

## AN EXPLORATION OF STREETS IN DACEYVILLE

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No. 1 DESIGN, LET AT 18s. PER WEEK, DACEY GARDEN SUBURB.

M.S. 2,538.

### Introduction

Originally named the '*Darcy Garden Suburb*', Daceyville is a quiet, modest town, located under 10 kilometers from the Sydney CBD. Originally built to combat the '*concerns about 19th-century urban slums*' which were growing throughout Australia, Daceyville was designed to display new and innovative architecture to encourage new families to move in. In the 1910's, many suburbs situated near the city were described as '*dog boxes*', cramming several families into small, unideal and unattractive housing situations. In response to this matter of concern, Mr John Dacey, a former New South Wales Treasurer, described and imagined a '*garden city*'<sup>1</sup> which would allow for each resident to own a lavish garden. This

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prompted the proposal and eventual creation of Daceyville, further resulting in the first successful public housing scheme in Australia, with some original structures still standing to this day.

The successes within this project most definitely contributed to the influx of structures and expansion of suburbs towards the southern side of Sydney during the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Due to the meaningful foundation of Darcyville, many of the 'landmarks' within the suburb (such as houses, street names, parks, etc) have a significant origin of the name. Because the suburb only houses about 1206 people as of 2016, there are only 16 official streets in Dancyville. Many of the names of these street, tribute to historical moments of Bayside and Australia's history (first fleet references, historical figures, etc) as well as significant indiginous names, referring to the original custodians of the land which Daceyville and surrounding suburbs were built on.

## **Astrolabe Road and Boussole Road**

Astrolabe Road and Boussole Road are home to about 76 families with houses built in the 1960's and 1970s. Almost all homes on these roads were bought before the year 2000, some of them being inherited as far back as 3 generations.

Although there is no specific information about why this road was named Astrolabe Road, there are several clues which could be used to speculate about the origin. Sometime in 1788 a Frenchman, *La Pérouse*, set sail from the local Botany Bay to explore the new colony aboard a ship named the 'Astrolabe'. Unfortunately, La Pérouse did not return back to mainland Australia and has been suspected to have been shipwrecked on the Solomon Islands or near the Great Barrier Reef. To this day, it is uncertain what happened to the 2 ships and 225 officers and scientists on board. Reports and logs which have been preserved from 1788 show that the two ships which were deployed by King Louis XVI were named the *Astrolabe* and the *Boussole*.

Due to Daceyville and Botany Bay geographic and historic location, an assumption can be made that these streets or residents were respectfully named after the ships which were

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lost during the exploration of early Australia, to commemorate the officers, scientists and those aboard the ship who died.



Daceyville 'shops' on General Bridges Crescent in 1915, 1989 and 2020 (ordered)

## Colonel Braund Crescent

Colonel Braund Crescent features the original buildings, founded in 1912 in narrow, yet beautiful 43 homes. The crescent was named after Mr Geroge Braund who represented and legislated for the city of Armidale in parliament. He was the first member of the Australian parliament to enlist in fighting for the country. Unfortunately, during the historic fight of Gallipoli, Turkey, Colonel Braund was shot dead after failing to hear a call from a sentry. In 1916, the Lands Department requested that the council devote 50 cottages to soldiers who were handicapped due to the war or widows of the war. In that same year, Premier Holman presented 6 widows who lost their spouses in the Great War with keys to cottages located in Dancyville. Colonel Braund Crescent was named to reflect the effort and pain that brave Australian and New Zealander soldiers experienced throughout the First World War.

This Crescent was also the first cul-de-sac built in Australia, designed by William Foggit. This was to provide a sense of community, but still maintaining the privacy which every family needs. Over 100 years later, this cul-de-sac has brought people who live on Colonel Braund Crescent together, with heritages such as Indian, Brazilian, Hungarian, Polish, Fijian, South American and Indigenous Australian.

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## **Gwea Street**

Gwea Street features several residential homes, as well as the Southern Cross Aged Care facility facing the David Phillips Field.

The name 'Gwea' was used as a reflection of the aboriginal people on the land which Daceyville was built on, the Gweagal people\*. Natives supposedly use the term 'Gwea' to describe the south shore of Botany Bay which could be seen from some parts of Mascot, Daryville, Pagewood, and where both the domestic and international airports are now.

This street name, as well as Bunnerong Road, expresses and acknowledges the people of this land, directly by naming a street after a significant, indigenous term.

## **Conclusion**

Daceyville was a revolutionary suburb, built in early federated Australia, which most definitely shaped how practical and spaced modern day suburbs are built today. Being defined as the 'model suburb' for Sydney, Daceyville is one of the most historic suburbs within the Bayside Council. Many people within Daceyville grew up and will grow old within the area, leaving their properties for their children to do the same, passing on the rich history of this local suburb.

Street names are also a historic and important, yet so unacknowledged part of each suburb. Each name reflects historical figures, moments, Aboriginal figures, tribes or tributes to remember the significant happenings within our own neighborhood.

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