

7

GOVERNING



The governance and management of local areas, regions,
the State & the nation

THEME 7.1: DEFENCE

The relevant National-level theme is *governing*. The relevant state theme is *defence*. Local themes within this theme are activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and invasion. The following activities and places in the former Botany Bay LGA are relevant to this theme:

- War Activity in Botany Bay
- The War Effort
- Honouring the Lost
 - Mascot Memorial Park
 - Botany (Booralee Park) War Memorial
 - Arthur Park War Memorial
 - Light Horse War Memorial, Eastlakes (Florence Avenue Reserve)

Related themes:

8.2 Sport - Horse Racing

7.1.1 WAR ACTIVITY IN BOTANY BAY

Botany and Mascot both experienced the war on the home front first hand when their racecourses were occupied by the Department of Defence in World War I and World War II. Rosebery Racecourse at Mascot was used in World War I by the 1st Light Horse Regiment as a training grounds and stable, as well as for tent accommodation for recruits. In World War II Rosebery Racecourse was again used for recruit accommodation, however also acted as the headquarters for the 8th Division of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Even in the years immediately after the war the Rosebery Racecourse continued to be used as a returned stores depot.

The Ascot Racecourse in Botany did not appear to be heavily used for war activity in World War I (if at all), as it offered to lend its track to the Rosebery Club free of charge when their track was taken over in 1914. The Ascot was however occupied in World War II by the Second and Third Employment Companies who erected small huts on the site and various ancillary buildings. The exact nature of their occupation is not clear, but it is possible that their activity was to do with the Light Horse.

School playgrounds and public parks throughout the area had trenches set at 45 degree zig-zag lines excavated for use by civil defence and as air-raid blast shelters. These trenches are characteristic of those built throughout Australia in World War II.



Fig 7.1.1 Members of the 1st Light Horse Regiment at Rosebery Racecourse in World War I. (P01208.020 Held by Australian War Memorial Research Centre)



Fig 7.1.2 Major-General Plant inspecting the 1st Australian Returned Stores Depot at Rosebery Racecourse in 1945. ("An inspection and march past for 1st Australian Returned Stores Depot" 18 September 1945. 116120. Held by Australian War Memorial Research Centre.)

7.1.2 THE WAR EFFORT

When war was announced in 1914 both Botany and Mascot Councils got heavily involved in the war effort. In 1919 Botany raised double its quota and was presented with a commemorative tablet and an honour flag by the Commonwealth Government for this effort.

Women in the Botany Bay area district joined fundraising drives and attended charity dinners to raise morale and funds. Knitting groups that formed to knit socks for the troops were active in the district and met in church halls, schools and other public spaces.

When the Second Peace Loan was raised in 1920, Botany once again surpassed itself by raising over treble the sum asked for. The Council was this time presented with an autographed portrait of the Prince of Wales together with a personally written message of congratulations. The message read...

"Please accept my congratulations on your help to repatriate the Diggers who have done so much for the Empire. They were successful on active service both at sea and on land in The Great War, and those of them who have returned deserve every chance of being equally successful now that they are back in civil life. – Signed, Edward P. 15/8/20"

In 1939, for the second time in a century, war was declared once more. The Municipalities of Mascot and Botany were again eager to get behind the war effort. One particularly active involvement was the Mascot Citizens' A.I.F. Patriotic Fund which originated from a special Mayoral Minute submitted by Alderman C.J. Sweeney in 1940. In this minute the Mayor outlined a plan for a fund to provide a suitable send-off and home comforts for all local men enlisting in the armed forces. Mascot Council gave unanimous support for the idea and a sum of £200 was set as the target for the Fund. Mascot Council also donated free use of its halls and other property for Fund meetings. Dances, gifts, cabaret suppers and other such fundraisers were held throughout the year and culminated in the very successful result of £1,000 in total which was raised. A similar patriotic fund was established in Botany.

Due to the district's close proximity to the sea, the residents of Botany and Mascot were said to have felt more of an urgency to prepare for



Fig 7.1.3 Members of the Botany Branch of the Red Cross Society, 1925. (BCHA)

air or sea attacks. This preparation alertness only increased after the Japanese submarine attack in Sydney Harbour in 1942. Many residents built for themselves air raid shelters in their backyards, while residents along the foreshore would no doubt have kept a close eye on any activities out at sea.

In a pattern that mirrored World War I, Botany and Mascot contributed generously to the Government war loans and bonds schemes. Between 1942 and 1957, 37 loans were raised by the government for both combat and post-war reconstruction. Botany Council received 25 honour pennants for subscribing, or over-subscribing in many cases, the quota allotted to the municipality.



Fig. 7.1.4 and 7.1.5 Homeowners were encouraged to construct shelters in their back gardens. Most were of lightweight construction and would not likely have provided much protection. (Australian War Memorial)

7.1.3 HONOURING THE LOST

In World War I alone, more than 650 men from what is now the former Botany Bay LGA signed up to serve in the war. Many were young, however older married men and fathers were also well represented. Approximately 15% of those who enlisted from the Botany area lost their lives.

Several places and streets in and around Daceyville were named after Colonels and Generals. Examples include General Bridges Crescent, Colonel Braund Crescent, General Holmes Drive, Jellicoe Park, Haig Avenue and Birdwood Avenue.

Honour Rolls were commenced by both councils during World War I and added to as necessary. Mascot Council originally built just one war memorial dedicated to World War I (Mascot Memorial Park). Botany Council dedicated two memorials; one focusing on World War II (Arthur Park War Memorial) and Botany War Memorial at Booralee Park, which was dedicated to all wars. In 1990 another war memorial was established by the amalgamated City of Botany Bay Council at Eastlakes (the Light Horse War Memorial).

(in order of dedication)

MASCOT MEMORIAL PARK

Mascot Memorial Park sits within a 65 acre parcel of land granted by purchase to John Roby Hatfield in c.1839. Hatfield acquired three grants that totalled 196 acres and extended along most of the western side of today's Botany Road from Gardeners Road to King Street. Hatfield's use of the land is not known, but by 1857 maps show the area in the vicinity of the Memorial Park as being owned by 'Binnie' and used as a market garden. No subdivision plans of the immediate locality are known to have survived, however the first recorded occupant of the land was William Parker, who was described as a market gardener in the Sands Directory from 1889-1898, and then as J.P. and from 1903 to 1916, as the manager of Botany Cemetery. Parker continued to live in his weatherboard cottage within the Memorial Park until his death in 1925, five years after the Park was established. Parker was one of the original aldermen elected to North Botany Council following its gazettal of 29 March, 1888, and offered his property for the inaugural meetings of Council until the Chambers



on the opposite side of Botany Road were completed.

Over 500 local men enlisted in World War I from the district and of these, 58 were killed. In the pattern common to local authorities across the nation, Mascot Council resolved to erect a memorial to their service and sacrifice, and in 1920 purchased 4 acres of Parker's land for an estimated £2,000 to establish a Soldier's Memorial in a formal park setting. Mascot Council took great pride in the project and considered it a "showpiece" park. The park's location at the major intersection of Coward Street and Botany Road, and its siting opposite the former Botany Bay Council municipal building and Coronation Hall, give it much gravitas in the local streetscape.

Fig 7.1.6 The War Memorial in Mascot Memorial Park remains the focus of the community's commemoration of ANZAC Day each year. (Photo: Elizabeth Conroy)

Improvements to the park involved the setting out of memorial gardens and tree planting – work that was carried out at a cost of £2,000. Many of the original plantings include the grand Cottonwood quadrangle, Willows, Canary Island Date Palms and other palms.



Display beds or annual plants, including roses, were also planted. Newspaper articles from the time suggest that the original intention was to link the park to the existing Mascot Park to the west, but this did not occur and the land between the two open spaces was subdivided and sold for residential development.

The park was substantially completed by December 1920 when the foundation stone of the Memorial was laid, being described by Mayor Alderman T.H Hickey as “a handsome [not clear] on which neither money nor work will be spared”, the cost being estimated at £1,065, most of which was met by public subscription. (6 December 1920, Evening News, p.9). The memorial was formally dedicated on 4 April 1921.

After William Parker’s death in 1925 the cottage was purchased by Mascot Council and was occupied by the Park’s caretaker. The cottage was demolished in 1979 but the small formal garden in the front setback retained and incorporated into the park’s layout. The area of the cottage remained undeveloped. The tennis courts and buildings now behind the Botany Family Day Care Service and Senior Citizens’ Centre have been a long-standing feature of the park, being first considered by Council in 1924 and constructed by 1943.

Fig 7.1.7 Plaques and Memorial gardens were added to the Mascot War Memorial in 1995 to commemorate the end of World War II in Europe and the East. (Photo: Elizabeth Conroy)

The park has suffered during times of drought, to the extent that a water diviner was consulted in 1937. The diviner reputedly advised Council that subterranean water was available, but it is not known if any bores were sunk. (3 January 1937, Sunday Mail Brisbane, p.2) The park has also been used as a gathering-place and a place of protest, including being the site of meetings of the local community that resulted in black bans being placed on three local hotels, The Lakes, Newmarket and Tennyson Hotels, in protest against trading hours and serving sizes. (8 February 1948, The Sun, p.5)

An additional plaque was added in 1967 to commemorate the memory those who died in World War II and in all subsequent wars.

In 1994 the former Botany Bay Council restored and upgraded the park for the anniversary of the end of World War II. Work included extensive restoration of the pre-1920 lights by Mascot Steel, the replacement of concrete features with sandstone and the addition of a decorative sandstone rail either side of the stairs leading up to the memorial. Two 'Remembrance Walls' made out of two types of Australian granite were added either side of the memorial to commemorate the Pacific and European campaigns of World War II.

BOTANY (BOORALEE PARK WAR MEMORIAL

In the aftermath of World War I, a local committee at first approved of an idea suggested by T.D. Mutch to reconstruct the Mill Stream Bridge in honour of the fallen soldiers of Botany. This was subsequently abandoned and plans for suitable additions to the Botany Town Hall were discussed, but the final decision was for the erection of a commemorative memorial in Booralee Park. Booralee Park had been established since 1886 and was already cleared, grassed and had some tree plantings. A sum of £1,362 was raised by a local carnival for the memorial. The winning design was by a Mr. Martin and the tender to construct it was won by A.Goode, for £1,850.

The foundation stone was laid on 16 December 1922 and unveiled by the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, on 5 May 1923. Following his visit to Botany, the Governor had a suggestion for Botany Council...

"My wife and I desire to express our admiration of the beautiful War Memorial erected at Botany...[we hope that] the Council and citizens will make the setting of the Monument as beautiful as the



Monument itself."

Botany Council continued to beautify the surroundings of the memorial, planting a garden and lighting it with electricity in 1923. A fete was held to raise the money necessary to pay the balance owing on the memorial so that the Committee could hand it over to the Council free of debt, which they succeeded in doing in the following year, 1924.

ARTHUR PARK WAR MEMORIAL

Arthur Park is located in Botany between Chelmsford Avenue, Botany Road and Edgehill Avenue. It was established in 1946 as a 'living memorial' to World War II and is classified as a formal garden, as opposed to the two other war memorials that had been established by this time which were both formal obelisk structures set in community parks.

A tree, either a Lombardy Poplar or a *Populus nigra*, was planted and a name plaque erected for each serviceman from the local area who had lost their life in the conflict. There were 28 trees planted altogether,

Fig 7.1.8 The Memorial to the fallen of Botany was installed in Booralee Park and unveiled in 1923 and was the catalyst for the upgrading of the park. (BCHA)

however only 23 brass plaques have been linked to a serviceman. Following the upgrading of the park in 1985 the plaques were set within a concrete block in an effort to extend their longevity. This had the added benefit of making the plaques easier to view. In 2003 they were reattached to a new sandstone plinth.

LIGHT HORSE WAR MEMORIAL, EASTLAKES (FLORENCE AVENUE RESERVE)

Florence Reserve was created to replace sections of Florence Avenue which was closed due to the construction of Southern Cross Drive. The Reserve was gazetted in September 1973, after which the memorial was established. It commemorates the Light Horse Regiments that trained on the site, the former Rosebery Racecourse. The Regiments commemorated are the 1st Light Horse Regiment A.I.F and HQ 8th Division, 2nd A.I.F.

The memorial was rededicated on 12 August 1990. The memorial comprises of pink coloured granite block mounted on a white marble plinth. Two bronze plaques are mounted on the granite block, while brick paving surrounds the memorial.

Fig 7.1.9 Grand balls were a popular way for the community to celebrate the end of major conflicts. The 1945 Armistice Ball held in Mascot Town Hall was particularly well attended. (BCHA)



THEME 7.2 GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The relevant National-level theme is *governing*. The relevant state theme is *government and administration*. Local themes within this theme are activities associated with the governance of the local area, regions, the State and the Nation, and the administration of public programs. The following activities and places in the former Botany Bay LGA are relevant to this theme:

- The origins of the Municipality of Botany Bay
- Botany Progress Association
 - J.J. Macfadyen
 - Outcomes of the Botany Progress Association
- The Cooksdale Saga
- Incorporation of North Botany (Mascot)
 - Mascot Town Hall
- Incorporation of Botany
 - Botany Council's seal
 - Botany's First Council Chambers
 - Botany Town Hall
- Amalgamations
- The first amalgamation
- The second amalgamation

Other relevant themes:

All themes

7.2.1 THE ORIGINS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOTANY BAY

Municipal governance in Botany Bay has a complex history. Like so many other areas of the Botany District's history, its move towards local governance did not follow the trends being set at the time by other neighbouring suburbs.

When municipal institutions were first suggested for New South Wales during the 1830s, they were widely condemned by the majority of the population. At the time there was no system of direct taxation in the colony and the free community was not anxious to introduce such levies, whether they be income taxes or rates. While the colonists were prepared to make contributions towards the construction and upkeep of roads, they were unanimous in their opposition to any levies for the police (which was the

other major cost other than roads). The general feeling among the population was “If the Home Government thought fit to burden the colony with its felons, it should be prepared to bear the cost” (i.e.. pay for a police force).

It was this pressure that subsequently led to the introduction of District Councils in 1843. Settled areas of New South Wales were placed under the control of these councils, 29 being constituted in all. The Botany area was included in the Sydney District. The District Councils were unpopular though, due largely to their ineffectiveness and impracticality. There was still no local authority for the supply of water, sewerage, drainage and street lighting. Proper town planning was also neglected, despite roads and lines of communications being the most urgent need for the transport of goods to market; a necessity particularly felt by the people of Botany Bay.

By the 1840s Botany’s economic development was heavily reliant upon two factors: (1) access to the Sydney markets and (2) citizens of Sydney to spend leisure hours at hotels such as the Sir Joseph Banks along the bay. The demand for road services explains the introduction of road trusts over the State, with Botany pioneering the road trust system in 1813.

The Municipalities Act was passed in 1858 which provided a framework for the first permanent system of local government. Incorporation as a municipal area was completely voluntary and could be triggered by a petition from as few as fifty householders. Ratepayers could please themselves whether they voted for the six (or nine aldermen) or councillors who composed the membership of the council. Revenue was to depend largely upon a rate based on annual rental value and supplemented by government endowment. Its functions in the early years were limited to routine services such as road maintenance, provision of water and drainage and so on.

By the time the Municipalities Act was commenced, Botany had reached a stage where incorporation was clearly necessary. The original road trust, although pioneering, was of limited effectiveness, with roads expensive to use and poorly maintained. Town planning was also in need due to the haphazard layout of noxious trades such as tanneries and boiling-down works amongst pockets of suburban settlement.

A series of *Sydney Morning Herald* articles published in August and September of 1864 entitled 'The District and Bay of Botany' provides more evidence on the debate being fought in the community over whether to become incorporated or not...

"Botany is not incorporated. I know of no district near the Metropolis which could be more advanced by Municipal organisation under the Act of 1858. Many, I understand, have thought the same. The majority are frightened by the very idea of direct taxation..."

Others ask what need there can be to have Botany proclaimed a rural district, and to raise money therein for roads and works when the main thoroughfare by which ALL have to travel to Sydney is a highway already laid out and vested in a trust. True everybody grumbles at the almost impassable state of the same highway..."

There are many things in Botany, however, in the way of improvement which might be looked into, as well as the main road, and which could only be looked to efficiently by a municipal council. As to the taxes, their amount would be governed by the need for improvement. And a large share of the outlay – a clear half of it for the first five years – would be covered by the endowment. If this outlay were small, the rates would be low in proportion...The working expenses of a Municipal Council in such a place as Botany ought to be trifling."

The article continues, discussing the problem of inappropriate town planning which could be resolved by incorporation...

"The removal of certain wool-washing and other establishments – a necessary measure to preserve the water with which Sydney is supplied from contamination – has for a time and to a certain extent affected the prosperity of Botany. But the check from this cause is but temporary. The removal of these establishments will eventually render the district more attractive to population. The want of a good road is a far more effective bar to prosperity. Even the class of casual visitors are deterred from spending their holidays on the beautiful shores of the Bay."

“There are sites of the finest kind, for residences innumerable – from the stately villa of the merchant prince to the humble cottage of the junior clerk – with scarcely an occupant. These sites are sufficiently near to the capital for business men; but for want of good roads they cannot be got at without difficulty. Good roads would attract visitors and cheapen the cost of conveyance. Actual settlement would soon follow. Property would become more valuable, and the prosperity of the district would be proportionately increased...”

The emotive plea put forward in this article for Botany’s incorporation as a municipality fell on deaf ears, and it remained a task for the Botany Progress Association, formed in late 1885, to bring it about.

7.2.2 BOTANY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Progress Associations were common precursors to formal municipal bodies in New South Wales. Most were formed by local businessmen and landowners seeking improvements in the area and a greater role in local decision-making. A preliminary meeting of property owners in Botany was held on 11 December 1885 at the Botany Y.M.C.A building (understood to be 1172 Botany Road today), to discuss the question of the formation of a Progress Association. Various local identities were present including familiar names such as William Pemberton Snr, W. Stephen, G. Garton and J.J. Macfadyen.

After several more meetings, both private and public, it was decided that Botany would form a Progress Association. Resolutions were proposed and adopted on 22 December 1885 with only one significant alteration – in outlining who would be eligible for membership of the association, the classification was changed from “property owners” to “residents”. This democratic and inclusive approach shows a small but interesting insight into the motivations of the Association. Furthermore, officers were elected for just six months – to ensure both fairness and protection from corruption that local self-governance could sometimes attract. J.J. Macfadyen acted as chairman and general leader of the Botany Progress Association.

The Botany Progress Association declared its overall objective as to “not relax our efforts till Botany secures her proper proportion of the Public

expenditure of the Colony". Its main concerns were:

- To secure more frequent transport to and from Botany Bay
- Special fares for regular commuters
- The introduction of gas
- Improved sanitation
- Additional money grants for reserves etc; and
- Improved roads

Other matters considered were the site of a cemetery (Botany Cemetery), the amalgamation of the post and telegraph offices, reclamation of the foreshores and the removal of seaweed from the shoreline.

J.J. MACFADYEN

James John Macfadyen was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1850 and in 1878 he emigrated to Australia. He was a civil and mechanical engineer and partnered with R.I. Ball in a foundry business in Goulburn. In 1885 he came to Botany as engineer-in-charge of the waterworks, then controlled by the City Council. Macfadyen was keen to further progress Botany and took the leadership of the Botany Progress Association. He was a driving force behind the campaign for incorporation, and later was eventually required to choose between his career and his office as Alderman and Mayor. He chose the latter and resigned from the Water and Sewerage Board, which had by that stage taken over the supply of Sydney's water.

Among his various ideas for development of the area was a canal from Sheas Creek to Darling Harbour to provide cheap transport for merchandise. The proposed Botany railway captured his interest as a complementary system of transport to the canal. MacFadyen's progressive ideas for development caused Sir Henry Parkes to state "*Mac, you are thirty years before your time.*" (A Jubilee History of the Municipality of Botany 1888-1938, p.130)

OUTCOMES OF THE BOTANY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Botany Progress Association had considerable success in prosecuting its objectives. The Minister for Works agreed to receive a new timetable for certain trams to and from Botany; the Minister

also agreed that fares would be reduced to half on ‘workmen’s trams’ (an unusually early form of this concession); a site was reserved for a cemetery behind Bumborah Point; gas mains were laid as far as Bunnerong; and Bay Street from Botany Road to the Bay had been ballasted and partly metalled.

Without any statutory power road building and maintenance was always going to be a difficult challenge for the Botany Progress Association. This is perhaps why after two years of executing improvements to the area, the Association began to focus on the need for Municipal incorporation as the Association’s most urgent issue.

It was proposed by the Association that arrangements be made to form a Municipality. They proposed that the area’s historical name of ‘Botany’ be kept and the boundary with the municipality of what would become North Botany be set on the northern side of the water reserve and the southern boundary be at Brown’s grant on the shores of the Bay. The division of the proposed municipality was to be into three wards: Booralee, Cook and Banks.

Tireless campaigning, pamphlet advertising, meeting-calling and letter writing was done regularly by the Association in an effort to win over the Botany community in favour of incorporation. As has been discussed, many in the area were distrusting of local governance and the taxation and rates it required. Citizens were therefore urged to observe “*how property has increased in value wherever municipalities have been formed*” and to take advantage of incorporation under the rules introduced in the Municipalities Act of 1867 which called for a maximum rate levy of 1/6 in the pound.

A public meeting held on 14 May 1886 was by no means unanimous on incorporation. Particular opponents were G. Garton and W. Stephen, who held the view that Botany was not “ripe” enough for incorporation. This is not accurate, however, for by the 1880s Botany’s progress was comparatively well behind its neighbouring areas of Randwick, St Peters and Alexandria. Despite this, the opponents to incorporation fought strongly...

“The attempt of an interested few to tax the working classes will be exposed. All the Employers of labour are opposed to it. All those who are not ambitious for Aldermanic Honours are opposed to it. We do not want to see the homes of the people invaded by the

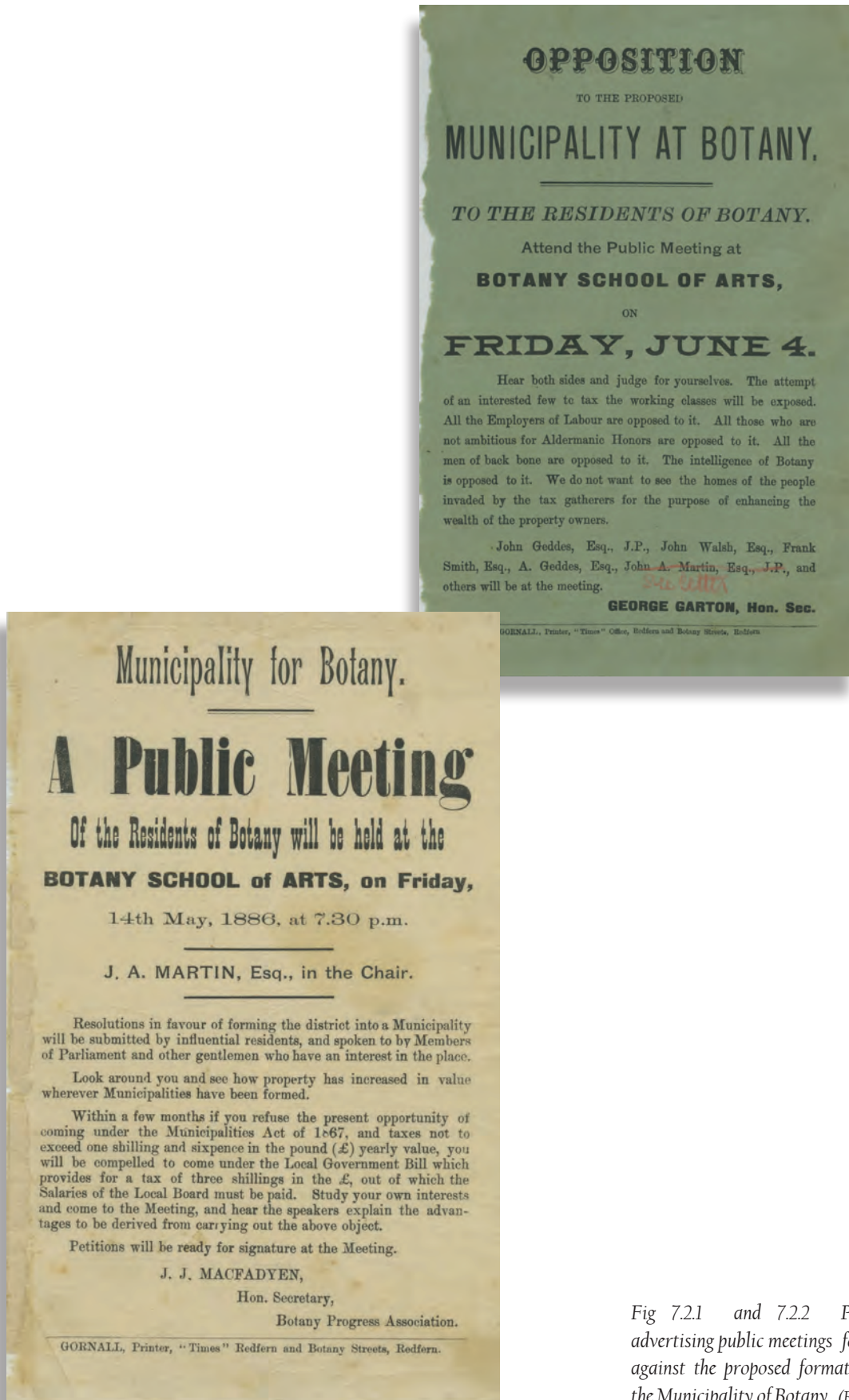


Fig 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 Posters advertising public meetings for and against the proposed formation of the Municipality of Botany. (BCHA)

tax gatherers for the purpose of enhancing wealth of the property owners...” (BCHA)

In retaliation, the Progress Association responded thus...

The “interested few” [are] in fact “a handful of RESPECTABLE RESIDENTS of whom a very large majority favoured the formation of a municipality. Most of those present at that meeting were WORKING MEN! They were the BACKBONE at the meeting and INTELLECT and COMMON SENSE pervaded the meeting!!! What constitutes INTELLIGENCE of Botany? Have not working men in Botany any INTELLIGENCE? Most decidedly. And therefore they are not led away by such vapourings, but readily sign in favour of a municipality and thus enhance their properties and add to the comfort of their houses. The impending fear of invaded houses by the tax gatherer is an unhappy hallucination of a fevered mind.”

7.2.3 THE COOKSDALE SAGA

On 18 November 1886 a separate petition was published in the *Government Gazette* proposing a new Municipality of Cooksdale. The exact boundaries of this proposed area are not clear, however the legislation at the time stated that any borough must contain a population of at least 1000 people and cover an area no greater than nine square miles. The proposal saw a counter-petition which greatly opposed the borough, with one of the main reasons for this being that two-thirds of the proposed Botany area was vacant or unoccupied land from which rate revenue would be very limited. Residents also opposed the name of ‘Cooksdale’. Colonial Secretary, Sir Henry Parkes, rejected the proposal for Botany’s incorporation in August 1887.

Although Cooksdale did not eventuate, the movement for it somewhat divided the ranks of the “municipalists”. The “southerners” had the main push behind rejecting Cooksdale on the grounds of unoccupied lands, whilst the “northerners” became determined to have their own municipality altogether. The Botany Progress Association submitted a petition with 312 signatures (out of a population of 2000) on 31 October 1887. The number of possible ratepayers was given as approximately 800 in an area of 3.38 square miles.



7.2.4 INCORPORATION OF NORTH BOTANY (MASCOT)

After the rejection of Cooksdale in August 1887, the “northerners” began to campaign for a municipality of their own, similar in area to the south, but comprising of the lands between the water reserve and the inner suburban municipalities north of Gardeners Road. Eventually, the Governor was petitioned by 271 “northerners” for incorporation. A petition was gazetted on 17 November 1887 for a Municipality of North Botany, 3.4 square miles in size.

Though the two municipalities were proclaimed on the same day, 4 April 1888, North Botany elected its Council a week earlier than its southern neighbour. The election was held in a marquee erected in Miles’ Paddock. There were 15 candidates of whom 9 were elected. Unlike Botany, the area was not divided into wards and instead elected aldermen represented the whole municipality. James Coward headed the poll with 199 votes while the remaining seats in the Council were won by G.H.Bailey, Edward Hicks, Aaron Laycock, John Moloney (also spelled Maloney), William Parker, Henry Ramsay, A.W.Sparks and Stephen Tancred.

Fig. 7.23 Location of Council Chambers and Town Halls since their Incorporation. North Botany’s are shown in yellow and Botany’s in orange.



The inaugural meeting of the North Botany Council was held on 11 June 1888, at the private residence of Alderman W.Parker (a cottage which survived for many years within the Mascot Memorial Park, until its demolition in 1979). Alderman Coward was elected unanimously as first mayor. He held a place in the community similar to that of J.J.Macfadyen in Botany. He had lived in the area for a considerable time and served as chairman on several committees which had played an instrumental part in the incorporation of North Botany. Most of these meetings were held at Gardeners Road Public School where another member of the incorporation movement, John Maloney, was foundation headmaster.

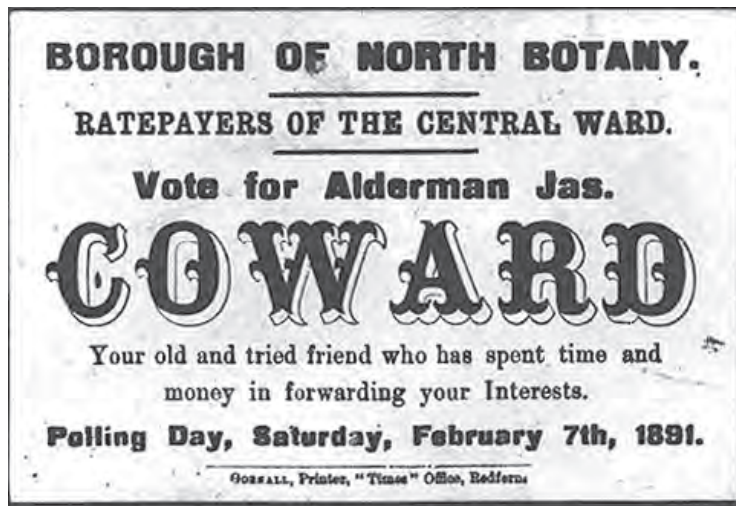
Fig 7.2.4 William Parker's cottage in Mascot Memorial Park. Parker was a long-term resident of the area who used his four acres of land as a market garden. He was also a Justice of the Peace and original Alderman of North Botany Council, as well as manager of Botany Cemetery.

Parker offered his cottage for the first meetings of the North Botany Council in 1887 until the Council Chambers and Town Hall was completed in 1890. Parker continued to live in the cottage until his death in 1925. It was then purchased by Council and incorporated into the park, being occupied by the caretaker. The cottage was demolished in 1979 but the small formal garden in front of it was retained and incorporated into the park's layout. (BCHA)

James Coward was elected Mayor for three separate terms, and Coward Street, Mascot was named after him. William Parker supervised council works and Aaron Laycock, who also served three terms as Mayor, had a defining role in the design and execution of the first Town Hall. Henry Ramsay, an old Botany resident and who originally ran buses to and from the city, oversaw road making.

North Botany Council showed early signs of town planning initiatives. In 1893 Council resolved that all further applications for the establishment of boiling-down works, slaughter houses and poultry farms "should be refused in the interests of the area".

Almost immediately after the Council began governing there was agitation regarding the name of the Municipality. By 1911 there was such a movement for a name change that a referendum was requested. Three alternative names were submitted to the municipal electors, namely 'Ascot', 'Boronia' and 'Booralee'. Most of the municipal



population voted for 'Ascot'. It is believed the inspiration for the name came from the Ascot Racecourse which was situated in the municipality and had become a popular attraction for Sydney-siders by this time.

North Botany Council applied to have their name changed but the request was denied since there was already an Ascot Council in Victoria. A second application for the name of 'Mascot' was approved.

7.2.7 MASCOT TOWN HALL

The North Botany Council (as it was still known then) considered plans for a Town Hall as early as September 1889. The "northerners" were in complete agreement about their civic edifice. A site was selected at the the south eastern corner of Botany Road and Coward Street (which was at the time known as Ricketty Street). The name Coward Street was after James Coward, North Botany's first Mayor. A loan of £2,000 was raised to finance the work. The Council appointed A. J. King as Clerk of Works for the building.

North Botany's progression to a Town Hall was considerably faster than the lengthy deliberations taken by Botany Council for theirs. In fact, it took North Botany Council just one year from the decision to build a Hall to its completion, compared with Botany Council's much more cautious three years (or eleven years if one counts from the year they decided to construct a dedicated Town Hall).

The official opening of North Botany Town Hall took place on 4

Fig 7.2.5 1891 Election poster for North Botany Council candidate James Coward. (BCHA)

August 1890. An article was published in the Sydney Morning Herald describing the new building...

"There are piers below supporting pilasters and cornice above, and the front and exterior generally is finished in stucco. The municipal offices are approached through large double doors leading to the entrance hall, on the right side of which are the council clerk's office and the library. To the left are the Mayor's room and a spacious council-chamber. At the rear of the entrance hall is the main staircase leading to the large hall above, which is 58 ft. 6 in by 29 ft. 6 in..."

...Off the main hall there is a small oriel balconette. A portion of the building has been rented by the Post Office Department as a post and telegraph office; and in this portion, which is entirely separated from the municipal offices, there is accommodation for the postmaster and his family." (Monday 4 August 1890, The Sydney Morning Herald, p.3)

Fig 7.2.6 Mascot Town Hall c.1910 (the Mascot School of Arts was sited near the Hall, and is possibly the building visible to the rear. (BCHA)

The journalist covering the event goes on to describe Mayor Coward's speech in which he reportedly spoke of the great distance North Botany had come from having "very few residents in the district, and very



little to encourage settlement". He explained that...

"at first it was thought by many desirable to have the whole of what was known as the boroughs of Botany and North Botany included in one municipality, but to this proposition [Coward] was always opposed, as he considered that the local interests of the two districts were not identical and the area was too large to be properly attended to by one council."

Coward concluded his speech by reassuring the crowd that although his Council had built bridges and roads for the population, the greatest public work of achievement was that of the Town Hall, which he hoped would provide *"for the mental culture and social improvements of the people"* by opening a portion of the Hall as a free public library and reading-room. Cheers were given for the Mayor's speech, after which the company and honorary guests sat down to luncheon, followed by toasts to...

"The Queen" "the Ministry" "the Parliament" "Municipal Institutions" "Success to the Borough of North Botany" "The Visitors" and "The builder and architect" and others were honoured." (Monday 4 August 1890, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, p.3)

Additions to the building were made over the years as the Municipality of North Botany developed and the extent of Council business grew. The largest of these was the addition of Coronation Hall to the rear of the Town Hall, fronting Coward Street. It was commenced in 1910 and completed in 1911, named in honour of the coronation of King George V which occurred that year. In 1929 new municipal offices were constructed in the Inter-war Georgian Revival style to the rear of the town hall. The group of buildings now consisted of the Coronation Hall, the Town Hall and administrative buildings.

In 1933, now more closely mirroring the actions being taken to Botany Town Hall to the south, further additions and alterations were made including:

- Cloak rooms and sculleries
- Tallow-wood floors
- Special decorative lighting
- A fine entrance vestibule and foyer to Coronation Hall treated with polished trachyte pilasters, tiled walls, polished maple fittings and mosaic and terrazzo flooring with decorative brass



inlay patterns

- A “pleasing textured brick treatment” to the walls of the smoke-room
- The façade to Coward Street was designed “to form a balanced part of the existing structure”

Following the council amalgamations in 1948, the newly formed Botany Council held ordinary meetings at the Botany Town Hall while administration was centred at the Coronation Hall and associated offices at Mascot. It was around this time that the name ‘Coronation Hall’ was used to refer not just to the rear addition but to the town hall building itself.

By the 1960s the office building which had been built in 1929 had become inadequate and Council moved to construct an entirely new building in its place, demolishing the building and the old School of Arts building which also formed part of the rear complex to the Hall. Plans for the new offices were prepared by Davey, Brindley and



Fig 7.2.7 and 7.2.8 Mascot Council Chambers. Original 1938 (top) and c.1960 prior to the most recent refurbishment. (Fig. 7.2.7: SLNSW Home and Away - 9916, also available online at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/11855374>; Fig 7.2.8: BCHA)

Vickery architects, and a tender of £102,000 for the construction of the new two-storey building was accepted from McConnell and Fear. Provision was made to incorporate all the former administrative offices as well as a staff lunch room, Mayor's room, aldermen's room and two large committee rooms. The new building was of steel-framed construction, with concrete floors and finished externally with "Chromatex" face bricks. The new premises was occupied in September 1962 and used for Council administration and offices until late 2017. The current façade to the Coronation Hall (including the original Town Hall) was remodelled in 1975 to a design by architects Davey, Brindley and Vickery Pty Ltd, the same company who designed the adjacent Administration Building.

7.2.5 INCORPORATION OF BOTANY COUNCIL

The Governor of NSW accepted the petition put forward on 31 October 1887 and proclaimed the Municipality of Botany on 4 April 1888. A "Monster Picnic" was held in the grounds of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel to celebrate the incorporation of the municipality. Various events were held from skating to a race for aldermanic candidates. Prizes were also given to the eldest male and female residents of Botany, followed by dancing and a banquet at night.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Botany Progress Association was its work in incorporating Botany. Several of its members were elected as Alderman and the Association was effectively superseded by the Council and ceased to meet. A public meeting of the electors of the new Municipality was held in the School of Arts building at 1361 Botany Road on 2 June 1888. Nine aldermen were elected and two auditors:

- Booralee Ward – J.J. Macfadyen, Francis John Luland, Samuel Daniels, Joseph Bogus and William Moran
- Cook Ward – John Edward Chant, Charles Russell Luff, John A. Martin, William C. Pinnock, William Hambly and Joseph Pemberton
- Banks Ward – Richard Excell, Charles Swinbourne, Joshua Wiggins and Thomas A. Smith.

The election was contested so a second poll was required. Bogus, Moran, Pinnock, Hambly, Pemberton and Smith were unsuccessful, although Pemberton would go on to replace John A. Martin.

BOTANY COUNCIL'S SEAL

J.J.Macfadyen designed Botany Council's first seal with great attention to symbolism pertinent to Botany. Macfadyen described the meaning as follows:

- On the outer circle is the name of the Municipality and date of its incorporation in 1888
- The monument within the garland is that of Captain Cook which was erected on the shores of Botany Bay. It represents Cook and Banks' exploration of the area
- The group of Aboriginal people holding out the palm leaf was designed by Macfadyen as an interpretation of a welcome token
- The pyramid and mail steamer which *"has conveyed our kith and kin from the "islands" in the north and in the west through the Red Sea and near to Mount Sinai represents and reminds us of the Old World – the homes and lands of our fathers"*
- The packages of merchandise represent Botany's interaction with the rest of Sydney and rest of the world
- The "All Seeing Eye" at the apex of the pyramid represents God over All. The prayer at the base translates as "as God was with our Fathers so may He be with us"
- The pyramid as a whole standing solid, four square and true, is symbolic of solidarity, strength and truth in aspirations and ideas.

Slight alterations were made to the Seal in 1907. It is no longer commonly used.



Fig 7.2.9 The Botany School of Arts was the location of the meetings of the Botany Progress Association and then the first meetings of the newly Incorporated Botany Council before moving to the cottage in Fig 7.2.10 (opposite).
(BCHA)

BOTANY'S FIRST COUNCIL CHAMBERS

One of the earliest acts of the Botany Council was to consider the site of a Council Chamber. It has been commonly assumed that the first Botany Post Office, see Figure 7.2.10 (opposite), was the first council chambers in Botany. Even though late 19th century maps are marked thus, this is not entirely correct. The first official meeting of the Botany Municipal Council was actually held in the 'ante room' of the School of Arts/Botany Literary Institute/Mechanics Institute building (all being names referring to the same building) at 1361 Botany Road. The Council met at the School of Arts for several months. The minutes describe the location of these meetings as either 'ante room, School of Arts' or 'temporary council chambers'. The School of Arts offered to let their hall for the general fortnightly meetings, as well as their library for certain evenings, for 5 shillings per week. In December 1888 it was revealed in the minutes that the Council had received a complaint from the Secretary of the School of Arts concerning ...

"the action of the Council in placing a table in the Hall of the School of Arts without first obtaining the permission of the committee."

Macfadyen and the rest of the councillors were not impressed at receiving such a trivial complaint and an emergency meeting was called to decide how best to proceed. It was decided that a written acknowledgment of the complaint should be given to the Secretary of the School of Arts, however it was also agreed that...

"this Council buy a piece of land and erect suitable buildings



Fig 7.2.10 The cottage in Botany Road used as the temporary Council meeting room and offices until completion of the Town Hall and Council Chamber in 1899. (n.d. for image) (BCHA)

therein for the conduct of the business of this Council and for that purpose a sum of money be borrowed according to law if desirable.”

The School of Arts offered to erect a separate room at a rental of 2/6 a week for a lease of three years. Alderman Luland moved to accept this proposal however it was lost and a Hall Committee was established to report upon the most desirable site available for the erection of a dedicated council chambers. Various sites were offered to Council however none were deemed to be acceptable. Three months after opening the search, and unable to make a definitive decision, the Council decided to rent a small cottage held by William Pemberton, an alderman on the Council at the time. Council had definitely moved their meetings to Pemberton's cottage by July 1889, however the move may have been made as early as the previous April. (This building survives as 1158 Botany Road)

BOTANY TOWN HALL

Definite steps to purchase a suitable site for a Town Hall and dedicated Council Chambers were first taken by Council in May 1896, when it was moved to secure 100 feet of William Beaumont's land at Botany Road and 100 feet at Park Avenue, at £1 per foot, for the building. An amendment was made to increase the Botany Road frontage to 150 feet which was carried. . To finance the purchase, the Mayor was empowered to withdraw fixed deposits of £500 held by the Australian Joint Stock Bank. Plans for a prospective building were produced and adopted and a call to tender occurred at once. The question of the legality of using loan money for the construction of the building was raised however, and it was decided to consult the Municipal Association. Despite this concern, plans for the building proceeded. In October the tender of H. Punter was accepted for the building, however various discussions concerning the loan amount and the plans themselves continued to be had. By 1897 Council re-opened the building for tender once again. A plan was again accepted and a loan amount of £2,000 was agreed.

It was at this stage that the executors of the late G.L. Lord's estate offered a site for the Town Hall on Botany Road, opposite the post office and council chambers cottage (1158 Botany Road) being used at the time for fortnightly meetings. The site was offered to Council



It was at this stage that the executors of the late G.L. Lord's estate offered a site for the Town Hall on Botany Road, opposite the post office and council chambers cottage (1158 Botany Road) being used at the time for fortnightly meetings. The site was offered to Council free of charge, yet the Council still managed to negotiate an increase in street frontage from 80 feet to 100 feet. The offer of a valuable and well situated site such as this, free of charge, was too good for Council to reject. Tenders were called in August 1898 for the new Town Hall site at 1423 Botany Road.

H. Punter's tender for the building's construction was once again accepted by Council in November 1898. £2,000 was borrowed for the project and six months was given to Punter to complete the structure – a schedule Punter kept, with the new Town Hall opening on schedule on 13 July 1899 the following year.

The Hall was designed in the Victorian Italianate style. It has classic features such as a balustraded parapet, quoining and elaborate mouldings. Its street frontage is an impressive sight and one can imagine how it would have stirred in the Councillors, as well as the local residents, a momentous sense of arrival as a Municipality.

The Town Hall's official opening in July 1899 was performed amidst great fanfare and gaiety. Photos of the day suggest there was a great

Fig7.2.11 Botany Council Chambers soon after completion. The entrance to the Post Office can be seen at the left of the building. (n.d.) (BCHA)

excitement and pride in the occasion, in a way that much befitted the grandness of the building itself. Among the official guests were the Governor of New South Wales, William Lygon 7th Earl Beauchamp, the State Premier (and future Prime Minister of Australia), George H. Reid, Varney Parkes (architect and politician) and John Rowland Dacey (a politician, of 'Daceyville' fame). Speeches, ribbon cutting and flag bearing added great enthusiasm to the day. People gathered to cheer and welcome the esteemed guests and school children greeted the Governor with a rendition of God Save the Queen. The Governor in his speech gave his gratitude for the warm welcome and for Botany's expressions of loyalty to the Queen. He concluded...

"I join with you in the hope that with the building which we are to open today, will begin a new era in the history of the Municipality; one associated with prosperity and happiness to you all."
(Saturday 22 July 1899, *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, p.203).

...At which point the building was declared officially 'open'. A luncheon followed and then later in the evening a commemoration ball, which 250 dancers attended. The proceedings did not conclude until 5 a.m the following morning.

Various improvements were made to the Town Hall between 1899 and 1907. The question of an additional stairway to the main hall was considered, however nothing was done about this for several years. A report on the best method of treating the terrace in front of the Hall was presented in October 1907, in which it was recommended to cover the terrace with a coating of tar and fine metal and screenings.



*Fig 7.2.12 The opening of the Botany Town Hall and Council Chambers in 1899 was a grand occasion. (Saturday 22 July 1899, *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, p.203)*

Various adornments and lighting features were made also. Ventilation was added in 1908, while electric lighting was installed in 1916, at a cost of £87 11 s.

A proposal to enlarge the Town Hall was made in 1919 in a plan prepared for Council by Mr St. Julian. It was proposed to fund the extensions out of more loan funds, however after using loan money to build the hall in the first place, this option was rejected by ratepayers. The Botany Post Office, which had been operating out of an annexe to the Hall since its opening in 1899, was given notice to quit in 1922. This allowed the Hall to expand to the north. The plan was accepted and adopted in 1924.

In 1932 consideration was given to the erection of a Dance Hall fronting Edward Street, or extending the existing Dance Hall to the Town Hall Lane. The proposals also included the remodelling of the Council Chamber and other ancillary rooms. After much deliberation and discussion, the renovations were finally adopted by Council and finance of £2,150 was approved under the Government's Emergency Relief Works Scheme – a Depression-era employment scheme introduced in 1934 where the Government paid the wages of men employed by local councils on public works while councils covered the cost of operation. Within a year the number of “dolars” had been reduced from 83,151 to 28,759 and the number of relief workers had risen from 34,229 to 75,648 men. Many such men were employed by Botany Council within the scheme, who not only worked on the Town Hall but also in road maintenance and on the construction of Banksmeadow Park.



Fig. 7.2.13 Building works underway in 1934 to extend and upgrade the Town Hall. (BCHA)



The renovations to the Town Hall were completed in 1934 and consisted of:

- a new Council Chamber;
- an enlarged ballroom with a new floor
- ‘modern conveniences’ such as cloak rooms, a new kitchen, lavatories and garage
- altering the location and renewing of the existing stage
- substantial brick fencing, both side and in front
- a new waiting room; and
- furnishing of the new Council chamber and Mayor’s Room.

During this time gardens and rockeries were also laid out in front of the Town Hall which further improved its street front appearance. The opening of the new extended Town Hall was performed by the Hon. B.S.B. Stevens, Premier and Colonial Treasurer and the Minister for Works and Local Government, the Hon. E.S.Spooner. Much like the original opening in 1899, the occasion ended with a Civic Ball with over 300 guests in the new extended ballroom.

7.2.6 AMALGAMATIONS

The histories of local governance in Botany and Mascot began somewhat together in the early 19th century, then diverged at the turn of the century before coming back together again in the mid-20th century. Lengthy debate over a further amalgamation with neighbouring Rockdale Council has influenced the very recent history of the Council too, making amalgamations one of the most recurrent themes in the history of Botany Bay’s local governance.

Fig 7.2.14 Botany Council Chambers in 1991. The 1934 improvements were situated at the side of the original hall. (BCHA)

THE FIRST AMALGAMATION

The original legislation set out under the Municipalities Acts of 1858 and 1867 under which the Botany and Mascot municipalities were created, was responsible for the incorporation of the two relatively small local units. The inevitable outcome of such a “minute division” of the metropolitan area was that major municipal functions were beyond their means. Essentially this meant that the ratepayer revenue was not enough to cover the outputs of Council. It is not surprising, therefore, that suggestions were made to reduce the number of councils in favour of fewer, larger ones. This effort subsequently became known as a “movement for a Greater Sydney”.

In 1913 the reorganisation of local councils was investigated by a Royal Commission and legislation was prepared. If this legislation had been passed Mascot and Botany would have both been consolidated into a massive grouping with 35 other local councils into a unified inner zone ruled by a single authority. This proposal did not proceed.

Various other schemes were proposed throughout the next thirty years, however in each one Mascot and Botany were both recommended to be abolished and absorbed into the City of Sydney. After further deliberations and even further re-drafting, the Local Government (Areas) Act was finally passed in 1948. This Act abolished 31 local councils and merged them with neighbouring municipalities. Mascot and Botany escaped becoming part of the City of Sydney, but the two were instead amalgamated.

The consolidated area was 6.9 square miles and contained a population of 29,000. The wider area adopted the name that had already been in use, the Municipality of Botany. Thankfully this was an easy decision to make as there were apparently no alternative titles suggested. The new municipality was divided into two wards – Mascot and Botany. Alderman F.B. Joyce was elected the first Mayor of the united area, an office he held for five successive terms.

The Municipality of Botany fought against a second possible amalgamation in the 1980s and 1990s under long-time Mayor of 31 years, Ron Hoenig, at a time when significant local government reforms were sweeping throughout each state of Australia.

In 1996 the municipality was officially given “city” status and was

renamed The City of Botany Bay. The suburbs that made up the City were Banksmeadow, Botany, Daceyville, Eastgardens, Eastlakes, Hillside, Mascot, Pagewood and part of Rosebery.

THE SECOND AMALGAMATION

In 2015, in the wake of a report commissioned by the State Government into the efficiency of local councils, NSW Premier Mike Baird and the Minister for Local Government, Paul Toole, announced the merging and formation of 19 new councils across the State.

One of the councils nominated for amalgamation was the City of Botany Bay, which was proposed to amalgamate with neighbouring Rockdale Council. The City of Botany Bay fought strongly against the amalgamation, however the merge did eventually occur by Proclamation on Friday 9 September 2016. The new amalgamated Council was renamed 'Bayside Council'. The new area covers approximately 55 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 156,500. It includes the suburbs of the former City of Botany Bay as well as those of Rockdale.

THEME 7.3 LAW AND ORDER

The relevant National-level theme is *governing*. The relevant state theme is *law and order*. Local themes within this theme are activities associated with maintaining, promoting and implementing criminal and civil law and legal processes. The following activities and places in the former Botany Bay LGA are relevant to this theme:

- Police stations

Other relevant themes:

4.2 Towns and villages

7.0 Government and administration

7.3.1 POLICE STATIONS

Originally, like the postal service, the provision of police services to an area was dependent on its density of population. Consequently it was not until the 1860s that police services were introduced into Botany – and even then, it was just the one constable, a man named Rush.

The site of the station (known originally as the Botany Watchhouse or Botany Lock-up) was reserved by the Crown on 27 February 1871. The side boundary of the reserve was aligned with the southern edge of Lord's original grant, and the front boundary was set at 90 degrees to this. The planned road through the subdivision did not match the alignment established by the Crown Reservation, and was the origin of the bend in Botany Road that has persisted to this day. Two lots were reserved, but the northern one does not appear to have been used as part of the Police function, with a separate cottage being built by the 1880s.

Rush had already established a presence on the site when the formal Reservation was made. The watchhouse was not completed until 1877, being built to the template for small Police Stations provided by Government Architect James Barnet. In 1906 the rear accommodation building for the constable and his family was added. The first policeman to live in the cottage was Constable Waterworth who gained a well-regarded reputation over his long service in the position. The crime rate in Botany was generally quite low, however the wide attraction of the Sir Joseph Banks Pleasure Gardens for sportsmen and crowds meant additional work in the form of supervision of the contests could have been added and was potentially the reason that the site of the Botany police station was at the edge of Botany's civic centre (being closer to lower Botany where these attractions were held). The demand for police presence at the many pubs in the Botany District, as well as the growing population in Botany, resulted in the eventual growth of the police staff in the area to five; a sergeant and four constables. The building is now



Fig. 7.3.1 The site for the Botany Lockup (the first Police Station) was reserved by the Crown on 10 February 1871. Its alignment pre-dated that of the road planned by George Lord in his subdivision plan of the same year (shown here as 'Banks Street', now Botany Road.)

This was never resolved and the different alignments of the front property boundaries remains legible in the bend in Botany Road today. (SLNSW)

Fig 7.3.2 The Botany Police Station was built in 1877 and is one of the oldest surviving original buildings in the Botany District. The Station c. 1963. (BCHA)



unoccupied. It has survived substantially intact to its original period and purpose, although the rear of the site has been subdivided and redeveloped in recent years by the NSW Department of Housing.

Mascot police station was originally situated in Miles Street. Like Botany, the station originally was under the supervision of one resident constable. However unlike at Botany, the station did not include accommodation for the constable. In 1955 the building was remodeled and Mascot Police Station was relocated to new premises at 965 Botany Road.

THEME 7.4 WELFARE

Welfare – see Accommodation – Daceyville

(Facing page) Bruce Mackenzie showing Council the new interpretation sculptures in Sir Joseph Banks Park (BCHA)

8

DEVELOPING AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL LIFE



Recreational, creative, spiritual & social activities

THEME 8.1: CREATIVE ENDEAVOUR

The relevant National-level theme is *developing Australia's cultural life*. The relevant state theme is *creative endeavour*. Local themes within this theme are activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works, and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative endeavours. The following activities and places in the former Botany Bay LGA are relevant to this theme:

- Cinemas and theatres
 - Dacey Garden Theatre/Daceyville Theatre
 - Ascot Theatre
 - Rosebery Theatre
 - Empire Theatre
 - Marina Theatre

- Pagewood Film Studios

Other relevant themes:

Leisure

8.1.1 CINEMAS AND THEATRES

There have been six picture theatres built in the district of Botany Bay over the last century: Daceyville Theatre (1910, destroyed by fire in 1984), Ascot Theatre at Mascot (1913, destroyed by fire 1966), Rosebery Theatre (1913, demolished c.1960), the first Empire Theatre, Botany (1916, damaged and demolished 1919), the second Empire, Botany (1920, demolished 1972) and the Marina Theatre at Rosebery, built in 1927 and which stands as the only remaining historic theatre in the former Botany Bay LGA.

DACEY GARDEN THEATRE (GENERAL BRIDGES CRESCENT, DACEYVILLE)

The Dacey Garden Theatre was a silent movie theatre located near the corner of Gardeners Road and Bunnerong Road within the Daceyville subdivision. It was built in 1910 as a theatre/public hall and was one of the earliest buildings to be built in the planned suburb. It became a full time cinema in 1916 however was used as a gym when the Democrat theatre was built at nearby Kingsford. It was destroyed by fire in 1984. A new residential building of similar scale and form was built to replace it.



Fig. 8.1.1 (top) One of the first structures to be built in Dacey Garden Suburb was a large theatre. (SLNSW)

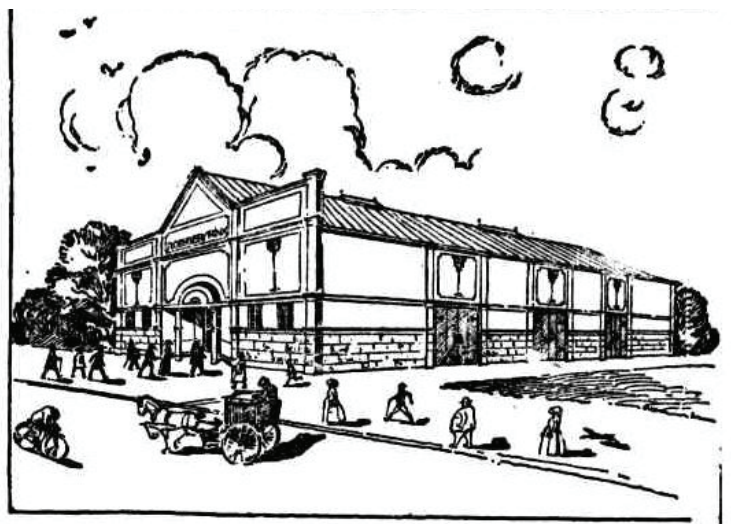
Fig. 8.1.2 (centre) and 8.1.3 (below) The original Ascot Theatre in Botany Road, Mascot was a utilitarian structure and by 1925 had been replaced by a 1621 seat cinema which in turn was modified in 1939 to add Art Deco movie house character to the facade. (BCHA)

The Ascot Theatre was built in 1912 and was situated in Mascot along Botany Road, directly opposite Robey Street. Seating capacity for the theatre was 1,700, but this was later reduced to 1,621. The theatre was re-built in 1925 with modifications in 1939 to add a more 'art deco' character to the facade. It was managed by Mascot Theatres Ltd and remained associated with the Snider and Dean circuit until its

closure in 1960. It was gutted and converted into a large fruit market, however was unfortunately later destroyed by fire in 1966.

ROSEBERY THEATRE (GARDENERS ROAD, ROSEBERY)

The Rosebery Theatre was commissioned by James Thornton of the abutting Newmarket Hotel in 1913 to be both a skating rink and a picture theatre. Named originally the "Rosebery Rink and Picture Theatre", the design was made by Mr. Ros. J. Collins and the building was constructed in mid-1913. It appears that upon its opening it was used as a skating rink through till the skating season's end and by October had been transformed into a picture theatre. The Theatre closed around 1960 and was replaced by a bowling alley.



ROSEBERY RINK AND PICTURE THEATRE.

Mr. Ros. J. Collins, architect, has designed a large hall to be used as a skating rink and picture theatre. It is being built to the order of Mr. J. Thornton, of Thornton's Hotel, corner of Gardener's and Botany roads. The hall is of pleasing design, with a large floor space, perfect ventilation, and it fulfils all the requirements of the Act with regard to ingress and egress and accommodation for the comfort of patrons. This rink is of steel construction, and will be completed in about six weeks' time.

The first Empire Theatre at Botany was built in 1916 and was located at 1116 Botany Road, next to the Captain Cook Hotel. It was partly open and had wooden benches. It suffered severe storm damage in c.1919 and was demolished to allow the second Empire to be built on the site. The second Empire was a 'hardtop' (i.e fully enclosed) theatre built in 1920. One of its operators was Mr E. G. Siddins, five time Mayor of Botany and who also owned an adjoining newsagent and refreshment store. The theatre closed in February 1965 and was demolished in 1972.

Fig. 8.1.3 Advertisement/article describing and promoting the imminent completion of the Rosebery Cinema and Skating Rink. This complex adjoined the Newmarket Hotel on Gardeners Road.

(14 April 1913. The Sun, p.5. BCHA)



MARINA THEATRE, GARDENERS ROAD, ROSEBERY

The Marina Theatre was built in 1926 for Eric Christensen, W.H.Rumble and William de Putron. De Putron was also the architect of the building. The theatre opened in May 1927. It had a ceiling in pressed metal panels, a stage with an orchestra pit, a painted screen wall for silent films and dressing rooms. In 1939 Mascot Theatres Ltd took over the Marina Theatre – forming a trio of the Marina, the Ascot and the Rosebery Theatres. The Marina continued to be used as a movie theatre well into the 1980s (however was closed and reopened several times). It was eventually turned into a video shop for a short time. At the time of writing this Thematic History the property was vacant.

Fig. 8.1.4 Demolition of the Empire Theatre. c.1972. (BCHA)

Fig. 8.1.5 The Marina Theatre in 2017. (photograph Elizabeth Conroy)





Fig. 8.1.6 Article in *Building Journal* describing the new Marina Picture Palace at Mascot designed by architect William De Putron. Innovative features such as the illumination of the entrance by under-awning lighting. (*Construction and Local Government Journal*, 23 March 1927, p.6.

8.1.2 PAGWOOD FILM STUDIOS

Pagewood Studios was built in 1935 as National Studios and was located near the current Eastgardens Shopping Centre site. Although it reported a decent profit in its early years of operation, the Studios shut down from 1937 to 1940 and during World War II was used as a store depot and training ground. The Studios were shut again in 1952 before being sold off completely in 1959.

“In the past, films have been made from time to time in various States, but, at Pagewood, Australia, now has its own thriving film industry – its own miniature Hollywood....tucked away among rows of neat suburban red-roofed cottages and backed by sandhills, the studios outwardly bear little resemblance to the Hollywood seen in films. There are no shiny, high priced limousines standing outside, no glamorous blonde stars or glittering neon lights, no giant iron gates and uniformed attendants barring entrance to any but the privileged few with passes. But behind the administrative building, in former army huts, in makeshift workshops, and in the two huge studios where indoor shots are filmed, there is all the excitement, the glamour and the hard work of Hollywood.” (BCHA)

Fig. 8.1.7 Aerial view of the National Studios at Pagewood, looking west. c.1937 (BCHA)

Fig. 8.1.8 (facing) A “behind the scenes” article describing the Pagewood Film Studios published in the Australian Woman’s Weekly (8 December, 1954. pp.20-21).



[illegible]

Hard work and glamor



WARDROBE MASTER C. Howe for a clerk on actor Gordon Clapp. The wardrobe department is in a constant army but never mind as an officer's aide.

Film backroom boys enjoy their jobs

By NONI ROWLAND, staff reporter

Pagewood Studios, seven miles from the heart of Sydney, have become the centre of Australia's biggest film colony.



PROPS MAN Ted Noll has had 31 years' experience in the film industry in England. He came to Australia last year to start his son. Ted describes himself as "the man who has to find everything, from an elephant to a penny."



DIRECTOR Lee Sholem, in vivid American shirt, sunglasses, cigarettes, and technicians watch they enter Billy Kay rehearsal his part in a scene about to be filmed for television.

IN the past, films have been made from time to time in various States,

There are no stars, big-eyed limousines standing outside, no glamorous black cats or glowering news lights, no giant red gates and enormous attendants barring entrance to any but the privileged few with access.

Tucked away among rows of front, suburban, red-roofed

At the studios, the smiling old man "You Ought To Be In Pictures" has been given the new honor of popularity.

It's the fact that the "best-dressed man" — the cameraman, electrician, wardrobe, and dresser — whose specialty, like with a girl, when they are told that they will have to work hard in this dress-

The song caught on when *Transit Island Pictures* brought out the studio's first hit this year to show the picture: "Long John Silver," starring Robert Newton and Gail Patrick.

Save them, the staff has had plenty of practice singing over the 63 days taken to complete the feature and they start out a series of short television films, "The Adventures

INSIDE AUSTRALIA'S HOLLYWOOD



CAMERA CREW: actors, technicians, and electricians stand by as head electrician Warren Neuma (in background) focuses the light on an actor's face. The platform above is for the electricians, whose jobs keep them near the camera all day. They have to maintain and direct the huge arc lights which bring daylight into the studio for shooting.

[illegible][illegible]

MR. WOOLVERIDGE, who came to Australia from England six years ago, told me that he had had to overcome the reaction of Cal-

"These Ealing Studios were producing *Twelve O'Clock*—the film story of the life of Australian poet Eubank Joyce," he says. "I said 'none of the technicians were used as extras in a shot of a two-way phone.'"

"But I believe in only one shot of our man," he added, "and the technicians were stuck in carpentry."

However, said director Charles Hottelung, is delighted when he is reasonably in grace as opportunity to snap jobs for a movie.

But he said, was always a

"The [Emancipator] was the first to recognize the anti-slavery movement as a political force," says the publisher, "and the paper was the only one to give the movement the credit it deserved." The paper was also the first to give the movement the credit it deserved.

PLAYER Sydney Tisser (above) pitches a baseball in a "steve" used in an exercise shot. Tisser was an outstanding player for 13 years in the English football league before he emigrated to Australia and played in the Sydney Mustangs.

HEAD DRESSER Tony Pearce (far right) has a reputation for smiling. Hollywood actress Gena Rowlands says he is "the best" and she had to have a haircut because of the way he cut her hair. In addition, she got the wonderful idea of making the costumes.

THEME 8.2 LEISURE

The relevant National-level theme is *developing Australia's cultural life*. The relevant state theme is *leisure*.

Local themes within this theme are activities associated with recreation and relaxation. The following activities and places in the former Botany Bay LGA are relevant to this theme:

- Sir Joseph Banks Hotel
- Parks and Reserves
 - The Sir Joseph Banks Park
 - Banksmeadow Park
 - Jellicoe Park
 - Mascot Memorial Park
 - Booralee Park
 - Daceyville Garden Reserve (Daceyville Park)
 - Glanville Park and Towner Gardens

Other relevant themes:

3.4 Environment – cultural landscape

4.2 Towns, suburbs and villages

5.0 Labour

8.2.1 SIR JOSEPH BANKS HOTEL

The most well-known of all of Botany's attractions throughout most of the 19th century was the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel and its adjacent Pleasure Gardens.

On 26 July 1834, James Drew and Thomas Kellett purchased 75 acres of land at the southern end of Botany for £75. (Kellett later purchased Drew's share of the property.) Market gardeners and wool washers were common purchasers of southern Botany land at this time, however Kellett had other business plans. Kellett had been a Private in the 40th Regiment and had acquired experience as a canteen keeper. In 1843 he was described as a gardener and his address was given as being at Botany. An early plan also reveals that at this time Kellett had opened a hotel named the 'Banks' Inn', in the Banksmeadow area, likely within his landholding. Although far from 'civilisation' further north in Botany, the Inn was ideally located for patrons from the many market gardens, wool washes and tanneries based in the vicinity.

In the early 1840s the 'Banks Inn' was replaced by a grander building, called the Sir Joseph Banks Inn (also commonly referred to, even at this early stage, as Sir Joseph Banks Hotel). The new building was built by 1844 (confirmed by Kellett's advertisements of the new hotel placed in The Sydney Morning Herald from December that year).

The Hotel was cleverly marketed as being close enough to Sydney to be a day-trip, yet also with the isolation, health benefits and aesthetic beauty of a peaceful rural escape from city life. Kellett also organised sporting activities to act as a further drawcard for potential patrons. In May 1845 he announced

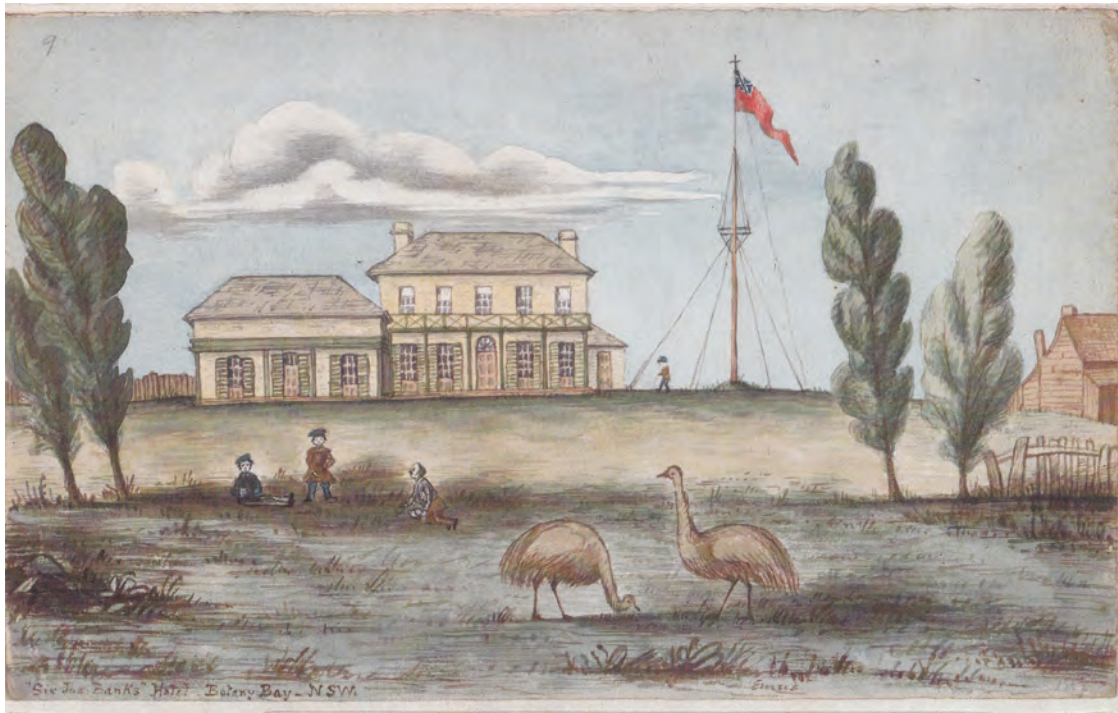


Fig 8.2.1 1853 painting of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel from the shores of Botany Bay. The emus are in the 'Emu Park' created in the grounds. ('Emus at the early Sir Joseph Banks Hotel', a watercolour by John William Hardwick, 1853. SLNSW Government Printing Office 1-13054 also available online at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/9891518>)

Fig 8.2.2 The running track in the grounds c.1890 (BCHA)

Fig.8.2.3 Abel & Co.'s work picnic in the Sir Joseph Banks Grounds in 1900. SLNSW Government Printing Office 1-01519 also available online at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/11335999>)

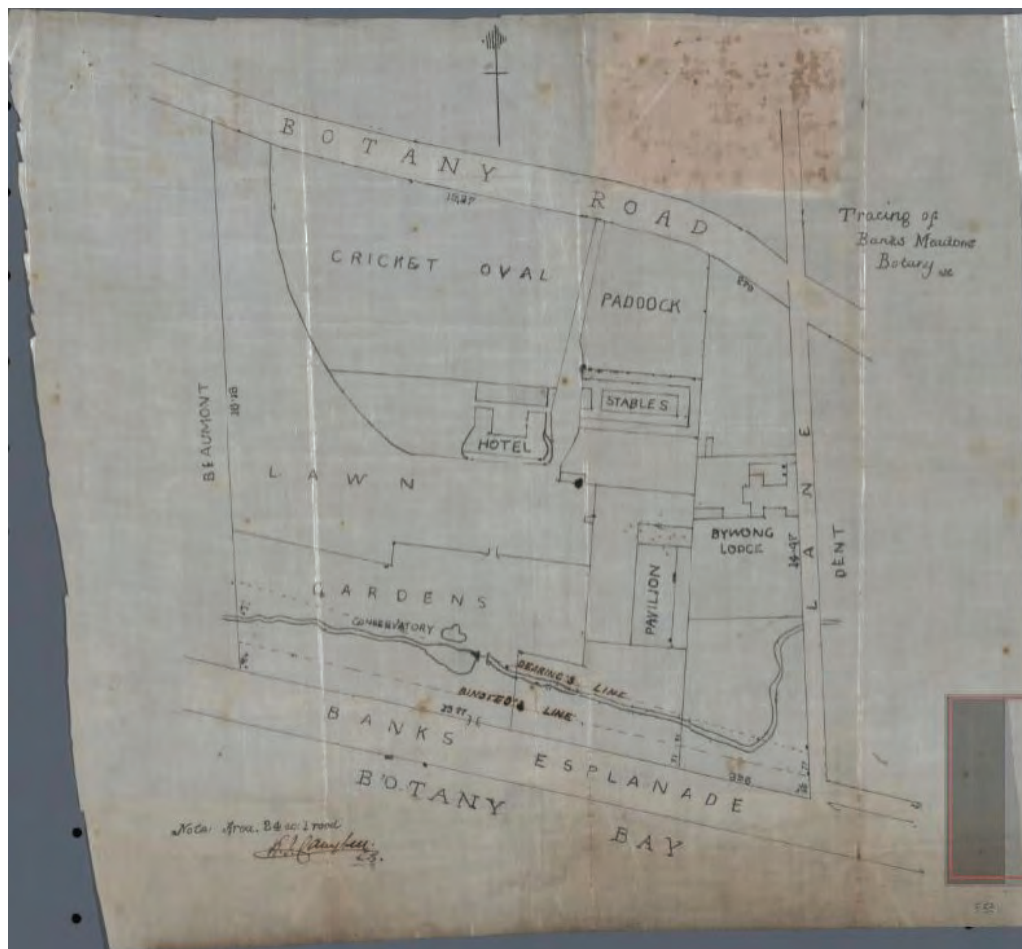


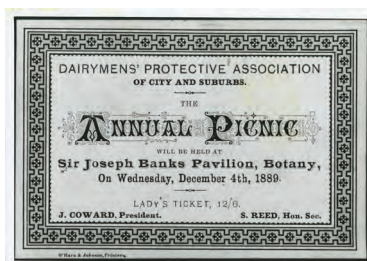
the “Botany Bay Regatta” which comprised several races for a variety of water craft. Kellett also provided riding courses in the surrounding bushland ‘wilderness’ and along the sandy foreshore which became very popular with the gentry from Sydney.

In 1846 Kellett leased the Hotel and the several paddocks surrounding it to William Beaumont, a timber merchant of entrepreneurial character. Kellett retained ownership of the Hotel and the 25 acres surrounding it until 1861. Significant additions were carried out from 1846 to 1848 including a conservatory, a riding school and a bathing house.

In 1850 Beaumont was responsible for the first substantial extension to the existing Hotel building; a new wing at the western end to provide a dining space for up to 60 people. In this same year, 1850, a 2000 seat amphitheatre was constructed in the grounds, as well as a ballroom. He enclosed an “emu park” within the grounds and then expanded it to establish his most famous addition to the Estate, the Zoological Garden, which is understood to have potentially been Australia’s first

Fig. 8.2.4 An 1854 sketch of the grounds and facilities. (NLA)





zoo (1850) and held Australia's first elephant, a Royal Bengal Tiger, a Black Himalayan Bear, the Red Deer of Manilla and a Grizzly Bear.

On Boxing Day 1851 it was reported that 5,000 people, or a staggering 8% of the population of Sydney at the time, attended the enormously successful attractions at the grounds of the Hotel. The following year the company, stud and orchestra of Malcolm's Royal Australian Amphitheatre and Rustic Chorus were engaged, a circus was opened and an abundant luncheon was offered. For several years the Boxing Day Picnic at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel became a highlight in Sydney's social calendar.

A great benefit of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel's popularity for the local Botany Bay community was the improvement of Botany Road. The condition of the road was still considered poor at the time of the Hotel's opening, however with such interest in tourism to the area it provided the impetus for the Parish Road Trust to allocate funds to greatly improve the route from Sydney down to southern Botany.

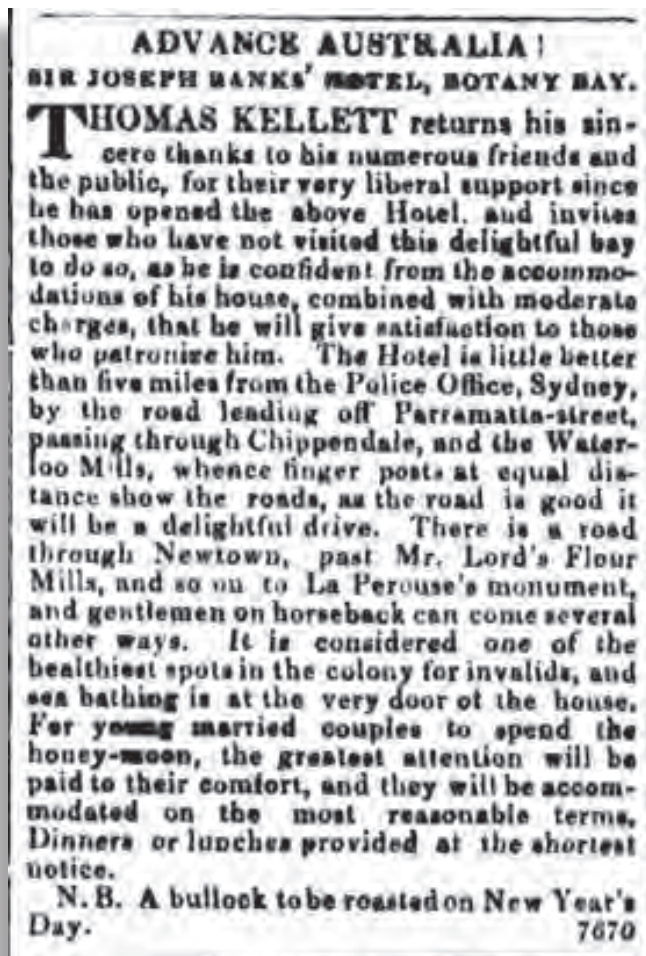
By 1861 Beaumont ended his lease of the Hotel, instead purchasing land directly to the west of the Sir Joseph Banks where he developed Correys Pleasure Gardens. In 1862 Kellett leased the Hotel to Vickers/ Victor Moyse; the man responsible for adding a cricket ground, a bowling green and an archery course to the Estate. The gardens were extended and a new road from Randwick to the Hotel was completed. The tramway to Botany would not be developed for another twenty years, so instead Moyse organised to have the mail vehicle carry passengers from Sydney twice a day. Despite Moyse's sincere efforts to maintain the hype surrounding the Hotel, public interest had begun

Fig 8.2.5 The vestibule of the grand 1884/5 addition. (BCHA)

Fig 8.2.6 Archery on the lawn was a popular attraction. The large pavilion erected in the background could hold up to 10,000 people. (BCHA)

Fig 8.2.7 An 1889 advertisement for the Dairymen's Annual Picnic held in the grounds of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel.

Fig 8.2.8 Business card for the Hotel c.1920. (BCHA)



to wain since the era of Beaumont's management and Moyse ended up leaving the Hotel after six years.

Kellett then leased the property to John Frederick Maloney who, with showman Tom King, set out to transform the Estate into the leading sports ground of the Metropolis. A variety of athletic sports and games were offered, including Sydney's first 1,000 yard foot race, however the venture bankrupted Maloney and he left in 1871. After Kellett's death in 1868 John Thomas Neale inherited the Hotel. He sold it just three months later, in December 1871, to John Mitchell for £2,400.

It was not until Francis Smith purchased the Hotel in 1875 that the Sir Joseph Banks reached its greatest (and its final) peak in popularity (assisted in no small way by the opening of Botany's tramway in 1882). Smith constructed a huge pavilion in the grounds which was capable of holding up to 10,000 people, however this was not the most significant change Smith made to the site. In c.1884/1885 Smith commissioned the construction of a very grand, new, two-storey

Fig. 8.29 An 1844 Advertisement for festivities to celebrate the opening of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel in 'Advertising', The Sydney Morning Herald, 3 December 1844, p.3



building for the Hotel. It was to be “of a style we have long desired to see at the watering places of Sydney – a really good, luxurious and well-appointed building”.

Just like the famous annual Boxing Day extravaganzas once held at the Hotel, Smith revived the Sir Joseph Banks’ popularity by hosting annual sporting carnivals on St Patrick’s Day and feasts of eight to ten courses for up to 1,000 people at a time. It soon became the Sydney custom to celebrate the holiday at Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, and before long the grounds were used for amateur and professional athletics, attracting competitors such as Tom Malone, Harry Hutches (an English champion), Jim Moody, Eddie Skinner and many others.

The races were so popular that suburban race clubs postponed their own meetings on Botany race days rather than risk heavy crowd losses. Eventually four major handicaps and a number of minor events were held throughout the year at the track. To accommodate the crowds, Smith erected a new grandstand capable of seating 3,000 people.

Frank Smith died in 1893 and it was upon his death that it was discovered that his assets were not enough to discharge the great mortgage on the property. Foot racing fell out of vogue and eventually the buildings on the site deteriorated through lack of maintenance, despite there being a new manager, Bernard Bogan. When the hotel began to suffer further decreased patronage and the financial strain associated with it, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney sold the hotel and its grounds (of approximately 26 acres) to newly formed company, the Sir Joseph Banks Estate Ltd, in November 1908 for £6,500.

Fig 8.2.10 The rustic swings in the picnic grounds of the Hotel c.1890. (SLNSW)

The new owners tried to reinvent the historic Sir Joseph Banks Hotel by renaming it (and re-advertising it) not as a luxury resort but as the “Olympic Recreation and Picnic Grounds”. Despite the reinvention though, the ‘old’ Sir Joseph Banks Hotel continued to struggle to increase its patronage. After having eight managers in eleven years, in 1920 the decision was made to subdivide the surrounding grounds up to Botany Road and sell them as residential and commercial lots. The front grounds (the original cricket pitch) were offered for sale. Lot 19 of this subdivision was reserved for a new hotel which was to carry on the licence and name of the original. The new Sir Joseph Banks Hotel was built on the corner of Botany Road and the newly created Fremlin Road in 1920. The licence to the new Sir Joseph Banks Hotel was sold to brewing conglomerate Tooth & Co Ltd for £600 on 10 May 1921.

Meanwhile, the “Olympic Recreation Grounds” continued to host athletic events. Tommy Burns trained at the Sir Joseph Banks complex in preparation for his contest on Boxing Day at Sydney Stadium, and the first game of representative rugby football in Australia was also played at the Grounds.

The Hotel eventually fell into disrepair. Mr James Ruttley bought the Hotel at auction in 1930. He was reputedly just passing by and

Fig8.2.11 The Sir Joseph Banks Hotel c.1930s. The building had fallen into disrepair following the relocation of the hotel to the new building on Botany Road. It was purchased by Mrs Rutley who was motivated by a desire to protect it from demolition, in which she was successful. (BCHA)



thought the main bidder was going to demolish it, so he bought it. Fourteen years later, in 1944, James Ruttley's daughter Doris Rutley (her married name, coincidentally spelled with one 't'), bought the Hotel, once again at auction, for £1,600. She divided portions of the hotel into flats to provide an income and with an intention to fund the building's restoration. The Hotel has remained in private ownership and has been altered and added to allow its re-use as medium-density housing.

8.2.2 PARKS

THE SIR JOSEPH BANKS PARK

In 1926 the State Government, driven by concerns and community petitions about sea erosion, purchased 11 acres of the Sir Joseph Banks Estate between the Hotel and the foreshore. The land cost £1,700 of which Botany Council paid £910 and the Government contributed the remaining £790. Like nearby Banksmeadow Park, the land was at first unusable as a public park. It was uneven, low-lying and boggy. Again, the Spooner scheme was utilised to undertake the necessary work. A work force of 120 men was employed at a total cost of £1,657. Council in return received a refund of £1,182 in overdue rates from the men.

In 1941 construction of the Southern and Western Ocean Outfall Sewer between the Hotel and the Bay obliterated most traces of the former Pleasure Gardens relating to the Hotel.

In the 1970s the construction of Port Botany led to millions of tonnes of sand being dredged from the floor of Botany Bay which was then pumped along the foreshore to form a 300m wide band of coastline





(with dedicated truck road) from Booralee to the new port. This reclamation was intended to achieve long-term stability of the foreshore through the inclusion of sand dunes and planting. This area became known as Foreshore Park and abutted the Sir Joseph Banks Reserve.

The Sir Joseph Banks Reserve had consisted of a largely vacant mown grassland for over 40 years before Botany Council decided to undertake an interpretive recreation initiative which would interpret the former Victorian gardens as part of a major Bicentennial project in 1988.

The approximate \$1.2 million cost of the upgraded part was jointly met by a \$200,000 Australian Bicentennial Authority grant, Council's own funds and substantial corporate sponsorship from local industry.

The park today is the only one in the area that actively demonstrates and interprets its history. Life-size cement statues of zoo animals were sculpted by animal portraitist William Rees and these dot the

Fig. 8.2.12 (facing page) and Fig. 8.2.13 (above) Reclamation along the foreshore of Botany Bay has increased the area of the waterfront open spaces, including (1) Foreshore Park, which has allowed the transformation of the area adjacent to the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel into an area of community open space that interprets the history of the Hotel. The area marked (2) is the Botany Golf Course and the orange is Banksmeadow Park. (BCHA)



landscape and playground; a reference to the zoological gardens that once existed at the site. Two pillars named “Cook” and “Nelson” were also removed from the historic pleasure grounds and erected at the park entrance adjacent to Waratah Street. The park also features a sports oval, thematic gardens, a maze, pergolas, all reinterpreting the activities of the pleasure gardens, as well as a life-size bronze statue of Sir Joseph Banks.

BANKSMEADOW PARK

Banksmeadow Park skirts the foreshores of Botany Bay and was dedicated as a Reserve in 1869, placing it in the same statutory context as Booralee Park in that it was reserved before Botany Council's incorporation in 1888. The transfer of trusteeship to Council hands was not made until 1905. After various small acquisitions over the years the park was roughly 24 acres in size when it came under Council's control. Due to its rough topography of deep gullies and dense undergrowth, the park was regarded as veritable no-man's land for some time.

Fig 8.2.14 Interpretive statues of the early zoo in the Sir Joseph Banks Pleasure Gardens, now forming part of Sir Joseph Banks Park. (BCHA)

It was due to the construction of Bunnerong Power Station in 1927 to 1928 that a huge surplus of soil was deposited on the beach, in effect adding some eight acres to the reserve. Large scale improvements



finally occurred in 1932 when over £5,000 was spent in levelling and grassing the area. At this stage Council decided to convert Banksmeadow Park into a golf links. This would enable Council to maintain the high-maintenance park in a reasonable condition without it being a constant strain on the community's resources.

Advantage was taken of the Spooner Relief Scheme to obtain financial assistance from the Government and by 1934 the work to Banksmeadow Park golf links was completed. The original course covered the old Botany tip, roughly from Botany Pier to Floodvale drain. Subsequently the Australian Oil Refinery took over the far end of the course and as compensation reclaimed for the Council an area of 12 acres extending from the old Government Pier to the Sir Joseph Banks Park at Fremelin Street.

JELlicoe PARK

Daceyville Park, Astrolabe Park and Jellicoe Park are all examples of the priority placed on creating community open space in Daceyville and Pagewood. Following the guidance given to the Daceyville plans by Joseph Henry Maiden, Director of Botanic Gardens, Pagewood's parks were not to be merely just open space; they were 'designed' spaces; viewing points for residents and visitors to not only take in

Fig. 8.215 Botany Golf Course was created during the Great Depression under the Government Relief Scheme on part of the land reclaimed by material recovered from dredging and excavation during the construction of the Bunnerong Power Station. (BCHA)

vistas of the suburb, but also to experience seclusion and relaxation.

Jellicoe Park was the main park in Pagewood and acted as a focal point, much like a traditional English village green. It was named after Viscount Jellicoe, a British admiral in World War I. The park is of a significant size and the one-way road (Park Parade) that encircles it ensures its prominence in the local streetscape. Early photographs of the park also reveal that Hills Figs and brushbox trees had been planted around the perimeter of the park in a deliberate and uniformly spaced pattern. Many of these trees remain today, with gaps being infilled by new trees.

The allocation of land for the park was clearly indicated in the 'Daceyville Subdivision No.2' plan of 1921, and by 1925 work was underway in levelling and turfing the area, coordinated by



Fig 8.2.14 Jellicoe Park was designed as the centrepiece of 'Daceyville Subdivision No.2'. This 1943 photograph allows the carefully designed siting of the park to be appreciated, with local views directed to the oval ringed by shady trees. The space was large enough to accommodate four cricket pitches. (Base NSW LPI SLX maps)



the Daceyville Ratepayers' and Progress Association. By 1930 advertisements were being placed in *The Sydney Morning Herald* promoting new residential lots in close proximity to Jellicoe Park, however land sales were sluggish for several decades. A 1943 aerial photograph of the area reveals that many residential lots surrounding the park remained undeveloped at this time with only a dozen or so houses erected around.

Jellicoe Park was a popular space for playing cricket and football from the late 1920s onwards, tenders being invited in 1929 for groups to hire the Park for organised sporting activities. Today, the Park remains as much a part of the Pagewood community as it was originally intended. It is informally divided into seven fields that allow for cricket, soccer and football to be played. There is a walk-around track along the perimeter of the park and a children's play area. A small substation was installed post-1943.

MASCOT MEMORIAL PARK

(See also: Defence (Section 7.1).)

Mascot Memorial Park was first conceived in January 1920 by the Mascot Mayor, T.H.Hicks as a picturesque setting for a soldiers' memorial. Hicks successfully campaigned to establish the park and it was not long before 4 acres of William Parker's estate was purchased (at £3,000) to create the gardens.

The flower beds, lawns and layout are testament to the great care and attention put into designing a soldiers' memorial of superb quality; a

Fig. 8.2.15 Jellicoe Park soon after the second subdivision of Daceyville was laid out. The park reserve was planted with Hills Figs and Brushbox and these have now matured to provide a strong sense of enclosure to the oval.
(SLNSW)



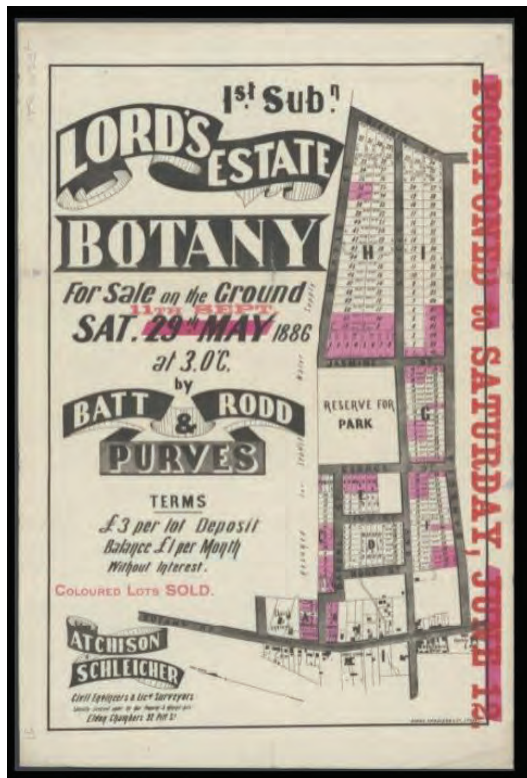
quality that remains clearly legible in the park today. William Parker's cottage that sat within the park's boundaries was demolished in 1979.

BOORALEE PARK

Booralee Park is comprised of three parcels of land and was proclaimed a Reserve to be known as Booralee Park on 17 September 1886. As this was before the incorporation of the municipality, the Public Parks Act 1884 required that a Trustee of the park be nominated. Booralee Park Trust managed the park until it was transferred to Botany Council after its incorporation (which occurred in 1888).

Botany Council cleared, grassed and planted trees in the park. In 1900 an additional five acres was proposed to be added, however this became complicated by the Metropolitan Water Board's control over the area (as it remained within the Botany Water Reserve). No further steps were taken until 1922. Negotiations to dedicate the additional land for public use commenced in 1922 but a resolution was not reached until 1927.

Fig. 8.2.16 Mascot Memorial Park was created from a market garden owned and tended by one of North Botany's first Aldermen, William Parker. Parker's cottage was later used by the Park's on-site gardener. The Park is planted with both native and exotic species and features display beds and elements characteristic of the late 19th - early 20th Century suburban park. Its layout focuses on the War Memorial situated close to the north-eastern corner of the Park which today is surrounded by floral beds and formal plantings. (BCHA)



A third parcel was added on 20 December 1935, being Reserves No. 65712 (from Sale) and No. 65713 (from Lease). This parcel was occupied by the Commonwealth during World War II for the storage of ammunitions.

Improvements were made including the laying of wickets for cricket, a changing room was added and a pavilion constructed, the latter being destroyed in the 1937 cyclone. In 1965 an Olympic pool was constructed at the site, opening in March 1966. Today there are basketball courts, two football fields and four cricket wickets on site. The park is ringed by mature Moreton Bay Fig trees which support a variety of birdlife and contribute to the grand scale and visual impact of the park. The Figs also support a variety of birdlife.

DACEYVILLE GARDEN RESERVE (DACEYVILLE PARK)

Gardens were a key element in every residential lot in Daceyville and the lack of front fences was a deliberate act to encourage a communal sense of care and pride in the gardening venture appropriate to the

Figs 8.2.17 & 8.2.18 Booralee Park was reserved for public recreation as part of the 'first subdivision' of the Lords Estate (the first small-lot residential subdivision) and proclaimed a public park in 1886. Council assumed care, control and management after its incorporation and added two additional parcels of land. Botany's War Memorial was placed at the south-western corner of the park and today provides a focal point for street views over the area. (BCHA; NSW LPI SIX Maps)

principles of 'garden suburb' planning. Central to the Garden Suburb philosophy was the additional provision of recreational and aesthetic space. Originally it was intended for Daceyville to have communal self-sufficient gardens in an effort to replicate the English model, however this did not take hold and instead parks and garden reserves were provided for recreational use.

The Housing Board enlisted the help of the State's foremost expert on horticulture and landscaping, the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Joseph Henry Maiden (1859-1925), to ensure that public reserves and gardens were properly landscaped and maintained. Following his advice, Daceyville's parks were not merely just open space; they were 'designed' spaces; viewing points for residents and visitors to not only take in vistas of the model suburb, but also to experience seclusion and relaxation. Fashionable landscape species were chosen with main boulevards lined with eye catching *Washingtonia* palms while streets were planted with native Brush Box.

It is difficult to distinguish if the park was proposed in the original 1912 plan, the drawings suggesting a 9-way intersection; but by the second 1912 plan the layout had been simplified and both the park and the substation within it are very clearly defined in the drawings. The space was originally named Daceyville Park, however in the late 1980s it received a name change in recognition of John Rowland Dacey's role in conceiving Daceyville in 1912. Dacey Garden Reserve, or Daceyville Park, addresses the intersection of Gardeners Road and Bunnerong Road. The shape of the reserve is that of a fan, with the gentle curve around its southern edge formed by General Bridges Crescent. The park is divided by paths that radiate from the Crescent to the northern edge of the park towards the intersection. Interestingly, these paths today mark where the edges of Cook Avenue and Banks Avenue once began. The original form of the park (as built) was not as one whole as it reads today but rather was broken up into three smaller spaces wedged between the extensions to Cook Avenue and Banks Avenue that originally continued through General Bridges Crescent and terminated at the intersection to the north with wide areas allowed for tram turning radii. This original form of the reserve can be seen both in Sulman's amended 1912 Daceyville design and in a 1943 aerial photograph of the area. The tree-lined Cook and Banks Avenues were 100 feet wide and would have heightened the sense of



'entry' even further. They also would have acted as a strong visual marker of the garden suburb beyond.

Photographs dated 1913 show the completed 'electric power house' in the park, but Sydney City Council (who at the time were responsible for the distribution of electricity infrastructure from their power station at Pyrmont) did not resolve to connect Daceyville until 1917.

J. Lather, who was visiting Daceyville from Queensland in 1919 provides an insight into what the Park looked like soon after it was established, writing...

"In front of [the shops and Dacey Picture Theatre] is a triangular park, well kept and green, with trees along the edge, still in their infancy it is true, but giving promise of glorious shade



Figs 8.2.19 and 8.2.20 show the 1943 (left) and 2014 (right) design of Daceyville Garden Reserve. The original plan was to continue the alignments of Cook and Banks Avenues through the park to the intersection with Anzac Parade, but this was replaced by the radiating avenues being interpreted through the planting and edging in the park, and traffic directed around the perimeter of the quadrant. Comparison of these two aerals also reveals that the north-eastern corner of the park has been eroded by roadworks over the years. The only substantial structure in the Reserve is the former Sydney City (later County) Council Electricity Substation in the eastern wedge. This area is also distinguished in the 1943 image for the relative lack of planting - likely a result of the management of this wedge by Sydney City Council and not the Daceyville Housing Board. (NSW LPI SIX maps)

Fig. 8.2.21 (left) The planting patterns and paths interpret the original radial plan for the park and continue to direct the eye to and from the avenues and Anzac Parade. (Photograph Elizabeth Conroy)

in days to come - and bright beds of cannas making a dash of colour.” (Saturday 15 March 1919, The Queenslander, p.41)

By 1960 traffic densities along Bunnerong and Gardeners Roads had increased and the intersection had become a major one. In May of 1960, land was excised from the reserve to form a curved intersection and in so doing, reduced the size of the reserve slightly and altered its northern boundary from straight to convex. The fan shaped boundary to the south remained unchanged, in effect maintaining the overall shape of the reserve. The avenues were filled in up until General Bridges Crescent, enabling the unification of the landscaping and the creation of a large formal garden entrance to Daceyville and to the former City of Botany Bay.

In 1987 the Council allocated funds for the upgrading of the park as the Mayor, Ron Hoenig, saw its potential to become ‘The Gateway to the Municipality’. This entry-point quality was already legible in the landscape, and plans were drawn up to acknowledge and formalise this aspect of the park. The substation remained under the ownership of Sydney County Council until 1981, when the site was purchased by the then Botany Council and The Department of Lands for inclusion in the Daceyville Garden Reserve for \$8,000. In 1988 a dispute arose over the ownership of the substation, however Council continued to act as caretaker of the substation and associated land.

GLANVILLE PARK & TOWNER GARDENS

Glanville Park is a small triangular piece of parkland situated in a secluded and enclosed space between White Road, Kerr Crescent and Glanville Crescent. It mirrors Towner Gardens which is placed directly opposite, linked by Monash Gardens Avenue. The two parks act as an identical pair, having both been identified and reserved for

*Fig.8.2.22 A formal harbour, planted garden beds and seating were established at the north-eastern corner of the Reserve to establish a sense of arrival to the former Botany Bay LGA at its north-eastern corner and the important intersection with Anzac Parade.
(Photograph Elizabeth Conroy)*



public use in the original 'Daceyville No.2 Subdivision Plan' of 1921. Glanville Park appears to have been named after James Glanville; one of the pioneers for forming Botany into a municipality and a very early employee of Botany Council. The land sales at Pagewood were sluggish for several decades. A 1943 aerial photograph of the area reveals many lots were still vacant. Approximately only a dozen houses looked out onto Glanville Park and there is no evidence of a children's play area or organised sport area. This is mirrored in Towner Gardens to the west. Towner Gardens and Glanville Park were both dedicated for public recreational use on 21 March 1940. The 1943 aerial photograph of the area reveals that at this time Monash Gardens Avenue extended through the parks to form one continuous road from Banks Avenue to Bunnerong Road. Glanville Park was re-dedicated for public recreation on 8 August 1969, however it is likely that by this time the road had been closed to form one unified space at both Glanville Park and Towner Gardens

MUTCH PARK

Please refer to Section 3.10, Mining.

Fig. 8.2.23 Children's play equipment has been updated but retains a traditional Inter-war character of water-pipe construction.

(Photograph Elizabeth Conroy)



THEME 8.3 RELIGION

The relevant National-level theme is *developing Australia's cultural life*. The relevant state theme is *religion*. Local themes within this theme are activities associated with particular systems of faith and worship. The following activities and places in the former Botany Bay LGA are relevant to this theme:

- Uniting
- Presbyterian
- Methodist
- Anglican
 - St Matthews Church
- Roman Catholic
 - St Bernard's Church
 - St Therese's Church

Other relevant themes:

- 2.2 Convict (Simeon Lord)
- 4.2 Towns, suburbs and villages
- 4.5.2 Accommodation (Daceyville)
- 6.0 Education

UNITING

The Uniting Church in Australia was established on 22 June 1977, when most congregations of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches came together under the Basis of Union. As this is a late merging of churches, there are no historic 'uniting' churches in Botany Bay. There are however two Presbyterian churches (768 & 1561 Botany Road, Botany), one congregational (40 King Street, Eastlakes), one Wesleyan church (118 Coward Street, Mascot) and one historic Methodist church, which no longer operates but whose building still stands at 1355 Botany Road, Botany.

PRESBYTERIAN

Presbyterian worship services were being held in the Botany District as early as 1860. They were held under the ministry of Rev. Samuel Humphries, with overall administration of the Botany District coming under Rev. Dr. Fullerton of the Pitt Street Church, and then, following the establishment of the Parish of Waterloo, under the Rev. Thomas J. Curtis. Services were often held at the Botany School of Arts from 1873 to 1879, when a suitable site for a church and manse was obtained in southern Botany (1561 Botany Road).



The site was only acquired through the generosity and influence of John Geddes, who donated towards the cost of the building. Geddes was an influential tannery entrepreneur, owning at least three and quite possibly more, tanneries and associated works. In September 1879 Rev. Dr. Fullerton laid the foundation stone of the new Presbyterian church and in February 1880 the opening ceremony of the newly completed church was performed by Rev. Dr. J. McGibbon. The church was made of brick and stone and had cost £1,000 to build.

Further alterations were made to the parish boundaries over the decades. Botany and North Botany (Mascot) were separated, not from each other like the other denominations had tended to do, but from Waterloo to form the Parish of Alexandria, which four years later was renamed Botany. It was not until 1903 though that the church had its own Presbyterian minister. A manse was erected in 1896 and finally Rev. James Carson took over the administration and care of the parish.

METHODIST

The early establishment of Methodist chapels was linked with Lord's mill and cloth industries, which drew heavily on west country and Welsh workers, the 'home' of Methodism. Although Lord's family was formally affiliated with the Anglican church, Lord is known to have provided also for the local Methodist community, with the records of the 1821 Methodist Conference revealing that a Sunday School was "regularly held in a cloth factory at Botany Bay, where eighteen boys attend". George Lord, Simeon Lord's son, later donated the land in

Fig 8.3.1 Presbyterian Church and Manse. The two buildings are set only centimeters from each other, with overlapping gutters. (BCHA)

Botany Road between Daphne and Hickson Streets, opposite the new village of Booralee, for the establishment of a Methodist Church. The Rev. Ralph Mansfield notes in his journal, dated 31 January 1822, that there were four Methodist Sunday Schools in Sydney, one of which was situated on Botany Road. He records that this school was held in a cloth manufactory and instruction given to about twenty boys.

Methodist meetings seem to have continued for some time at the fulling mill, however meetings were also held at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel. In 1854 a Methodist Chapel was built on land donated by George Lord which fronted Botany Road (1355 Botany Road). The rear of the site, and later the land behind, are identified on contemporary maps as a burial ground for the church. The bodies were later re-interred elsewhere, including several at Botany Cemetery in c.1924.

In 1888 another church was erected beside the chapel and was used as a Sunday School. (This is why there appears to be two 'church' structures on the land to this day.) The old church was demolished in 1902 and replaced by a new structure which is what can be seen today at 1355 Botany Road, Botany. The foundation stones of the 1902 rebuild were laid by the Rev. G. Lane and by three prominent citizens – R.J. Anderson, W. Stephen and W. Pemberton.

The beginnings of the Methodist Church in Mascot date somewhat later (in the historical records at least). In 1843 local preacher, Thomas Harris, was authorised to conduct services at his residence in Kent Road. Up until this point, the Mascot Methodists usually ventured north (often on foot) to Macquarie Street, Sydney to attend worship, rather than south to the Botany Hall. The Methodist Church at

Figs 8.3.2 and 8.3.3 The Botany Methodist Church - with original roof form (left) and as altered (right) (BCHA)





118-122 Coward Street in Mascot was formed following the joining of three separate groups who operated concurrently in the area until 1901 when the Methodist Church In Australia was formed through the amalgamation of the Primitive Methodists, the Free Methodists, the Wesleyan Methodists and the Bible Christians. All except the Bible Christians had well-established congregations and meetings in early North Botany/Mascot.

The Primitive Methodists began their services in the area as early as 1843. They met in the private residence of their preacher, Mr Thomas Harris. In 1850 they moved to a chapel built on land donated by Harris' neighbour, George Stiff (now part of 639 Gardeners Road). The Primitive Methodists continued to meet at the Chapel on Gardeners Road until the formation of the Methodist Church.

The foundation stone for a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was laid in April 1850 at the south-western corner of the intersection of O'Riordan Street and Church Avenue (now on the site of the development known as 1 Church Avenue), on land donated by Mr Edward Flood. This Chapel was known as the "Botany Chapel" to distinguish it from the "Botany Bay Chapel" on Simeon Lord's land to the south; and the "Botany Road Chapel" in Chippendale/Redfern. (Sydney Morning Herald, 10 August 1864, p.3)

Fig.8.3.4 Mascot Uniting Church at 139 Coward Street. (BCHA)

The third group, formed by the Free Methodists of Alexandria, had established a chapel in August 1887 on land purchased from Mrs

Dougherty in Coward Street (then known as Ricketty Street) which was at the eastern edge of the market gardens between Gordon and Dougherty Streets. It was accommodated in a weatherboard building of 30 by 22 feet, described as “lofty and well ventilated”, and it was anticipated at the time that “[it] will be much appreciated by the large number of people who have settled on the east side of Botany Road.....among whom hitherto no place for worship has existed” (Daily Telegraph, 17 August 1886. p.5).

Following the joining of the three churches, the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Gardener’s Road was closed and both the Free Methodist Chapel at the eastern end of Coward Street and the Botany Chapel on Old Botany Road continued to provide services under the same Minister until the construction of the church at 118-122 Coward Street allowed the congregations to merge. By 1915 it was decided that a larger church and more central location were required, the (former) Free Methodist group considering that they were “away from the centre of things, and was not in a strategic position”, so a new site was sought. The property selected was still on Coward Street, but closer to the intersection with Botany Road, between Botany Road and William Street (now Middlemiss Street).

A tender for the construction of the church was let in January 1915 (Construction and Local Government Journal, 25 January 1915. p1); and on Saturday 1st of May there was a gala day to celebrate the laying of the foundation stones for the new church building. The architect and builder were not named in the notice. Six stones were laid and a short service was held. The church opened later that year, followed by a Sunday School. The school was originally known as the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School of Botany, however was changed to Mascot Methodist Sunday School. The Mascot Methodist Kindergarten Hall opened on the site in 1923.

In 1940 further territorial changes were made in the administration of Methodist services, essentially forming churches at Rosebery and Mascot as one parish. In 1958 a Methodist Church commenced construction at Pagewood, while at around this time a small but attractive church was built at the corner of Page Street and Wentworth Avenue. The building is unique in the history of Methodism in Australia for its large featured mural on the sanctuary wall depicting the last supper, the work of Botany artist Lucy Hertz.



CONGREGATIONAL

The first congregational services conducted in the Botany District had been held in 1911 at a local hall named Dudley Hall, just north of Park Road (now Wentworth Avenue). The meetings were presided over by the Rev. John Beckenham. The initial congregation was small, numbering just sixteen in the morning and forty-five at the evening meeting. Several weeks after commencing the gatherings, a Sunday School was opened. Patronage grew quickly and by 1914 the Congregational Church had opened a new church building that could accommodate 300 people, located just south of Park Road (Wentworth Avenue). This was on the site of 1293 Botany Road, and was later used as the Church's hall until being demolished in 2017 for the Westconnex road project.

When Rev. Beckenham died in 1916 a home missionary assumed management of the services until 1924 when Rev. S.S.W. Horner (M.M) was appointed to the church leadership, a position he held until his death in 1950. During Horner's administration a kindergarten hall and vestry were added to the church hall. a new church building was erected on the site (1295 Botany Road) which adjoined the existing hall and added a School at the rear. Presumably the congregation continued to grow, because in 1930 architect A. Lanyon Clark was engaged to design a new church building. The new building was "to be erected upon a site adjoining the existing hall" (25 April 1933, The Sydney Morning Herald, p.2) (on the site of 1295 Botany Road). The new

Fig8.3.5 A sketch of the new Beckenham Memorial Congregational Church at Mascot, placed in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1933.

(Tuesday 25 April 1933, The Sydney Morning Herald, p.2)

church opened in September 1933 and became the third church building for this growing congregation in just under twenty years.

Built over two lots, it was described as a “*church hall, with a school at the rear*”. (25 April 1933, The Sydney Morning Herald, p.2) The foundation stone was laid on Saturday 20 May 1933 by the chairman of the Union (Rev. R. B. Reynolds), Mrs J Beckenham, senior and the Rev. S.W. Horner. (20 May 1933, The Sydney Morning Herald, p.7)

The new church was built by G.L.Taylor and was designed to be able to seat 200 people. It featured a dark face brick gabled church building in a simple Inter-war Gothic style, with a gabled terracotta tiled roof, brick buttresses, stained glass windows and a large circular stained glass window on its façade. In honour of the congregation’s original pastor, the building was named the Beckenham Memorial Congregational Church and was opened in September 1933.

Rev. Horner who pastored the congregation during this time was also responsible for the establishment of another congregational church at Eastlakes (40 King Street) in 1936, and acted as minister for both. The name of the second church was the East Mascot Congregational Church. Following Rev. Horner’s death in 1950 the Mascot Church installed a fine stained glass window, and in 1957 they purchased the Horner Memorial Manse in Flora Street, Mascot.

The Uniting Church in Australia was established on 22 June 1977 when most congregations of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches came together under the Basis of Union. From this time, the church at 1295 Botany Road became the Beckenham Memorial Uniting Church.

The lower Mascot church on Botany Road was closed and land resumed in 2015 as part of the New South Wales WestConnex Project. The 1933 church building has been retained however the adjoining c.1914 church hall with adjoining school and vestry were demolished as part of the works. The congregation relocated and joined the congregation of Mascot’s sister church at Eastlakes in 2015. The church at Eastlakes was renamed the Beckenham Horner Memorial Uniting Church in memory of Rev. Beckenham and Rev. Horner.



ANGLICAN

Botany was originally within the diocesan Parish of St. Philip, which was proclaimed by Governor King in 1802. In 1838 a new parish, Cook's River which included Botany, was created. Following a further subdivision in 1864, the area fell within the Waterloo Parish and twenty years later the district of Botany was granted its independence in 1884. John Lord was a trustee of the parish church erected at Cook's River (St. Peter's). The Botany folk who attended the services are recorded as having *"walked through the bush amongst the tall stately trees where wild flowers grew in abundance, crossing Chaise [Sheas] Creek over stones laid for the purpose where all had to watch their steps to avoid a ducking."* (BCHA)

Simeon Lord displayed a keen interest in the spiritual life of the district and the first local services were held in a building which he provided at his mills.

The first formal Anglican church in the Botany area was erected in 1841. Advertisements in the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* and the *Australian* invited interested parishioners to attend a meeting at Lord's, Mudbank, Botany to do with the *"Botany Church...about to be erected in the Parish of Botany"*, and furthermore, that the Lord Bishop of Australia was expected to attend. (Tuesday 30 March 1841, The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, p.1; Tuesday 30 March 1841, The Australian, p.1)

Fig 8.3.6 St Matthew's Anglican church c.1938 (BCHA)

Fig 8.3.7 St Matthew's Anglican church c.1963 (BCHA)

Trustees were appointed and within the year the church had been erected *"completely furnished and even provided with a harmonium"*. (BCHA)

In the 1850s a larger and more central building was rendered necessary by the increasing population. Funds were raised and land was donated by George Lord (Simeon Lord had died in 1840) just near the Mill Pond along Botany Road. The foundation stone of the new St. Matthew's Church was laid by Bishop Barker in March 1862 and the building was completed by November. Further developments included a rectory in 1892, a parish hall in 1902 and a mortuary (date not known). Nearby Anglican churches were St. Mark's at Matraville, St. Silas' at Waterloo and St. John's at Banksmeadow, opened by Dean Talbot.

The Anglican Church did not establish a parish church in Mascot until 1912, when the Archbishop of Sydney laid the foundation stone of St. Luke's church and hall. For twenty-six years St. Luke's was a 'daughter church' of St. Matthew's (meaning St. Matthew provided assistance where necessary to keep the church functioning) and was therefore serviced by a Botany rector until 1938 when Mascot became a provincial district and acquired Rev. W.S.McLeod as its first minister.

The Mascot district experienced early difficulties. Finance was limited and there was no residence for the minister. For a time one clergyman even occupied a premises above a butcher's shop in Botany Road. In 1948 a new brick rectory was finally completed.

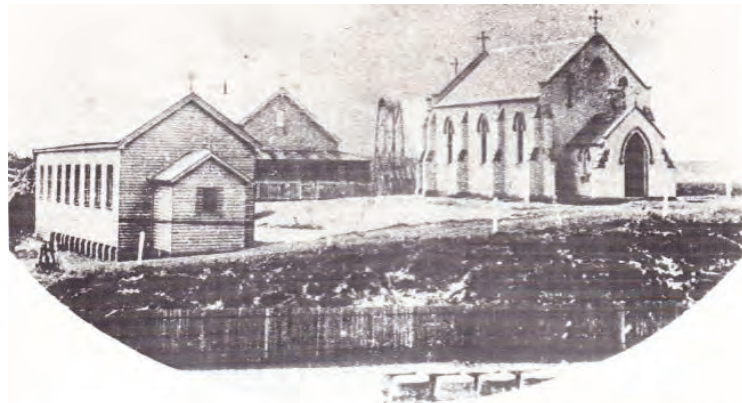
As the parish of Eastlakes became more populous a second Anglican church was established in 1943. Today St. Matthew's at Botany and St. Stephen's at Eastlakes remain open Parish Churches.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Bernard's Church

The first Catholic Church in Botany was erected in 1860 as a modest stone building at a site along Botany Road. The land was donated by Edward Lord, another member of the prominent Lord family who were ecumenical in their support of the establishment of Christian churches in the Botany area.

The construction of the church was due to the fundraising efforts of Mr Smith (tanner), Mr O'Rourke (publican at the Half-Way House at Gardeners Road) and Mr Williamson, a former chairman of Redfern



ORIGINAL BUILDINGS AT BOTANY, PHOTOGRAPHED BEFORE 1895
Above left to right: First schoolroom, first convent, bell tower, 1860 church



Fig 8.3.8 The St Bernard's site along Botany Road pre-1890, showing the 1860 church building (right), the first school room (left), the first convent (background, middle) and a bell tower (to the rear of the church) (BCHA)

Fig 8.3.9 St Bernard's Church & Presbytery, n.d. c. late 19th century. Both church and school buildings had undergone major additions by this time. (BCHA)

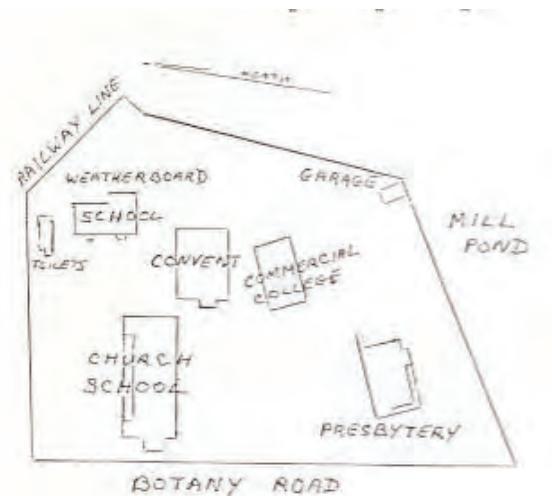


Fig 8.3.10 Site sketch of the St Bernard's complex. n.d. (BCHA)

Municipal Council. Originally the church was associated with the Parish of St. Benedict's and then the Franciscan Fathers until Botany became part of the Mount Carmel Parish.

In April 1885 the district of Botany came under the control of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and Father Hartzler became the first parish priest. His successor, Father Henry Chetoal, was instrumental in having the church enlarged and a school inaugurated. In 1908 the parish was transferred to the secular clergy, and through the efforts of the Rev. Father Dowling, a presbytery was added.

On 31 January 1885, five Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) arrived in Sydney and took up residence in a cottage in Botany Road. Although today St. Bernard's Church is in the suburb of Botany, the 1889 Sands Directory reveals that the Sisters were actually living at the southern end of North Botany, between Hollingshed Street and the Botany dams. There was soon a group of buildings that formed part of the site; the St. Bernards schoolroom, the St. Bernard's Church and the Sacred Heart Convent.

St Therese's

The growing Catholic population soon necessitated a second church and so in 1940 an 'out-church' called St. Therese's was opened, situated at the corner of Coward, Sutherland and Harris Streets in Rosebery.

In 1954 the Department of Civil Aviation purchased the group of St. Bernard's buildings and subsequently demolished them to make way for the nearby airport infrastructure and development. In 1955 four new buildings were blessed and opened in Ramsgate Street, Botany. The school and presbytery were new buildings while two adjacent brick cottages were remodelled for the convent. St. Therese subsequently became the new headquarters of the Parish of Mascot while St. Bernard's continued to be a non-leading church in its new home on Ramsgate Street in the Parish of Botany.

St Michael's

For the history of St Michael's Church at Daceyville, see Schools (p.353).

THEME 8.4 SPORT

The relevant National-level theme is *developing Australia's cultural life*. The relevant state theme is *sport*. Local themes within this theme are activities associated with organised recreational and health promotional activities. The following activities and places in the former Botany Bay LGA are relevant to this theme:

- Athletics & Botany Harriers
- Bowls
- Cycling
- Golf
 - The Lakes Golf Club & Eastlakes Golf Club
 - Bonnie Doon Golf Club
 - Botany Golf Club
- Horse Racing
 - Ascot Racecourse
 - Rosebery Racecourse
- Rifle Shooting
- Rugby League and Rugby Union
- Soccer

Other relevant themes:

8.2 Leisure

8.4.1 ATHLETICS & BOTANY HARRIERS

Apart from horse racing, athletics appears to have been the first truly competitive sport in Botany that attracted more than just local interest. The role the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel played in establishing a connection between Botany and foot racing has been discussed previously. The track at the Hotel achieved worldwide fame for the professional athletic events conducted there over the years. Foot racing fell in popularity towards the end of the 19th century, however in 1907 an interest in athletics was revived in an amateur setting.

Harrier Clubs were local social clubs for cross-country athletics. The first meeting held in Botany took place in a small shop at the corner of Botany Road and Bay Street; humble beginnings for a Club that would end up being one of the most successful Harrier Clubs in Sydney, if not Australia. Just one year after its commencement the Botany Harriers became the champion long-distance club. Between 1908 and 1938 the Club won the Cross Country Championship twelve times, the 10 miles championship thirteen times and the Novice Cross Country Championship seven times, as well as dozens of others too numerous to list here. The cups won by the Club were housed at the Botany School of Arts (now the John Brothie



Kindergarten). The membership grew from seven at its first meeting to 100 in 1938, including several Olympians, namely Jimmy Carlton, George Golding, George Avery and Allan Lawrence, who was placed in the 10 000 metres at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.



Fig 8.4.1 (right) A Harriers race along Botany Road c.1940s. (BCHA)

Fig 8.4.2 (left) Cecil (Chic) Hensley of the Botany Harriers running a marathon race c.1940. Hensley won several championship titles. He became Mayor of Botany in 1945 and Hensley Athletic Field in Eastgardens was named after him. (BCHA)



Although numbers were solid, Botany Harriers had one limiting factor to their potential growth: the absence of a high school in Botany. High schools acted as nurseries for any Harrier club and they were markedly territorial over the boys coming up through the system. From 1945 onwards many Harrier Clubs began to sponsor schoolboy championships in an effort to boost memberships, leaving Botany Harriers feeling indignant that without a local school to sponsor, they were losing their own local Botany schoolboys to rival clubs. Fears generally subsided however when the Council amalgamation in 1948 made the Botany Harriers the largest club in New South Wales; by 1969, the membership had grown to over 200.

8.4.2 BOWLS

Bowls was one of the earliest sports to be played in Botany. As early as 1854 the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel provided bowls to amuse visitors. No club was formed but the game was played on the Hotel lawns

Fig. 8.43 Botany Harriers' Club Championship - celebrating the success of the team and its individual runners. 1920. (BCHA)



Fig 8.4.4 Members of the Mascot Bowls club. (BCHA)

Fig. 8.4.5 Lawn Bowls was one of the sporting facilities provided by major employers such as ICIANZ for employees and the community. 1967 Community Bowls Day at ICIANZ. (Photograph by Jack Hickson, SLNSW Australian Photographic Agency - 26324)

for many years. In 1928 there was an unsuccessful attempt to form a bowling club at Mascot Memorial Park. Instead, bowls were played extensively on the private greens provided by the large industrial firms such as ICIANZ (Orica) complex, Gelco, Davis Gelatine and the Australian Wool Producers.

A site was later purchased for the greens and clubhouse out of land known as Possum Paddock. The building was small but long anticipated. Eventually in 1954 a larger premises was built with a carpeted lounge, dance floor, two bars and a kitchen.

8.4.3 CYCLING

The Botany Amateur Cycling Club was founded in 1903. The headquarters were at a shop near the corner of Botany Road and King Street, owned by Frank Callman, the manufacturer of Ascot bicycles. The old Botany tram hues of green and white were adopted as the team's colours and Alf Bridges was made the first captain. The club races commenced outside of Thornton's Newmarket Hotel on the corner of Gardeners Road and Botany Road – the 'gateway' to the suburbs of Botany from the main city thoroughfare.

Three types of races were commonly entered; short races to Rosebery Racecourse, middle distances to Bunnerong Road and long events to Matraville School and return, in each instance, to Thornton's Newmarket Hotel.

8.4.4 GOLF

The Botany District had four golf links within its boundaries; The Lakes, Eastlake, Bonnie Doon and Botany Golf Course. It could be claimed that Botany is unusual in this respect, for it has such a large proportion of its area, approximately 15%, devoted to the one sport.

The game of golf can be traced in its modern form back to the 18th century in Scotland, and earlier versions as early as Classical times. It took some time for the game to be introduced in New South Wales, and it was not until the late 19th century, when immigrants with playing experience arrived from the British Isles, that the game was generally adopted. The oldest golf club in Australia is the Australian Golf Club (1882) and, interestingly, this club opened and played on the first links at Botany from 1898 to 1905.



The Botany Bay area lends itself highly to the game of golf. Sandhills, swamps and streams were natural forms of Botany Bay's terrain. The Botany links were officially opened by the Governor, Lord Hampden, on 18 February 1899. The Australian Golf Club hosted several national championships at their Botany site. The Ladies Golf Union also held its first colonial championship in 1903 and in 1904 the Australian Golf Union held its first national titles at the Botany links also. The seven year lease held by the Australian Golf Club came to an end and they moved in 1905 to the north, to a 176 acre site in Kensington/Rosebery, where they have remained to this day.

In 1905 the New South Wales Golf Council was constituted to control the game in the metropolitan area. The New South Wales Golf Association was formed in 1948.

THE LAKES GOLF CLUB & EASTLAKE GOLF CLUB

There was a period of inactivity in the sport in Botany Bay following the Australian Golf Club's departure in 1905. It was not until May 1928 that a permanent links course was contemplated for the area. A syndicate led by George Solomon successfully tendered to lease 283 acres of the Botany Water Reserve from the Sydney Water Board to construct two golf courses. A provisional committee drew up plans for a course and founded The Lakes Golf Club. The new 18-hole course took full strategic advantage of the large lake within the holding and in April 1930 the course was opened and recognised by experts as "a true test for any champion".

Fig. 8.4.6 Cycling in Botany was not limited to road racing. Mayor Hoenig opening Botany Council's new BMX track on 30 October 1992. (BCHA)



Part of the terms included opening a public course simultaneously, and it was this agreement that led to the Eastlake golf course being constructed on the Lakes' adjoining land. Whereas golf courses would usually be designed to suit the existing terrain, the redesigned Lakes course was designed to have the mounds and rolls constructed in the positions where they should ideally be. This added technical skill and enjoyment to the course. Tom E.Howard and world renowned golf course architect Eric Apperly designed the courses and made sure to fashion a unique terrain that included sandhills, mounds, valleys and wild bushland around the large water mass *“that would offer Sydney golfers something distinctive”*. (Bruce Johnson, *“A History of The Lakes 1928-2014”*)

In May 1934 The Lakes Golf Club organised the first international golf match held in Australia, held between a top league American team and an Australian team. The Lakes Golf Club was also host to the Lakes Open and the NSW Open and Closed Championship.

Fig. 8.4.7 Location of Golf Courses

1. The Lakes
2. Eastlake Golf Club
3. Bonnie Doon Golf Club
4. Botany Golf Club

In 1958 the Eastlakes Club formed and took control of the Eastlakes course from the Lakes Club. Eastlakes, because of its lower grading, was not used for major tournaments, and nor was The Lakes.



The government's decision to build Southern Cross Drive in 1968 led to the Lakes course being closed. The works did not interfere with the Eastlake course as the Drive was constructed along the course's western boundary. Well regarded American architect, Robert von Hagge, redesigned the Lakes course and playing resumed with minimal disruption

BONNIE DOON GOLF CLUB

The third golf links in Botany Bay was constructed at Pagewood in 1937 for the New Metropolitan Golf Club Pty Ltd. Lance Giddings oversaw the construction and esteemed architect Eric Apperly was commissioned to design the clubhouse and golf course. Apperly had previously been involved with the designs of both the Eastlake and Lakes courses, as well as the Bonnie Doon Golf Club near Arncliffe.



Fig. 8.4.8 Unidentified player on The Lakes Golf Course. The course was devoid of vegetation in its early years.

(Photograph 1934. Hood Collection part 1. SLNSW. Home and Away - 203-. Also available online at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/11644881>)

Fig. 8.4.9 Newly completed Metropolitan Golf Club House at Pagewood (Bonnie Doon) c.1938 (BCHA)

The New Metropolitan Golf Club was constituted in June 1937; its Clubhouse was completed in September 1937 and in the following year the 18-hole links were laid down. In 1939 the diversion of the Cooks River and other constructions associated with the extension of Kingsford Smith Airport caused the resumption of the previously mentioned Bonnie Doon golf links near Arncliffe. Subsequently a merger was arranged between the Bonnie Doon Golf Club and the New Metropolitan Club where rights to use the Pagewood course were transferred from Giddings to the Bonnie Doon Club in 1947. Bonnie Doon Club absorbed the members of the former association.

The Bonnie Doon Golf Course is graded as a Group One and was the site chosen for the State amateur golf championship in 1969.

BOTANY GOLF CLUB

The fourth golf course in Botany Bay is situated at Banksmeadow Park. Run by Botany Golf Club, the course is not a championship course, nor has it been used for any major tournaments. Steps were taken to establish the Links on 7 September 1932 following a Minute submitted by Mayor Kerr. It was considered that as other forms of sport were catered for, and with a view to keeping the area, Banksmeadow Park, in reasonable order and condition (without it being a drain on Council revenue), a nine-hole golf course be constructed on the site. The course was designed to stretch between Botany Road and Bay, and from the Pier Road to the Randwick-Botany Municipal boundary. Work commenced on the course in 1934 under the Relief



Fig 8.4.10 *The Botany Golf Club located on the shores of Botany Bay n.d. (BCHA)*

Works Scheme– a popular scheme used to create several Botany Bay landmarks including the Botany Town Hall (see page 391).

The Botany Golf Course was declared officially open by the Hon. H.E.Manning, M.L.C., Attorney-General. The course was extended to an 18-hole links in April 1936. It remains today a more secluded and small scale course set between Botany Road and Foreshore Road, in the foreground to Port Botany beyond.

8.4.5 HORSE RACING

For more information on what can only be described here in brief detail, Wayne Peake has written a compelling history of unregistered horse racing in Sydney, of which both Ascot and Rosebery racecourses were a part. The following sections are based on his thesis, *'Unregistered Proprietary Horse Racing in Sydney 1888 - 1942'*, December 2004.

Horse events and racing were amongst Botany's earliest sports. Popular horseback hurdle races and steeplechases were run throughout the 1840s, followed by some horse racing and, even horse riding lessons at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel. Race organisers were attracted to Botany for its flat terrain, quality of sand under the horse's hoof and close proximity to the city. An article printed in the *Australian* on 14 December 1841 gives a wonderful insight into just how passionate the atmosphere for horse events was at Botany...



Fig.8.4.11 Location of racecourses.
1. Rosebery Racecourse (original location; in Sydney City)
2. Ascot Racecourse
3. Rosebery Racecourse (relocated)

“every vehicle serviceable as a conveyance mingled with the tide of eager wayfarers, who were hurrying on the wings of joyous anticipation towards Botany Bay. Botany Bay! Who that looks back to his boyhood and recollects the associations which were twined with that name will not be tempted to smile at the difference of feelings respecting it, which time and circumstance have awakened.”

“The race took place three miles over the Botany Bay country, with nine post and rail fences four feet high. The ground is heavy and sandy, and calculated to try the wind and bottom of the horses.” (p.2)

The crowd was “much gratified” by the race result and the competitors were “good sports all, even the losers and those who had to walk back through the sand to Sydney”. It notes at the end that another race was scheduled that afternoon over on the “Sandy Race Course” – this was the Randwick racecourse.

ASCOT RACECOURSE

Ascot Racecourse was the second racecourse in the Botany Bay District, after Rosebery Racecourse, which had opened near the corner of Gardeners and Botany Roads in 1895. Ascot Racecourse no longer exists today, being engulfed in 1947 for a large expansion of Sydney Airport. Today many do not even know that the racecourse ever existed.

Peake writes that the conception of Ascot Racecourse was actually somewhat of a “payback” in consequence of a feud between the Pony and Galloway Owners Association (PGOA) and the Kensington Race Club. The PGOA conceived of the racecourse, and the Lord’s Ground Syndicate financed it. At this time there was bitter rivalry between pony and race clubs. Kensington Race Club was a dominant player in the disputes. The PGOA was formed out of disgruntlement towards Kensington Club’s “superciliousness and a growing propensity for punitive disqualifications”. It was this ‘snootiness’ and harsh penalties for betrayal of loyalty that caused the PGOA to form as a quasi-cooperative in an attempt to recover some control of the industry which Kensington Club had monopolised, and in so doing, “force it to the bargaining table”. PGOA’s first racecourse created to achieve this was the Ascot at Mascot.



Ascot Racecourse held its first meeting on 7 April 1906 whereupon 2,300 “curious racegoers” travelled to Mascot (later Mascot) to experience the new venue. To ease travel to the site, the large crowds were moved to and from the racecourse by a dedicated tram line which ran up Lords Road from Botany Road. Many bookmakers from Kensington were kept away from early Ascot events with the threat of disqualification. Ascot, however, reciprocated with similar bans.

Ascot hosted three circuits – an inside grass track, a tan track and a cinder trotting course. Allen Windross, a resident of Lauriston Park in the 1940s, recalls how in the earlier years a number of houses on the approach to the racecourse along Lords Road had tall timber towers on their land which were utilised by radio stations to broadcast descriptions of races in progress on the racecourse.

Although the Ascot Racecourse was successful in drawing crowds away from Kensington and lowering its entry fees, Ascot lost a considerable sum of money within its first few months of operation. Despite this, Ascot was not as financially successful as Kensington, Ascot was generally considered to be the more modern and most fashionable site and still drew reliable decent crowds. The grandstands featured attractive gabled roofs and Norfolk pine tree plantings ran parallel to the back straight, while others marked the Engine pond and paddock entrance. An article written in the *Referee* newspaper in 1906 spoke of Ascot as... “Popular, pure and pretty; fringed with lofty pines, the verdure is refreshing to the eye. In the distance [are] the limpid waters of Botany Bay”. (Not mentioned are the lingering fumes of

*Fig. 8.4.12 The Ascot Racecourse in 1943 overlaid on a 2014 aerial of Kingsford Smith Airport. The tracks were situated at the eastern end of today’s east-west runway.
(Base: NSW LPI SIX maps)*

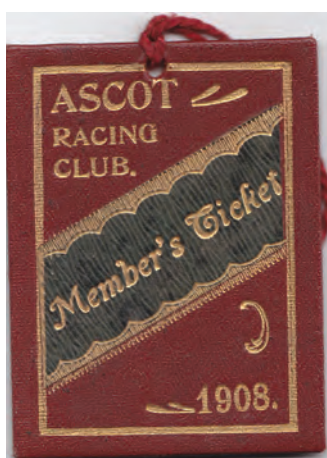


Fig. 8.4.13 Yearly ticket for 1908 to the Ascot Racing Club (BCHA)

Fig. 8.4.14 1908 Member's Ticket to the Ascot Racing Club. (BCHA)

the nearby tanneries and boiling down works if the wind blew in a certain direction!) (Wednesday 11 April 1906, Referee, p.4).

The Ascot site also included recreation grounds. (In fact, the business name was The Ascot Racecourse and Recreation Grounds Ltd and in 1924 it was the venue chosen for the State ten miles championship.) The racecourse's flat, open and well-turfed surface also made Ascot an ideal place for aviation. The first aeroplane flight over Sydney was made from Ascot Racecourse in April 1911, by J.J. Hammond in his Boxkite plane. (Hammond flew again from the Ascot on the 3rd and 5th of May 1911). In the following year, 1912, over 50,000 people flocked to Ascot to watch the 'first international air race' between an Australian dentist and flying enthusiast named William Hart and the American daredevil 'Wizard Stone' (Arthur Burr). (Much to the disappointment of the gathered crowd, the event was postponed due to strong winds.)

Functionally Ascot was also much more capable of coping with wet weather than most other tracks in Sydney (bar Rosebery Racecourse, which was similarly as competent). Ascot continued to schedule events precisely when Kensington would also be racing – causing long-held ire, distrust and rivalry between the two clubs.

As Peake describes, the feud between Kensington and Ascot Clubs came to an end when it was realised that the Government was possibly going to bring an end to all private race clubs. The clubs decided to present a unified front and brought an end to competitive scheduling (which was rife across Sydney, not just between Kensington and Ascot). They agreed on a calendar for future years, however their fears were confirmed when in 1943 the new Sydney Turf Act was introduced, rendering their new calendar obsolete.

The Act had taken forty years to draft and gave the newly formed Sydney Turf Club the power to bring an end to privately owned race clubs through a special Racing Compensation Fund, instead bringing them under one club which aimed to host 62 race meetings a year at the various tracks. Many private clubs ceased to exist formally with the introduction of the ban, however thanks to their recent truce, Sydney's clubs continued to race at each other's courses once their leases expired between 1940 and 1944. Victoria Park, Canterbury, Rosehill, Moorefield (at Rockdale) and Mascot's Rosebery were just some of the many clubs affected by the Sydney Turf Act. As was the

case for many of the racecourses, after the cessation of formal private club racing at Ascot, the site continued to be used as a training track, for both horses and some athletics.

Ascot Racecourse was closed in 1943 when it was used by the Second and Third Employment Companies in World War II. 1943 aerial photographs of Ascot Racecourse reveal some evidence of military occupation in the form of small temporary huts, however the scale of war activity carried out at Ascot Racecourse was clearly not as great as that which was carried out at neighbouring Rosebery and Kensington Racecourse.

This difference in scale of occupation is important to note because there was a second Ascot Racecourse, in Brisbane, which became a major World War II military camp occupied by the first US Army troops established in Australia. The Brisbane Ascot, renamed Camp Ascot during the war years, could be easily confused with Mascot's Ascot Racecourse in early aerial photographs because both have airstrips and a winding watercourse in the background. Upon closer inspection however the spatial relationships between these elements are quite different, and the Brisbane camp has a duplicated track compared to the single one at Mascot.

Military occupation of certain racecourses led to damage to the course proper and infrastructure on each site. The Federal Government agreed to pay compensation for the damage however payment was delayed for several years and the amount given was not enough to return the tracks to their pre-war condition. At the same time the Government came down increasingly hard on the horse racing industry, to the point where racing at Ascot, and at nearby Rosebery, became totally unviable. The last race at Ascot was had on 22 August 1942.

In September 1947 the *Commonwealth Gazette* gazetted the federal government's resumption of Ascot Racecourse for the purposes of accommodating larger civil aircraft. The historic association between aviation and the Ascot Racecourse through J.J. Hammond's historic 1911 flight had come full circle. The Department of Civil Aviation resumed the racecourse for the expansion of Sydney Airport and the remaining horses and trainers still using the facilities were required to vacate the site.



Today all that remains of Ascot Racecourse are 15 fig trees which were planted as feature landscaping at the entrance to the site. This is now located near the helicopter precinct, while other landscape plantings associated with the Racecourse include Norfolk Island Pines, Canary Island Date Palms and a Chinese Redwood which are located between the helicopter precinct and the SWSOOS.

ROSEBERY RACECOURSE

There have been two Rosebery Racecourses over the course of Botany Bay's history. The first was established in 1895 on a 20 acre portion of the Cooper Estate. The course was built outside of the current Botany Bay LGA at the north-western corner of the Botany and Gardeners Road intersection. Many historic references state that the Rosebery Racecourse was opposite James Thornton's Newmarket Hotel; this is slightly misleading for the racecourse actually sat diagonally across from the Newmarket at some distance away from the intersection.

James Murtough, the race starter, measurer and sometime promoter of horse races down at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, formed a small syndicate of prominent local businessmen to build the first Rosebery Racecourse. A crowd of 1500 to 2000 racegoers attended its first meeting on 12 March 1895. The Rosebery Club was actually the first to conduct unregistered horse racing on a purpose-built track with no associated hotel adjacent to the site.

The first Rosebery Racecourse was small - approximately one tenth the size of Flemington. It was 40 to 50 feet wide and had a

Fig 8.4.15 The Grandstand at Rosebery Racecourse, Rosebery, after being vacated by the Department of Defence in 1946. (Australian War Memorial Research Centre, 126627)



circumference of four furlongs, with a relatively long one-furlong home straight. By all standards, Rosebery was a tight course. Tight circuits were particularly dangerous for both jockeys and horses, and the first Rosebery Park course was “particularly deadly”. On the first day of racing in 1895 a crowd of 1,500-2,000 racegoers had gathered to watch the proceedings, but to their horror, they saw one jockey killed and another seriously injured in two separate events that day. Many more deaths at Rosebery followed in 1896, 1897, 1899, 1901 and in 1905. An inquest into the death of jockey T.W.Adams, who had died in 1905, noted the safety of the Rosebery course a serious issue.

In 1906 the government introduced gaming and betting legislation that had many ramifications for the horse racing industry, one of which was minimum course circumferences which ultimately forced all meetings to be held at larger tracks.

The same syndicate that had formed the first Rosebery course went on to the second one. It was to be known as Rosebery Park Racecourse and was located on the southern side of Gardeners Road about 1km to the east on the edge of the Botany Wetlands on land that was originally part of the Lindsey Estate. The new racecourse was built by Foran & Co. and was opened in 1906. A new grandstand

Fig. 8.4.16 Rosebery Park Racecourse in 1943. It was established following the closure of the original Rosebery Racecourse at the north-western corner of the intersection of Botany Road and Gardeners Road. This racecourse was also used by the Army during and immediately after World War II, and in this photograph the Army tents can be seen in the centre of the track.
(NSW LPI SIX maps)

was built in the paddock and although the stand from the old track was moved over to serve patrons in the leger, the cost of the new build was estimated at £12,000.

Considering that the land on which the new racecourse was built was once sand hills and hollows, and it was sandstorms that proved the greatest irritation at the course, it was perhaps rather fitting that the first race run at the opening meeting was won by a horse named 'Sandy'.

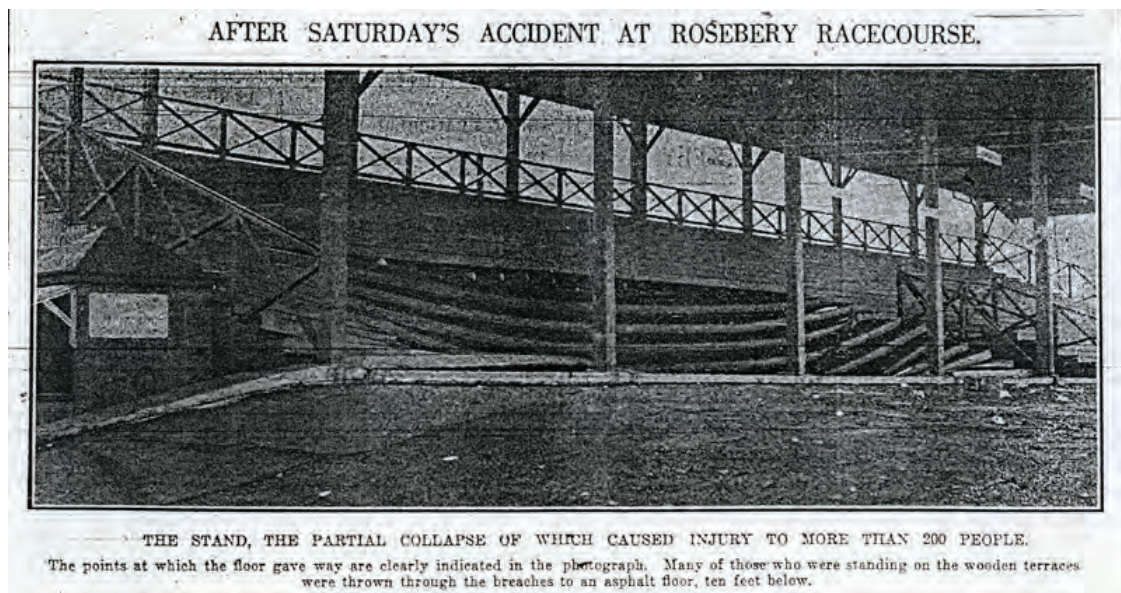
Both the Rosebery and Ascot racecourses were the most apt in Sydney when dealing with wet weather conditions. Although Rosebery's track was superior, its grandstand was not and in 1928 it collapsed under the weight of a particularly large crowd...

"Hundreds of men, mad with fear, fought to reach the safety of the ground, heedless of the agonised cries of the women they were trampling underfoot. Some of the panic-stricken racegoers were seen to scramble over a young woman who had fallen, and who was protecting her infant with her own body. Another man explained at the hospital that in the wild stampede a man stood on his face." (Monday 7 May 1928, The Brisbane Courier, p.13)

No one was directly killed in the accident (however an elderly gentleman received a broken arm and several other injuries and died two weeks later in hospital). The Club invested £100,000 worth of renovations into the course and reopened the following year to much excitement from the racegoers.

In the opening weeks of World War I, the Light Horse Regiment of the 1st Light Horse Brigade occasionally used Rosebery Racecourse as a parade ground. By April 1916, half way through the war, the site was fully occupied by military activity from other regiments and infantry training. There was no racing activity at Rosebery until the end of December that year (bar one meeting in June). Nearby Ascot Racecourse allowed Rosebery Club to meet at their track free of charge during this time, for Ascot was not used for military purposes during World War I (however it was used by the military in World War II).

In World War II Rosebery was again occupied by military activity. Almost immediately after the outbreak of war in 1939, the Australian



military began to establish a training camp for volunteers who had no previous military training. The first 300 recruits were housed in the grandstand, which also doubled as a mess hall.

The Rosebery Club actually continued to race up until July 1940 at which point the racecourse was exclusively taken over by the military. Rosebery Racecourse became the headquarters of the 8th Division of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). The military continued to use the site as the 1st Australian Returned Stores Depot until October 1946.

Military occupation of certain racecourses led to damage to the course proper and infrastructure on each site. Although the course continued to be used as a training ground for horses, the Rosebery Club never resumed race meetings. The Federal Government agreed to pay compensation for the damage to the courses it had occupied during the war, however payment was delayed for several years and the amount given was not enough to return the tracks to their pre-war condition.

In 1961 the Sydney Turf Club sold Rosebery Racecourse to property developers, Parkes Developments Pty Ltd. Over the next ten years the old racecourse was replaced with a shopping centre (Lakes Shopping Centre), over 65 red brick apartments and a handful of public housing developments – including a complex designed by Harry Seidler.

Fig. 8.4.17 The seating in the timber grandstand at Rosebery Park racecourse collapsed during a meeting in 1928 causing injuries to spectators and death as a result of unjust injury to a 68 year old gentleman. The course was closed until the following year to allow extensive repairs and improvements to be completed.

(Monday 7 May 1928, The Sydney Morning Herald, p.12)

8.4.6 RIFLE SHOOTING

There were four early Gun Clubs in the vicinity of Botany Bay; the Metropolitan Gun Club, which shot live and clay birds in the centre of Ascot Racecourse; Tattersall's Gun Club which was established on land now part of Booralee Park; New South Wales Gun Club which shot first at Lauriston Park and then at Pagewood, and Brighton Gun Club, which was located at Kyeemagh.

These four clubs amalgamated in c.1940 to form the new New South Wales Gun Club. None of the original club buildings have survived.

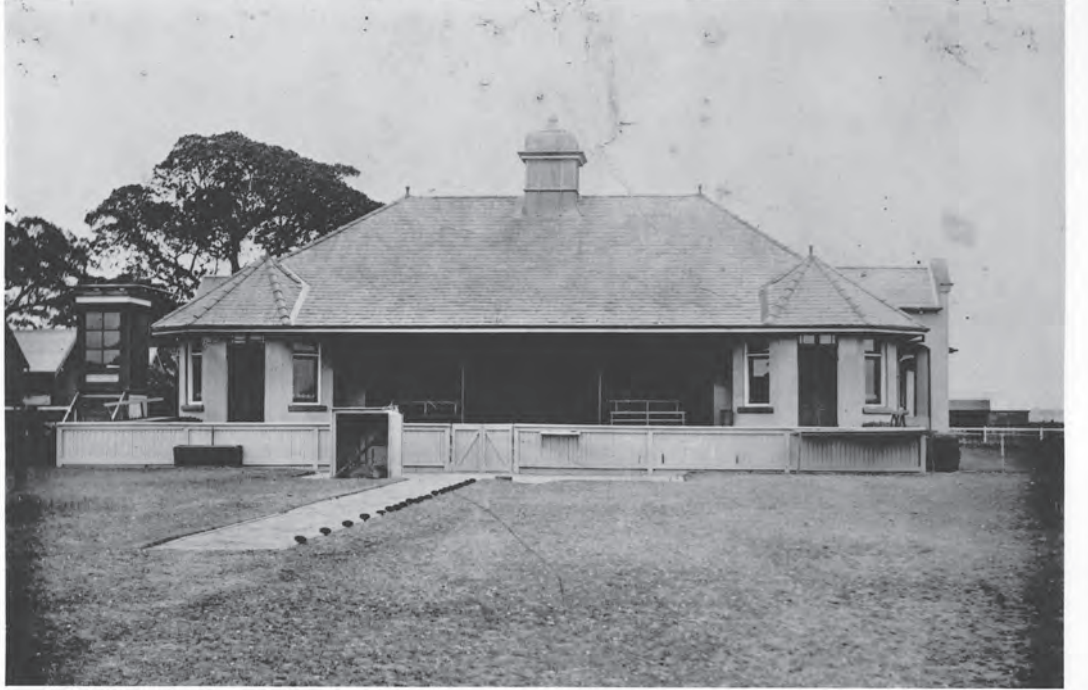
The (first) New South Wales Gun Club, or Pigeon Club, was established at Lauriston Park on Lords Road, Mascot. The Club was forced out of this building in c.1940 (possibly due to being commandeered by the Department of Defence as part of the military activity taking place on nearby Ascot Racecourse at that time). Having to leave their original premises, the Club established themselves at Kyeemagh, opposite the Kogarah Golf Club. After the war the Club's original club house at Lauriston Park was returned to them. The NSW Gun Club continued to shoot at Lauriston Park until 1949 when they were once again asked to vacate – this time for good – as the Cooks River was planned to be diverted right across their grounds as part of the extensions to Mascot Aerodrome. The Club was compensated for their trouble and although their grounds were swept up in the diversion works, the clubhouse itself was not pulled down until 1992 when further extensions to the overseas terminal were carried out.

Fig 8.4.18 The NSW Gun Club's main entrance, Lords Road, near Lauriston Park c.1930s. (BCHA)



Fig 8.4.19 The North Botany Gun Club, 1914. (BCHA)





8.4.7 RUGBY FOOTBALL

Rugby Union was the main code played in Botany before the turn of the 20th century, and the various clubs at the time arranged matches among themselves, mainly by invitation. One of the early teams was Botany Football Club, which was the first to play at the Sir Joseph Banks grounds.

In 1900 the code was completely reorganised on a district basis, with two controlling associations, the New South Wales and the Metropolitan Rugby Union (the latter conducting competitions in Sydney and the suburbs). The area of the Former Botany Bay LGA came under the jurisdiction of the South Sydney Rugby Union Club.

The New South Wales Rugby League was established in 1908. Originally, the third grade competition was not restricted to district clubs, so any teams of a worthwhile standard could enter. Mascot entered a team in the premiership of 1921 and successfully won it – and then went on to win it again the following year.

8.4.8 SOCCER

Despite these setbacks, the inauguration of the Protestant Churches soccer competitions in 1920 was responsible for the development

Fig. 8.4.20 Clubhouse of the NSW Gun Club in 1925. (BCHA)



Fig 8.4.21 The Lauriston United Football Team - winners of the 1927 Argus Cup. (BCHA)

of soccer in Botany – an association that was very significant for its time. No doubt the early migration patterns into Botany from England and Scotland helped boost its popularity. Eleven Botany teams were engaged in the 1963 competitions. Botany Methodist Church alone had eight teams, while the remainder came from Mascot Congregational Church and St. Matthews Church.

An outstanding Botany soccer team of the 1930s was the Banksmeadow Rovers who used Booralee Park as its headquarters. In 1938 the Rovers were the undefeated first grade premiers, having won twelve matches and drawn two.

An English school teacher, J.W.Fletcher, introduced soccer in Australia in 1880 and formed the first club, the Wanderers. Even though the geographical proximity to this introduction was close to Botany Bay, the development of the code in the district was slow. This was due to the fact that the Rugby codes (Rugby League in particular) had a stronghold in the area thanks to the first grade successes by the South Sydney Club, in which Botany Bay residents were a part. Secondly, in a pattern similar to the problems encountered by the

Botany Harriers Club, the secondary schools that pupils attended were often 'nurseries' for senior players, and as Botany Bay did not get their own high school until 1961 (J.J.Cahill Memorial High School), with the result that talented young players were required to play out of the local Botany district.

(Facing page) Local campaigner and activist in the Botany District, Nancy Hillier, addressing a rally in c.1976 (BCHA)