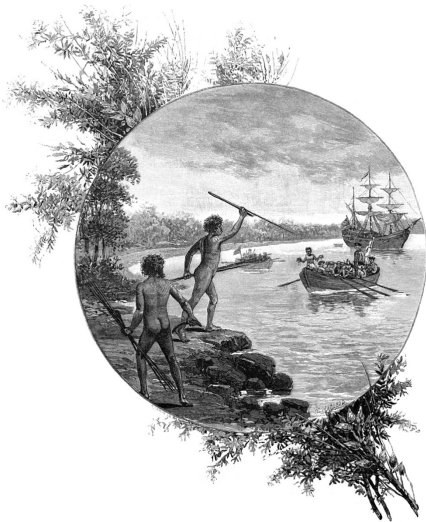


Why is Bayside's Local History important?

Although often overlooked by the average resident, Bayside's rich history is extremely valuable and important to the wider community, which can be used as a form of education, interpretation and statistic to ultimately evolve the local area into a better and more productive society.

Skillfully deriving information from the well documented past is an excellent and effective method of geographical, social and historical education, which can further assist in addressing and mending other issues within the wider community.

This form of historical education (specifically history shortly before and after the First Fleet's initial contact with Indigenous Australians) is highly valued within the local Bayside community as it is necessary to reflect a meaningful and public homage to the Indigenous Gweagal people of the original land. Following improvements of social and political values overtime, Bayside's local history is crucial to consider and acknowledge when advocating for the first nation's people during campaigns such as *Close the Gap* and *National Sorry Day*. These events only now take place due to the lack of understanding from the past, and now a heightened sense of realisation in modern Australia, thus a thorough understanding of Aboriginal history is vitally important.



Through the use of artworks and documents created in the 19th century, captured pieces of Bayside history prove how Indigenous natives had indefinitely been on this land prior to the settlers. The artwork "*Australia: The First 100 Years*" by Andrew Garran is an excellent example of preserved Bayside and further local history, which depicts two Aboriginal people witnessing first contact with the first fleet, either within Kurnell Bay or Botany Bay. The value of understanding, evaluating and preserving this artwork is that it ultimately allows for a greater understanding of the horrible actions and discrimination which Aboriginal people faced during and after this time, further promoting change and difference within our own current Bayside community.

With this form of education, Bayside Council is able to make informed decisions on supporting local Aboriginal people as well as facilitating local events to actively support awareness campaigns and charities, which is actively advertised on their website. Although Garran's *Australia: The First 100 Years* does not have a direct correlation to fundraising for Indigenous people, all types of media from the past contributes to the understanding of past failures, successes and to ultimately build a significantly more equal and functioning community.

Historical education also has a definite connection to a sense of general pride of notable developments within societies, technological advancements or other achievements. History as a form of education has been used repeatedly to compare and learn from previous architectural styles, influences and advancements in technology such as cars. Examples of this can be seen often featured in articles and sources which aim to document and find reasons on why something was popular in past Australia. The preservation of original features can be



used as a form of education and is important to Bayside residents as it physically documents evolution of style and changes within society. This is valuable information, as it can assist in predicting future events or help in assessing structures and local society from the past.

An example of this is at *Rockdale Furnishers PTY.LTD* which has been a local Bayside business (under the new name *Kraftwood Rockdale*) in Rockdale for the past 80 years. The successful preservation of an entrance tile (presented on the right) is an excellent presentation of how stylistic evolution impacts local communities and how this can be observed in our modern age.

Interpretation is also another extremely valuable contribution to the importance of the history of Bayside. Collecting and interpreting historical data can generally assist in historical preservation and also help in classifying which areas of the Bayside community are deemed as historically important, including landmarks, buildings or structures. Observing what was significant in the past can allow for modern day decisions to be made. An example of this is the Chinese market Gardens in Kyeemagh which has a huge impact on the local Asian communities, sustaining a strong heritage whilst allowing for local residents to contribute to a community garden. This area of land has been restricted from demolition and the family who owns this land refuse to sell this historical and unique piece of land, simply to the fact that these gardens have a large impact culturally.

In conclusion, preserving and acknowledging the history of local Bayside is crucial when considering a large variety of modern factors and issues. By analysing the past, the community is able to make educated decisions through the use of historical education and interpretation of the past. This further prevents future repeated mistakes, issues and encourages general community growth.

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