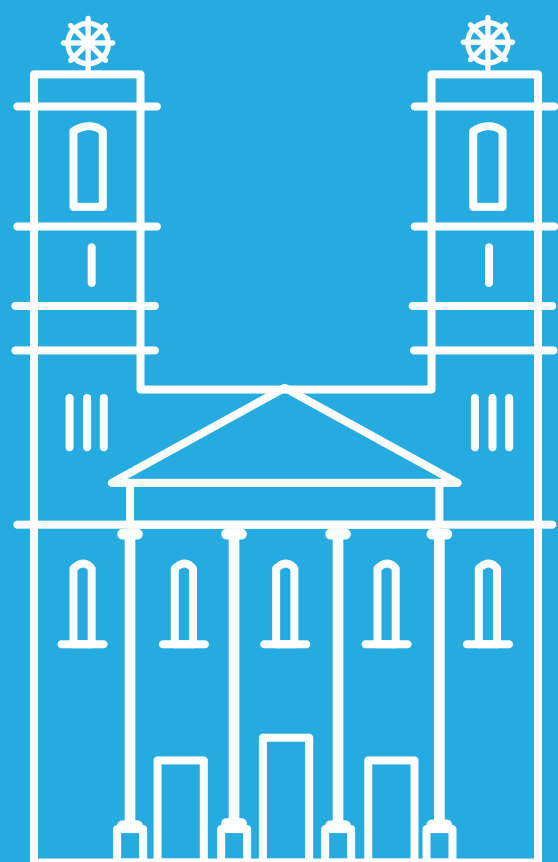
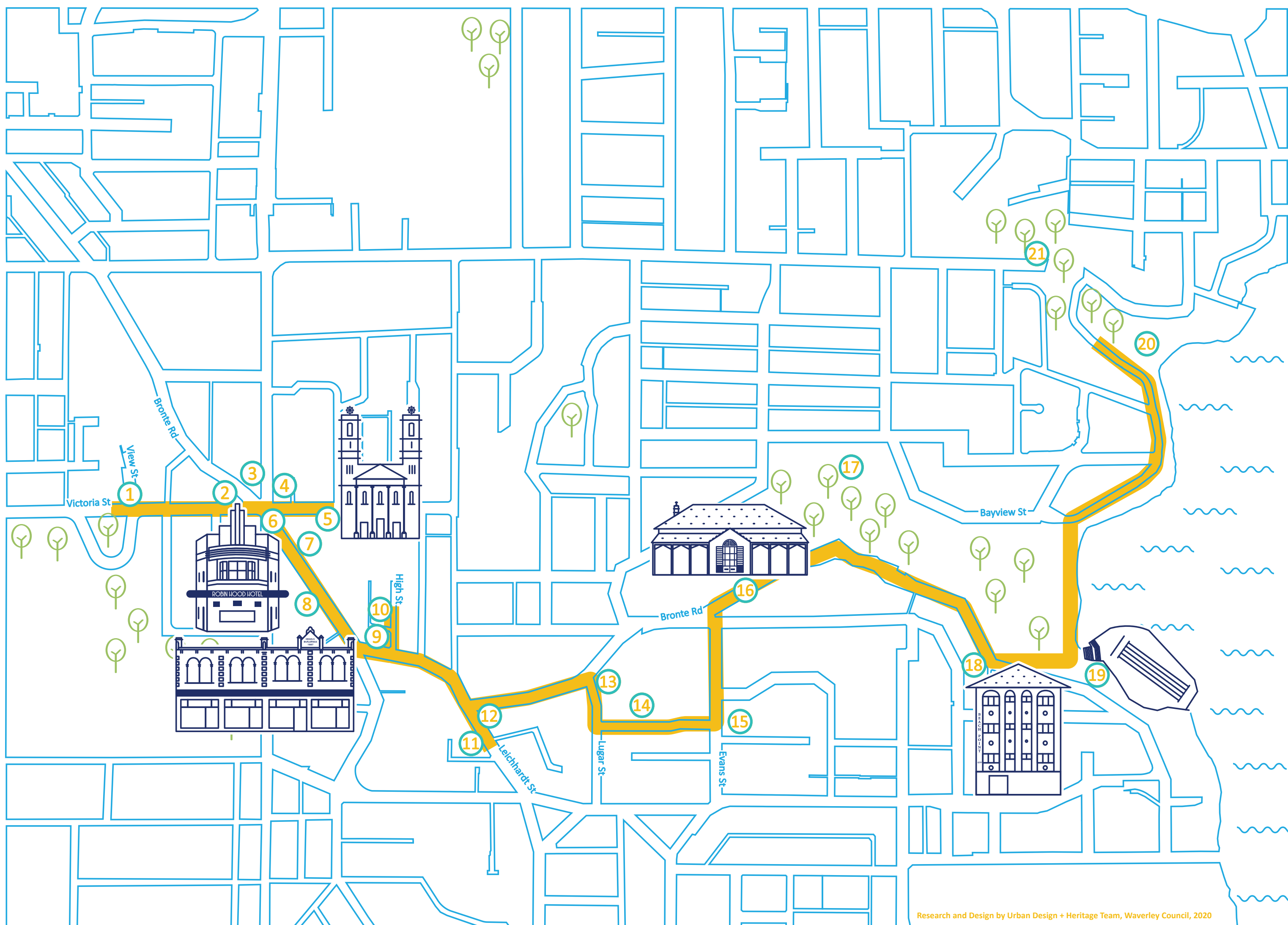


HELLO WAVERLEY BONDI WALKS



CHARING CROSS to BRONTE

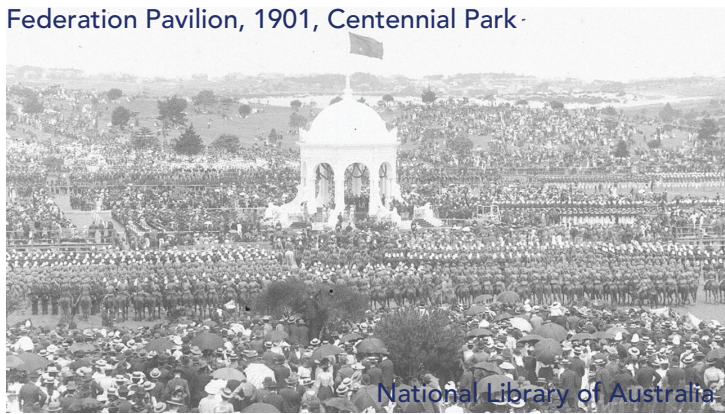


CHARING CROSS to BRONTE

Welcome to Waverley's heritage walk through Charing Cross to beautiful Bronte Beach. The journey - much of it through a heritage conservation area - is a story of colourful characters; of fortunes made and lost; of a colony that became a country; and an artists' colony that helped define it; and surf and swimming culture that became a permanent part of Australia's national identity.

1 - Start Point Corner of View St and Victoria St

You are standing on a high sandstone ridgeline, one of many criss-crossing Sydney's east coast. In the distance are vast views across parkland to the Blue Mountains. It's an extraordinary vista that takes in a wide sweep of this country's history. For a small LGA, the Waverley municipality has a big story to tell. It is closely connected with many of the landmark events in Australia's evolution as a nation.



Aboriginal custodianship

The oldest stories are those of the indigenous inhabitants of Sydney's coast. The parklands you see below are a key part of that history. For over a thousand generations Aboriginal people lived in the area now known as Waverley. They walked the high ridgelines to travel, overlook and manage their lands. The Bidjigal and Gadigal people of Sydney's east lived before and during the last Ice Age (25,000 – 15,000 years ago) and witnessed the rapid rise in sea levels in that period. Waverley's cliffs marked the safe high ground. Yet their legacy has endured and is now globally recognised as the world's oldest living culture.

We acknowledge that we are on land traditionally occupied by the Bidjigal and Gadigal people. We also acknowledge their elders - past, present and emerging.

First Fleet

Today, the First Fleet's arrival at Sydney Cove is marked by the skyscrapers you see in the distance. The ridgeline viewing platform you are on offers sweeping views. You are able to see that far because of the flat-plain typography of the greater Sydney Basin.

Parklands

The huge Centennial parklands below are an extraordinary asset bequeathed on future generations by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. He quarantined the freshwater wetlands - known in the early colony as Sydney Common - so that the growing town would have a fresh water supply after the Tank Stream along Pitt Street was polluted. The wetlands also supplied drinking water for the Charing Cross commercial strip behind you. It was the first commercial centre in Waverley, dating from the 1840s.

Federation

The parklands below were also the birthplace of modern Australia. On January 1, 1901, Lord Hopetoun stood under the Federation dome and read out a proclamation signed by Queen Victoria that declared the Commonwealth of Australia. The native-born Edmund Barton was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of Australia. Barton died suddenly in 1920 and is now buried at Waverley's South Head Cemetery.

Also standing in Centennial Park, near the Paddington Gates, is a statue of Sir Henry Parkes - a towering figure in the push towards Federation and self-government for the Australian colonies. Parkes was Premier of NSW a number of times and at the last election he contested, he stood for the seat of Waverley.

2: Bank of NSW 189 Bronte Rd

On the corner of Victoria St and Bronte Rd is a fine example of a late-Victorian commercial building pair. They are an important streetscape element on the intersection and date from 1888. The pair have special historic interest as the Bank of NSW's first Waverley branch. "The Wales", no longer in existence, was Australia's first bank, established in 1817 during Governor Macquarie's rule. One of the first Bank of NSW's directors was D'Arcy Wentworth - an unusual choice for a bank, given he arrived in Sydney in 1790 fresh from being acquitted in Britain of three charges of highway robbery. One Bank of NSW Waverley branch clerk in the early 1900s was the young artist J. J. Hilder. He became a noted Australian painter whose inspiration included Bondi Beach (pictured), where he meet fellow artist and art teacher Julian Rossi Ashton, around whose home at Tamarama an important artists' colony was forming.



3 - Post Office 234 Bronte Road

In 1901, the new Australian nation needed a range of architecture to establish its federal government. Across the road from the bank, you will see the heritage-listed former post office building wedged between Bronte and Carrington roads. The design of the post office, built in 1923, was overseen by the Scottish architect John Smith Murdoch, who was the nation's first Commonwealth Architect. Its architectural style is known as Stripped Classical. Murdoch is little-known today but his architecture legacy is vast, including more than 120 buildings. He was kept busy in the first decades after Federation designing key government buildings, many in



the Stripped Classical style. Murdoch's most significant building is Canberra's "temporary" Parliament House, which remained the centre of government until 1988. He helped to select Walter and Marion Burley Griffin as winners of the competition to design the nation's new capital. He was also an adjudicator in design competitions for Canberra's war memorial and the Stripped Classical building that is now the Australian War Memorial on the Western Front at Villers-Bretonneux in France.

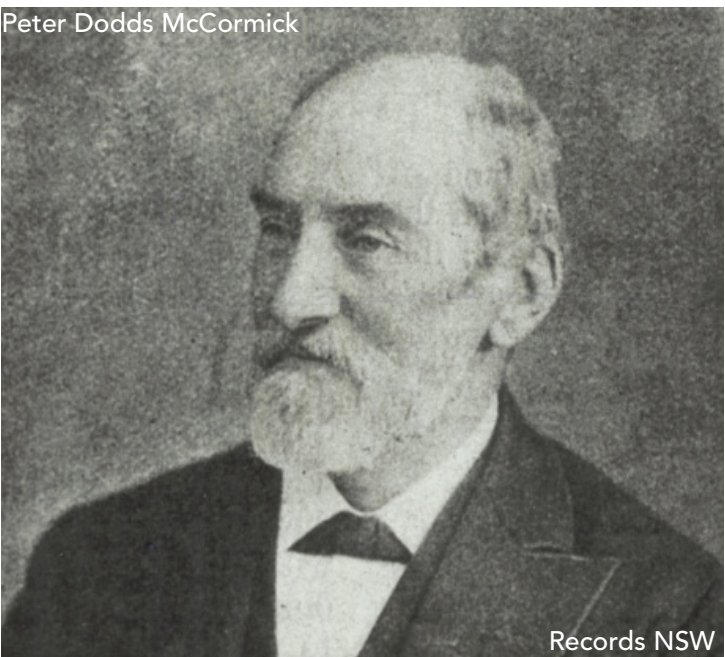
Early Charing Cross

The former post office site on Bronte Rd was once known as Madden's Corner, after early Waverley resident John Madden. The Charing Cross area was created from land purchases made by William Manners Clarke (1837), Lewis Gordon, (1838) and Samuel Peak, (1839). Later subdivision of the land provided sites for a small service village built along the road south to Coogee Bay and Governor Macquarie's watchtower at La Perouse. Madden purchased his land from Lewis Gordon, a government surveyor, and built three stone cottages on the post office intersection. Madden and his son of the same name were signatories to Waverley Council's establishment in 1859. At that inaugural meeting, held in a local hotel, council renamed the area Charing Cross, after its London namesake. The last of Madden's 1840s stone cottages, which became a Catholic presbytery and then a home of "Granny" Cosgrove (a granddaughter of John Madden and noted local), was demolished c.1919.

4: Grahame Memorial Church

Continuing uphill along Victoria St is the sandstone Grahame Memorial Uniting Church. The church was built in 1897 in the Gothic style, complete with buttresses and feature stained glass window. It is an outstanding example of its type. The gable-parapet front façade and belltower are embellished with carved stone decorative features.

Another feature in the church is a plaque to the noted Waverley resident Peter Dodds McCormick. He composed the national anthem, Advance Australia Fair. McCormick, a Scotsman who arrived in the colony of NSW in 1855, was also an elder at the church. The anthem was sung by a 10,000-strong choir at the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia at Centennial Park on January 1, 1901, and by massed bands at the federal capital celebrations in Canberra. McCormick lived in Waverley from 1889, first in a house along this walk at 5 Virgil St (now 20 Yanko Avenue). In 1902 he moved to 103 Birrell St (now No 87). He died in 1916 aged 83.



5: Mary Immaculate Church

Across the road is the magnificent Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, built in 1912. It is a single-nave basilica in Romanesque Renaissance style with east-west transepts, designed by noted ecclesiastical architects Sheerin and Hennessy, who also designed St Patrick's College at Manly and completed St Mary's Cathedral to William Wardell's design. The façade was remodelled in the Academic Classical Revival style in 1929, with pediment portico and four ionic columns. The square bell towers are landmarks that can be viewed across the east and beyond. Watch for glimpses of them as you walk.

The church, which replaced an earlier one dating from 1854, was built on a 3-acre plot donated to the church on or near the site of Vickery's Tannery.

The church walls are adorned by seven frescos painted by the Italian artist Cesare Vagarini. He came to Australia as a prisoner of war after he was captured in Palestine working on a fresco by Allied forces during World War II. One of the murals was shortlisted for the Sir John Sulman Prize in 1947. Vagarini left Australia in 1948.

6: Charing Cross And Robin Hood Hotels

Walking back to the Charing Cross crossroads, you will see two streamlined Art Deco hotels, the Charing Cross and the Robin Hood. Together, they make an outstanding architectural contribution to the busy intersection streetscape. Both were built in the 1930s, when hotel design was coming into its own. The Art Deco pubs of this era have been described as a "phenomenon of Australian architecture". The sleek modern look conveyed a sense of optimism as Australia emerged from the Great Depression. Australia was one of the few countries to adopt English licencing laws, which required public bars to provide accommodation. Breweries used the opportunity to promote themselves with landmark architecture.

The Charing Cross Hotel was built in 1934. It replaced an old inn built by William Newland in 1857, the first in Charing Cross. The inn was used by Waverley council for meetings in its early days. Joseph Vickery, on whose family's land Mary Immaculate Church was built, was a member of a committee that agitated for the establishment of the municipality, proclaimed in June 1859 – the second municipality in Sydney to be constituted.

The 1934 Charing Cross Hotel was designed by Sidney Warden, the most prolific architect then working for Tooth and Co, the oldest brewer in NSW. Warden completed 392 Art Deco hotels, buildings and extensions across NSW in the 1930s and '40s, including the Light Brigade in Paddington.



Across Bronte Road is the Robin Hood Hotel, an archetypal Ocean-liner building from the hotel boom period, wedge-shaped, with light-faced brick, characteristic dark horizontal lines and classic lettering set. The first Robin Hood hotel, dating from 1859, was built on Carrington Rd. In 1937, that hotel was demolished and rebuilt by Tooth and Co and renamed the Robin Hood. The striking design was the work of Copeman Lemont and Keesing architects. Note the retro poster of the lifesaver on the front of the hotel, reflecting the surf culture then emerging at the beaches nearby.

7: Early Charing Cross
252-254 Bronte Rd

Heading south along Bronte Rd, you will see an old sandstone building, at 252-254 Bronte Rd. It is an important element of the streetscape as probably the oldest building in Charing Cross. The high integrity of buildings in Charing Cross tells a clear story of its historic evolution from an early village east of Sydney.

The earliest villa built in the municipality also gave it its name. Waverley House was a 2-storey Colonial Georgian estate built in 1828 on a 24-hectare grant in what is now Bondi Junction. It was built for Barnett Levey, a merchant from London’s East-end who arrived in Australia in 1821 to join his prospering former-convict brother, Solomon. Barnett named his villa after the book Waverley by Scottish author Sir Walter Scott, published in 1814.

Trams:

Imagine, as you look back towards the Robin Hood hotel, that it is the mid-1800s. Waverley’s first horse-drawn tram terminus would be in view in the middle of Bronte Rd outside the hotel. Charing Cross was a small village containing industry, cottages, small shops and hotels. The road through it was called the Coogee Road, built in 1832. It followed an Aboriginal path across the ridgeline and linked Charing Cross with the emerging Tea Gardens settlement that is now Bondi Junction.

Horses, buggies or carts and foot were the main means of transport. Mr Ward of the Waverley Hotel at Tea Gardens offered trips in a spacious omnibus in 1849. Horse-bus services began operating commercially in the 1850s. For sixpence, you could travel from Tea Gardens and Charing Cross to Wynyard in the city in about 50 minutes. Each bus also carried newspapers, milk and other goods. Horse-buses competed with the early steam trams, but by 1889 were unviable.

Waverley was one of the first areas to have trams. The first tram track, from Darlinghurst to Charing Cross, was built in 1884. In the same year the line from Tea Gardens to Fletcher St in Bondi was built. The two lines formed a “junction”, which was effectively the beginning of the new commercial centre at Bondi Junction.

8: Head’s building
245-263 Bronte Rd

Heading south along Bronte Rd again, you will see Head’s grand commercial terraces. The group was designed in the Victorian Italianate style in 1887. The building is one of the best surviving late 19th-century commercial terraces in the Waverley area. Its style is testament to the rapid growth of the late-Victorian boom period, during which Waverley’s population quadrupled to 8,842 in the 20 years to 1891.

Continuing south down Bronte Rd, before

turning left where the street forks, look back across the road and you will see an original bright red Victorian letterbox.

9: Bronte Palace Theatre
340 Bronte Rd



Turn left into Bronte Road and stop at No 340 (once 82-90 Leichhardt St). This was the site of John Bunyan’s stables, from which he ran his horse omnibus service. In 1910, when tram power replaced horsepower, he partnered with Charing Cross newsagent William J. Napier to operate an open-air cinema on the site.

Hoyts Theatres was the last operator, until 1950. The cinema was demolished in 1957 and became a petrol station, then an equipment hire business.

10: Glenrock Terraces
4-22 High St

Turn left into High Street and look for a row of Georgian terraces made of hand-cut sandstone. They are the oldest terraces constructed for working families in Waverley, built by Ebenezer Vickery in 1866 for staff at his adjacent tannery. He later became a NSW MP in the Legislative Council.

Waverley had many industrial sites in its early years. Despite complaints from residents, tanning yards operated for more than 50 years, until health concerns about odours resulted in their closure in 1881. Protests also forced nearby landholder Joseph Dickson (Dickson St) to close his soap factory and boiling works in 1859. Stone quarries operated and expanded to supply city construction.

11: St Catherine’s School
Leichhardt St

Head back to Bronte Rd now, turn left and follow the road to the roundabout. Ahead on the right, on Leichhardt St, is St Catherine’s boarding school – Australia’s oldest Anglican girls’ school, opened in 1856. Notable past students include one of the world’s most celebrated operatic sopranos, Dame Joan Sutherland; neurosurgeon Dr Una Fielding; Arts and Crafts Movement artist Eirene Mort; and writer Madeleine St John, who wrote Ladies in Black, recently released as a film.



12: Lugar Brae Church
Leichhardt St

Across the road from the school is Lugar Brae Church. It was named after one of the big Marine Villa estates that covered the Bronte area between 1840 and 1880. The church, built in 1881, was built close to the original house and was paid for by a Methodist Church benefactor, Ebenezer Vickey, whose family estate today forms the historic heart of the War Memorial Hospital near Bondi Junction. Lugar Brae Church was constructed in the Victorian Academic Gothic style, used extensively for cathedrals and churches across Sydney. Lugar Brae was built on a grant of land purchased in 1851 by Dugald MacPherson (1813-1854), who held the position of Cashier of the Receiving Room Iron Chest in the Colonial Treasury. He is remembered in the nearby MacPherson St name.

14-16 Leichhardt St

A little further down Leichhardt St, passed the church, is a pair of single-storey terraces constructed in the early 20th century in the Federation Queen Anne and Filigree architectural styles. They were built as part of the great Federation building boom that resulted from the sale of most of Bronte’s Marine Villa estates and the extension of the tramline to Waverley Cemetery (1890) and later to Bronte beach (1911), which travelled down the MacPherson St ridgeline. The terrace detailing is typical of the Federation era: face brick exterior with rendered details and high-pitched slate roofs with terra cotta details on gables, all symmetrically arranged around a mirror-reversed plan form. The gable fronts have timber-batten detailing with the main roof extending over the veranda and supported by cast iron posts and filigree frieze. You will see many more examples of Federation architecture along the next few Bronte streets.

13: Elizabeth Cadman
12 Lugar St

Turn back to Bronte Rd, then head downhill and turn right into Lugar St. The street was formed from land that belonged to Bleak House, built in 1856. The house was named after the serialised novel by Charles Dickens, which was published in 20 episodes between March 1852 and September 1853. One of its owners was Charles Mottram Evans, after whom nearby Evans St was named.

Many colourful characters have called Bronte home. Elizabeth Cadman (c1797-1861) was one. She was a convict who married John Cadman and they live at Cadmans cottage at Circular Quay. She is believed to have become the first woman to vote in NSW, in the Waverley Council elections of 1860. She reportedly insisted that, as a landowner, she was entitled to cast a vote. Flustered polling officials felt unable to stop her. Elizabeth later moved to Manly, where she ran the Women’s Baths. She died in 1861.

Enjoy the historic homes in Lugar Street as you make your way to Brae Street. Nos 9 and 11 Lugar St are unusual examples of late Victorian Gothic-style.

14: Miles Franklin
34 Brae St

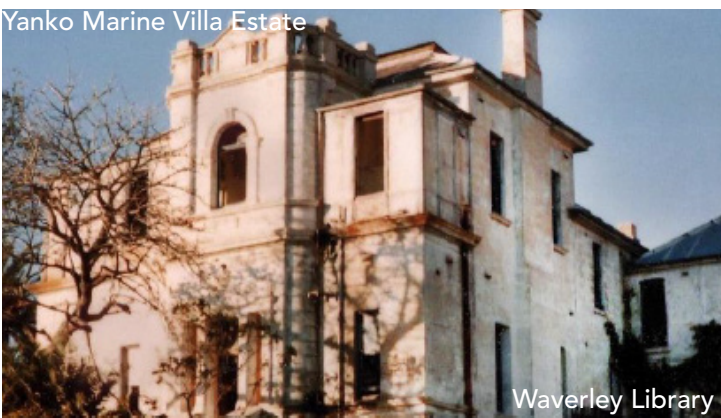
Another significant, if brief, resident of Bronte was the celebrated novelist (Stella Maria Sarah) Miles Franklin (1879-1954). In 1903, she lived in a Victorian terrace that once stood at 34 Brae St and

worked as a live-in maid. Her celebrated novel My Brilliant Career had by then been completed, using her middle name “Miles” to disguise her gender so it would be published. She worked as a maid under the name Sarah Franklin and wrote about the experience to publicise the powerless position of female domestic servants. During her three months as a maid, she got half a day off. At her death in 1954, she bequeathed money to establish a literary prize: the Miles Franklin Award. The Stella Prize, established in 2013 for women writers, was also named after her.



15: Victorian mansion
19 Evans St

As you leave Brae St you will enter Evans St, which was constructed as part of the Bleak House subdivision from 1879. Look out for the impressive grand Victorian mansion Elsmore at No 19, which first appeared in Sands Directory in 1892. Edwin Fieldhouse, who owned substantial land holdings and dairy farms in Sydney and Campbelltown, lived in the house until 1910. Elsmore’s Italianate style evolved from the late 18th-century Romanticist-Picturesque movement in England. Translated to Australia, the picturesque building in landscape design made the style appeal to the landed gentry and wealthier town dwellers. When the estate was put up for sale in 1911, the advertisement described it as “... overlooking the ocean, Bronte, Little Coogee and the coastline ... [with] elegant double drawing room, dining, morning, breakfast, library and ballrooms ... mostly fitted with marble mantels, electric bells [and] richly corniced ceilings”.



Yanko Avenue

Heading downhill, you will see Yanko Ave, which was built on land belonging to the Marine Villa of that name. Yanko House, initially know as Yanco, was built in 1866 by one of Waverley’s first councillors, Charles Simmons, and had a distinctive tower overlooking Nelson Bay, as Bronte Beach was first called. The mansion started as a modest single-storey villa of mid-Victorian style with extensive grounds. Successive stages of stone additions were financed by land sales. In 1882, Yanko estate was subdivided, creating Virgil St (now Yanko Ave). All that remains of the house is a heritage listed sandstone coachhouse-stables within the grounds of 34a Yanko Ave.

Bronte Road

Head downhill again and turn right, back onto Bronte Rd and look out for glimpses of the Mary Immaculate towers in the distance. Before it was formally named in 1940, Bronte Rd was known as Nelson Bay Rd. The two names have a surprising link with an eminent figure in history: Admiral Horatio, Lord Nelson (1758-1805), the British naval hero. Bronte Beach was initially known as Nelson Bay, also commemorating the victor of the Battle of Trafalgar against Napoleon’s forces.

The war against Napoleon delayed the arrival of the second fleet to Australia’s shores and left the new colony perilously close to starvation.

Continue down the hill until you arrive at Bronte House, the last of the area’s Marine Villas.

16: Bronte House

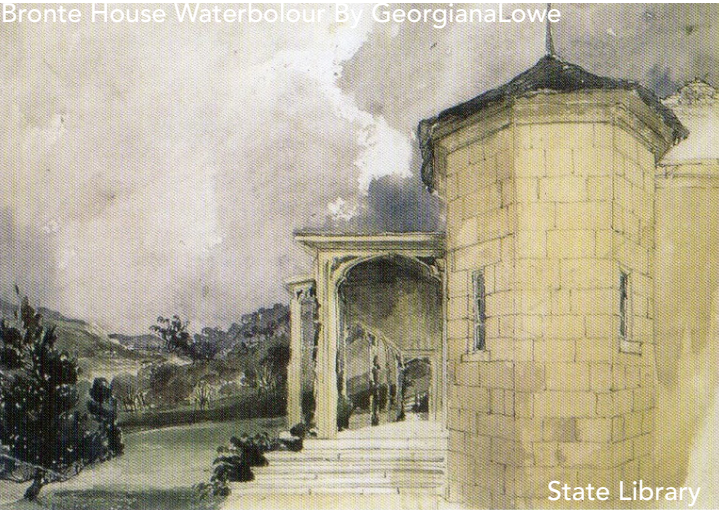
Demand grew for villas in the Waverley area in the 1840s as the economy began to revive. Bronte House, reminiscent of a medieval French chateau, was built in 1845 and is the oldest known residence in Waverley. It was built in what historians have described as “an amusing mongrel Gothic Italianate design”. It is considered to be an outstanding example of a colonial house retaining rare, early architectural features, one of only a small group of exemplary Regency-style villas constructed in the Australia colonies as a romantic retreat from more formal city life.

Gardens were an integral part of the outdoor pleasures of villa life and were designed with waterfalls, grottos, summerhouses, orchards as well as vegetable and flowerbeds. Bronte House is now a small-scale botanic garden and a repository for rare and beautiful plants. The house foundations are believed to have been designed and built by Mortimer Lewis (1796-1879), who was appointed Colonial Architect in 1835.



In the early 1840s he struck financial trouble and reluctantly sold the land at Bronte to Robert and Georgiana Lowe. Robert (1811-1892) had decided to seek his fortune in Australia after doctors told him his defective eyes, caused by being albino, would send him blind within seven years.

His wife Georgiana Lowe (c.1813-1884) was reputedly independent, socially progressive and an excellent horsewoman. She often travelled long distances on horseback with her husband and was called the Black Angel for the way she appeared to fly over ditches and tree stumps along the bush tracks when out riding.



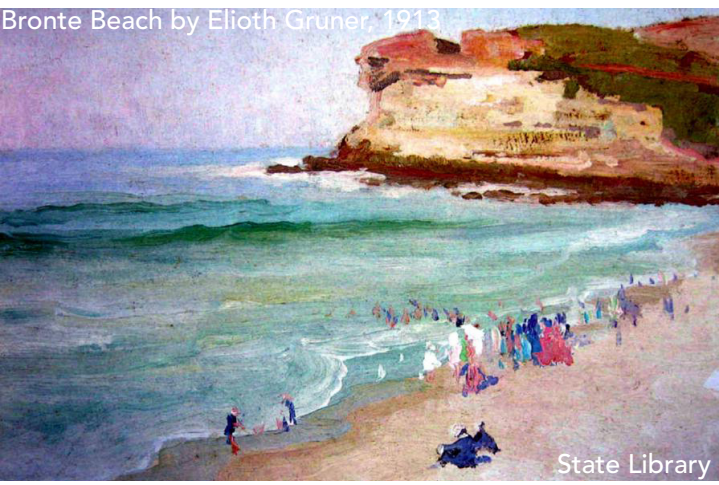
17: Bronte Gully and Park



Walking past Bronte House, look for the public staircase down to Bronte Park. Waverley’s sandstone ridgelines have allowed for the creation of a strong pattern of gully parks across the area.

Bronte Park’s landscape transformed gradually. During the 1870s the creek was a free-flowing fresh watercourse. The north side of the valley was described as “steep and almost in its natural state, tolerably well-timbered in places”, whilst the southern side was more gently sloping, largely cleared of scrub with a park-like appearance. From 1917 the creek and beach zone was progressively filled, levelled and grassed after the sea wall was constructed. Between 1914-19, six 1000-candle-power lamps were placed in Bronte Park, before Waverley’s first electric street lamps were lit on 1 February 1922.

The steep topography also led to the creation of a significant urban feature: sandstone retaining walls along streets and sandstone pedestrian stairways.



18: Beach Point Flats, Bronte 459 Bronte Rd

Walk through the park towards the beach and shops. More colourful characters reveal themselves at Beach Point Flats apartment building. It was once home to a key figure in music history and a sporting great. He was the noted swimming coach and Olympian, Forbes Carlisle. Although he was NSW backstroke champion in 1942, Carlisle is most credited for importing sports science into swimming in Australia. His other great achievement was coaching the legendary young swimmer Shane Gould to five medals, three of them gold, at her only Olympics, at Munich in 1972. She broke 11 world records, including the 200m freestyle three times. By late 1971 she held every freestyle world record: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m. In the Carlisle team rooms was a plaque that said: “Our aim is not to produce champions, but to create an environment in which champions are inevitable.” His swimmers collected a total of 12 Olympic gold medals.

The other noted top-floor resident of the Beach Point Flats on Bronte Rd was Ian “Peewee” Wilson, who in 1958 formed the band The Delltones, known as Australia’s Beach Boys.



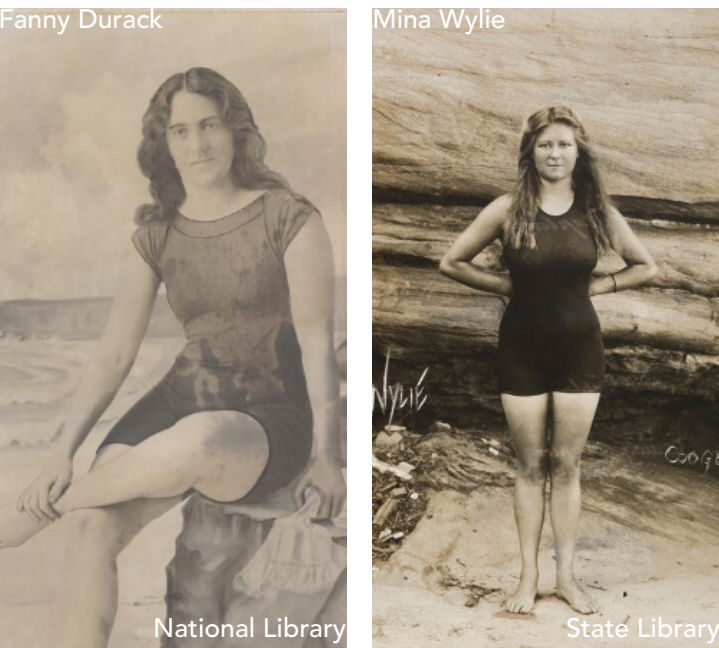
19: Bronte Ocean Pool

To the modern visitor, it seems shocking now that ocean bathing was once illegal in NSW and wasn’t legalised until 1902. Daytime bathing at public beaches was prohibited by an Act of Parliament in 1838. Sharks - and concerns about decency and morality - were cited as reasons for the ban. Things changed after acts of civil disobedience at Manly Beach in 1902 in which people swam in protest at the law. No arrests were made and similar protests followed at other beaches. The protests provided a catalyst for liberalising beach regulations and Australia’s famous beach culture began to emerge. By 1903, Bondi Beach had its first daytime bathing facilities and in 1911 the first bathing shed opened. The nation’s first Surf Life Saving Clubs, at Bronte and Bondi, were formally established in 1906.

Ocean pools also fostered generations of elite Australian swimmers. At Bronte, in the early 20th century, young women were at the forefront and trained at the pool. Fanny (Sarah Frances) Durack (1889-1956) was the first woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal for swimming in the 100m freestyle at the Stockholm Olympics in 1912. She set 12 more world records between 1912 -1918. She is buried in Waverley Cemetery.

Her friend Mina (Wilhelmina) Wylie (1891-1984) was first woman to win an Olympic Silver Medal, also at Stockholm. She learned to swim in Bronte pool while her father Harry Wylie leased it from Waverley Council (November 1895-June 1901), before he developed Wylie’s Baths at Coogee.

Evelyn Whillier (nee de Lacey, 1917-2004) represented Australia at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and won a Gold Medal at 1938 Empire Games. She later taught generations of Bronte children to swim in the ocean pool. She was the first member of Waverley Council’s Heroes Walk at Bronte.



20: Tamarama Wonderland

In the late 19th Century, one entrepreneur chose Tamarama beach as the site for a seaside amusement park. His aquarium opened in 1887. Other entertainments included dancing, bowling, skating and a shooting gallery. Competition from aquariums at Coogee and Manly saw the venture close in 1889. Wonderland City, an antipodean Coney Island, later opened on the abandoned aquarium site in 1906, but closed in 1911 due to economic failure.



21: Artists’ Colony – Julian Rossi Ashton’s house

As Federation began, Australia’s search for a national identity started to emerge in Tamarama with an artists’ colony, based around the home of artist Julian Rossi Ashton, illustrator for The Bulletin and founder of the art school bearing his name. He took up residence (Illawong Ave) in a house overlooking Fletcher’s Glen (now Tamarama Gully). He created strong connections with many of Australia’s most notable artists, who orbited his home for the 50-odd years he lived at Tamarama. Their work includes many paintings of Bondi, Tamarama and Bronte beaches, held in most of Australia’s art galleries.

Another significant artist resident was Henry Souter, writer, poet, playwright, graphic satirist for The Bulletin and arts editor for Arts and Architecture magazine. His largest surviving work is the allegorical mural painting depicting the emergence of the lifesaver as an icon of Australian manhood, painted for the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, of which he was president in 1920-21. The mural is now on display in the National Maritime Museum’s permanent collection. Along with the ‘digger’ and the ‘bushman’, the lifesaver achieved an iconic place in Australia’s cultural imagery ... and the iconography of the Bronzed Aussie was born.

