

Bayside Council

'Then and Now'

Ron Rathbone Local History Competition Project

(Years K to 2)



By Lola Melia

Year 2

St Bernards Primary School Botany

Bayside Council

Then and now

Ron Rathbone Local History Competition project

The place I have chosen for this project is Sir Joseph Banks park botany. I enjoy this park with my two little sisters and my parents. It is a very fun park with and a very good place for kids to play there.

Did you know?

Sir Joseph Banks park was once a beach! When port Botany and the airport were built all the sand was moved from the water and made the park area. This is called reclaimed land. The whole park area ~~this~~ is sandy still and if you are lucky you can still find some sea shells in the park.

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After the sand was moved from the Ocean into the park area. Landscape Architect Bruce Mackenzie designed the whole park. Big hills of the sand and trees were designed to stop the noise and wind and protect the park. There are also big ponds of water, walking and bike track and a big playground - with another one on the way. big Statues of Zoo animals are also in the park. as it was once Australia's first private zoo. it also has a long running track and famous running races were once held there. I like on the track with my sisters and our own running race.

The park is important for the community. It is a special place because it feels like you are on a bush walk but you are still in Botany. I find Sir Joseph Banks park interesting because it was once home only to the Aboriginal people who took care of the area. They are called the Gweagal and the Kamtygal. They called the area Gweagal then it became an area for the Zoo with a big hotel and the running races. Then all the sand was taken from the ocean to make Sir Joseph Banks by Bruce Maurenzie. Now it is a very popular and happy park with lot of space and fun things to do for not just me and my family, but the whole community.

The place I have chosen for this project is Sir Joseph Banks Park in Botany. I enjoy this park with my two little sisters and my parents. It is a very fun park and a very good place for kids to play there.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sir Joseph Banks park was once the beach! When Port Botany and the airport were built all the sand was moved from the water and made the park area. This is called 'reclaimed land'. The whole park is sandy still and if you are lucky you can still find some sea shells in the park!



Image 1: Sea shells I found in the sand at Sir Joseph Banks park June 2022

After the sand was moved from the ocean into the park area, Landscape Architect Bruce Mackenzie designed the whole park. Big hills of sand and trees were designed to stop the noise and wind and protect the park. There are also big ponds of water, a walking and bike track and a big playground – with another one on the way. Big statues of zoo animals are also in the park, as it was once Australia's first private zoo. It also has a long running track and famous running races were once held there. I like to run on the track with my sisters and have our own running race.



Image 2: Bruce Mackenzie and his wife Laraine in the park Saturday 28th May 2022



Image 3: Bruce Mackenzie in the park Saturday 28th May 2022



Image 4: One of the big sandy hills June 2022 by Lola Melia



Image 5: Photograph of running race in 1910

The park is important for the community. It is a special place because it feels like you are on a bushwalk but you are still in Botany. I find Sir Joseph Banks Park interesting because it was once home only to the Aboriginal people who took care of the area. They are called the Gweagal and the Kameygal. They called the area Gwea. Then it became an area for the zoo, with a big hotel and the running races. Then all the sand was taken from the ocean to make Sir Joseph Banks park by Bruce Mackenzie. Now it is a very popular and happy park with lots of space and fun things to do for not just me and my family, but the whole community.



Image 6: What the running track looks like now June 2022 by Lola Melia