local-information/wolli-creek-history>

Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bidjigal>

Accessed 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Thomas Saywell

He was a merchant and developer born on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1837 in Nottinghamshire, England. His father George Saywell was a lace maker. When the lace trade declined they decided to move to France where Thomas received his early Education. In 1848, he decided to migrate to Australia. He arrived in Sydney on the 6<sup>th</sup> October. When he lived here he decided to run his own small business with his business partner Sir Hugh Dixson and that business was a tobacco shop. They thrived for a number of years and then in 1881 he was managing director of Saywell's Tobacco Company. In 1871 and after much success with his business he decided to sell it and move on to coal and brick production. He decided to start another company called Zig Zag Coal and then he invested a lot of money in coal mining and even real estate.

He helped to build various projects over the years including a picnic area and the Brighton Hotel on the current Novotel site. Luckily it was a big success however they were worried about people being confused with a place in England that is also called Brighton. In order to avoid confusion, they decided to call the suburb Brighton-Le-Sands.

Unfortunately, the hotel was stripped of its license in 1892 because of the violent and reckless behaviour from most of the locals in the surrounding area. He also built a jetty in Bellambi at the cost of 40,000 pounds.

Luckily he won large government contracts for coal he established mines including Clifton and South Clifton collieries.

Saywell had large land holdings at Alexandria and Redfern. In the 1890's he was a director of the Wickham and Bullock Island Coal Company and invested in copper mines at Cobar. In 1887 he also represented the colony's wine industry in North America and was a successful commercial exhibitor at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.

Saywell died on 23 November 1928 at Mosman and was buried in the Congregational section of Waverley cemetery. He had five sons and six daughters by his first wife Annie Ellen, née Fawcett, whom he had married on 1 November 1862; she died in 1905 and he married Rebecca Elizabeth Osborne on 31 January 1906.

History of Kyeemagh

Kyeemagh is a suburb about 13 kilometres south of Sydney's Central Business District. People first settled on the shores of Lady Robinson beach back in the 1800's. The original name of the area was Seven Mile Beach. They decided to change it in 1874 to honour the wife of the Governor Sir Hercules Robinson. Cook Park is named after Samuel Cook when he advocated it as a public area. The name Kyeemagh comes from the Polo Ground Kyeema. That name was derived from an Aboriginal word that means "beautiful dawn". Then they decided to add "gh" at an unknown date before the land was subdivided into the North Brighton Suburbs Estate.

Extensive development of the northern part of the suburb occurred in the 1920's and 1950's not to mention the expansion of the Sydney Airport and Botany Bay.

NSW Gov Website

[https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Rockdale\\_Sub\\_BrightonleSands.aspx](https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Rockdale_Sub_BrightonleSands.aspx)

Accessed 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/saywell-thomas-4540>

Accessed 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The name Kogarah comes from an aboriginal word meaning rushes or place of reeds. The name did go through a few different variations back in the 1800's including Coggera, Cogerah and Kuggerah before they finally decided on the current iteration. The former neighbourhood of Moorefield is now part of Kogarah. It used to be a 24-hectare land grant that was given from Governor Macquarie to Patrick Moore in 1812. He decided to build a nice house there. Many years later they built a race course in 1888 and the department of education decided to purchase 7.7 hectares and then they built a couple of schools and a college in the 1950's.

Early land grants were given to a number of people including John Townson. He was lucky enough to receive 910 hectares (2250 acres). Another man called James Chandler was also given land and he owned an estate in the nearby suburb of Bexley.

Then they decided to build a church on land given to them by William Wolfen from the Swedish Consul to Sydney. He was lucky enough to own 320 hectares (800 acres). The suburb grew around the church and eventually in 1885 they decided that they wanted Kogarah to be a municipality.

### History of Botany Public School

Botany Public School is the first in Sydney and the oldest in the state of new South Wales. They originally called it Botany Public School until 1862 when they decided to alter it slightly to Botany Bay School. They completed construction on the original building of the school in 1869. They opened it in January of that year with residences for the teachers. Three of the windows in the main facade are typical of Gothic Architecture. In 1903 they completed the primary building where they house 545 students after they enrolled. Back then they only had 10 teachers and 6 classrooms.

### History of Bexley

They decided to name this suburb after a place in England with the same name. Lydham hall is the oldest surviving residence in the area. A man called Joseph Davis settled in the residence back in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They named two streets after his sons Herbert and Frederick.

An upsurge of development began when the railway to Hurstville opened in 1884. Back in those days they had a two tier wagonette and a hansom cab that conveyed people to their homes. Then in 1909 a steam tram ran from Bexley to Arncliffe and back. They opened many inns including the Man of Kent, Robin Hood and Little John Inn and the Highbury Barn.

In June 1900, the Bexley Ward of Hurstville Municipality seceded to become Bexley Council. Then they decided to merge Bexley Council with Rockdale Council in 1948 to form the Municipality of Rockdale.

Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bexley,\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bexley,_New_South_Wales)

Accessed 11<sup>th</sup> July

Botany Schools Website

<https://botany-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/history.html>

Accessed 20th June 2018

Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kogarah,\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kogarah,_New_South_Wales)

Accessed 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The traditional owners of Rockdale include the Cadigal, the Gweagal and the Bidjigal tribes. Also known as the Water People, they used to inhabit this suburb for thousands of years before the white settlers arrived on boats from England in 1770.

Nowadays Rockdale can be located 13 kilometres south of Sydney central business district.

Rockdale used to be known as West Botany by many Europeans. The origin of the name can be traced back to 1878 when a woman and also pioneer called Mary Ann Geeves suggested the name Rockdale. Another possible name at the time for this suburb was Scarborough. Mary chose Rockdale and that name was officially adapted in 1887.

When the local railway station on the Illawarra line opened on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1884, it was given the same name. That helped the district to gain more credence.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 1871, the West Botany Municipality declared that it's two wards West Botany and Arncliffe should be renamed the Municipality of Rockdale. More development occurred when they built council chambers for West Botany Municipality on Rocky Point Road in Arncliffe in 1872.

The city of Rockdale was officially declared in 1995 and it merged with Botany Bay in 2016 to be the Bayside Council.

### Fun Fact

Did you know?

Rockdale's first phone was installed in 1886

### Notable People

#### Frederick Jamison Gibbes 1839 – 1888

He was a businessman, politician and a member of the parliament. Many people think that he was the most significant property developer of the 1880's.

He was educated at Sydney College (and various other places as well) and then the University of Sydney.

In 1886 he was Chairman of Universal Land, Building and Investment Company and the Director of the Mercantile Building Land and Investment Company.

NSW History Website

[https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Rockdale\\_History.aspx](https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/Pages/Rockdale_History.aspx)

Accessed 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

NSW Gov Website

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/formermembers/Pages/former-member-details.aspx?pk=755>

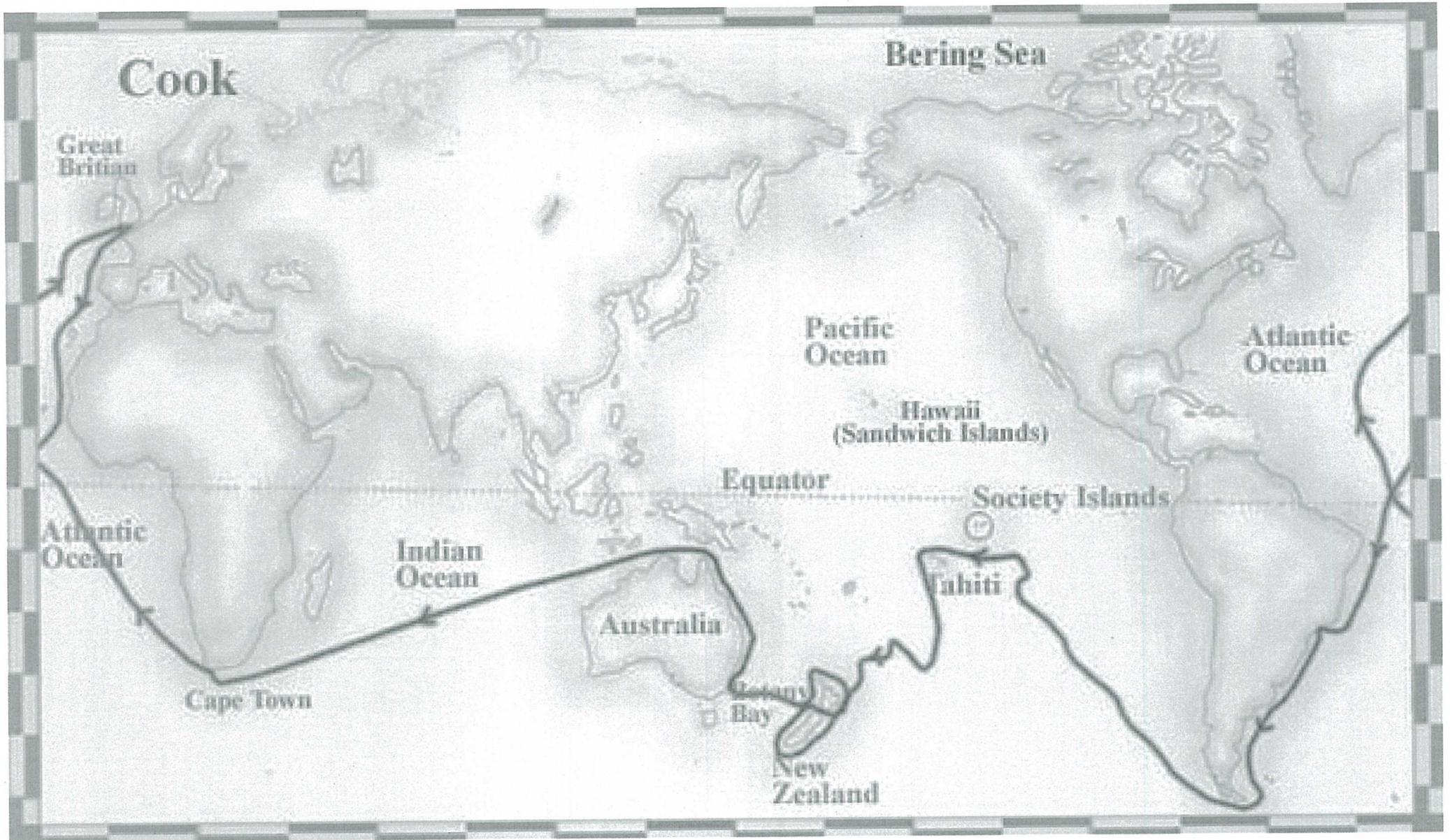
Accessed 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockdale,\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockdale,_New_South_Wales)

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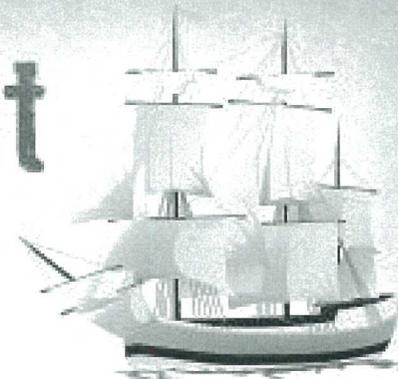
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<http://www.wollicreeknsw.com.au/a-brief-history-of-wolli-creek-nsw-2205/>  
<http://www.wollicreekresidents.com.au/local-information/wolli-creek-history>
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- History of Bexley retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bexley,\\_New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bexley,_New_South_Wales)
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The Voyage of James Cook  
From Great Britain all the way to Australia.



# Timeline of Cook's First Endeavour Voyage



## August 1768

James Cook and his crew of nearly 100 men leave Plymouth, England on the HMS Endeavour to observe the transit of Venus and to search for Terra Australis Incognita.

## April 1769

James Cook arrives at Tahiti for the scientific observation of the transit of Venus. He anchors the HMS Endeavour in Matavai Bay, where he establishes a fortified base, Fort Venus.

## August 1769

James Cook sails from Tahiti to the neighbouring Society Island. Here, Cook takes on board a Tahitian priest named Tupaiā. The priest acts as an interpreter for Cook when they come into contact with other Polynesian people and also assists with navigation.

## March 1770

James Cook circumnavigates New Zealand. As he sails around, he accurately charts the entire coastline, discovering that New Zealand is made up of two main islands, 'Te Ika a Maui' in the north and 'Te Wai Pounamū' in the south.

## June 1770

On the 10th of June, 1770, the HMS Endeavour strikes the Great Barrier Reef. The ship is badly damaged. For the next three months, repairs are carried out on the ship in the Endeavour River. Here, James Cook and his men sight their first kangaroo.

## October 1770

In October 1770, the HMS Endeavour leaves Australia and heads back to England via Batavia, Java. In Batavia many sailors catch dysentery and typhoid and over 30 men lose their lives.

## January 1769

James Cook and his men arrive at Tierra de Fuego. They introduce themselves to the local people and Joseph Banks collects a range of botanical specimens. Unfortunately, two of Banks' servants (Richmond and Doriton) pass away due to exposure to the weather.

## June 1769

On the 3rd of June, 1769, James Cook completes his first mission, the observation of the transit of Venus.

The people of Tahiti are very friendly. Cook establishes positive relations with the Tahitians.

## October 1769

In search of the southern continent, Cook sails to New Zealand. Initially, relations with the Maori people of New Zealand are hostile. Eventually, relations improve and Cook is able to trade with the Maori for fresh supplies.

## April 1770

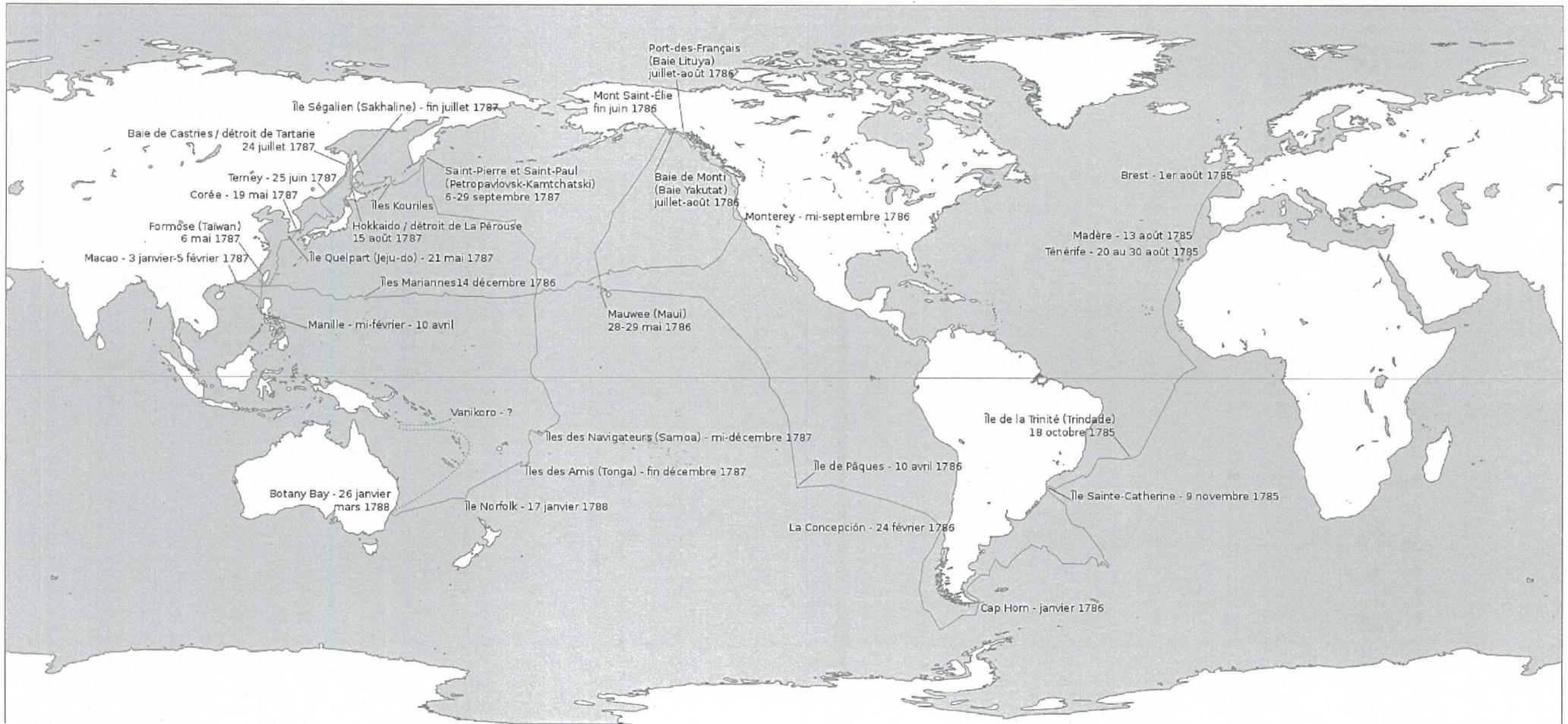
James Cook and the HMS Endeavour leave New Zealand and set sail for the east coast of New Holland (Australia). On his voyage, Cook begins charting the coastline. On the 29th of April, Cook lands in Stingray Bay (later to be named Botany Bay).

## August 1770

While waiting for their ship to be repaired, Cook and his men come into contact with the inhabitants of New Holland (Australia). They are different to the Maori and are very wary of their new visitors. The Aboriginal people are not interested in trading and Tupaiā, the Tahitian priest, is unable to communicate with them.

## July 1771

In July 1771, Cook and his ship arrive back in Kent, England after a successful voyage. They recorded the Transit of Venus and found the unknown Great Southern Land. They collected unique records of the people, flora and fauna of the places they visited.



The Many Voyages of French Explorers

Jean Francois de Galaup, comte de Laperoouse