



CHATSWOOD & CHATWOOD WEST

Fact Sheet no.8

The Cammeraygal People: The Cammeraygal people of the Guringai nation lived in the Willoughby area until the 1820s and are recorded as being in the northern parts of the Sydney region for approximately 5,800 years. By 1830 there were no Aboriginal people following a traditional lifestyle in the area.

Geography: The area west of the Pacific highway was originally a heavily timbered, hilly and rough terrain except for the grasslands along the shores of the Lane Cove River. The West Ward covers the suburbs of Chatswood West, extending north to Boundary Street and Blue Gum Creek, and Lane Cove North where the boundary extends west to the Lane Cove River and south to Mowbray Road and extends east into Chatswood as far as Archer Street.

Demographics: In the 2011 Australian census, the total population of Chatswood was 21,194 people; 10,068 (47%) were male and 11,126 (53%) were female. The number of residents born in Australia was 7,850. Of those born overseas, the most common countries were China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan) (2,888), South Korea (1,642), Hong Kong (1,148), England (598) and Taiwan (526).

Name: The name Chatswood commemorates Richard Harnett's (former Willoughby Mayor and land owner) reference to his second wife's nickname and his sentimental attachment to the surrounding woodland area of his estate: Chattie's Wood. Several possibilities for the name Lane Cove have been suggested, but none have been supported by written evidence. One suggestion was that it was named after Lieutenant Michael Lane, a respected cartographer, who worked with Captain James Cook in Canadian waters. The other possibility is that the name was bestowed in honour of John Lane, son of the Lord Mayor of London, and a good friend of Governor Arthur Phillip.

Early Development: In the 1860s a small township began to develop at the junction of Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway) and Mowbray Road. In 1870 the Great Northern Hotel was built at this intersection, providing a drinking stop and accommodation for people travelling on foot or horseback along the timbered track that led from Blues Point to Hornsby.

The earliest land grants in the area that is now the West Ward, were made in 1794. John Fleming, an emancipated convict, and William Hall each received grants of approximately 25 acres. In 1805 and 1810, Isaac Nichols received grants of 230 and 380 acres, respectively. Isaac Nichols arrived in the colony of NSW in 1791 as a convict and later became a major property owner and postmaster and acquired 900 acres in the Lane Cove district. This later became known as Kings Plains straddling the Pacific Highway including the Chatswood railway station. William Henry was engaged by Governor Bligh in 1805 as assistant superintendent of convicts and was paid 1,000 acres of land where the present Chatswood now stands. Subdivision and sale of land in the area was by the Willoughby Park Land Company in the 1870s. One of the more progressive estates, called "Chatswood Estate", was owned by Richard Hayes Harnett (1819-1902) and was Mayor. Harnett purchased most of the Isaac Nichols Estate thus owning 1,200 acres of Willoughby land. When the Post Office was established in 1879, Chatswood was adopted as the official name at the suggestion of the Willoughby Municipal Council.

Early industries: The timber industry was established in the Chatswood area in the early 1800s and local timber was transported to Sydney by boat along the Lane Cove River. As land was cleared settlers began to farm the area. By the early 1900s Chatswood had a rural character, with orchards, Chinese market gardens and dairy farms. Other industries operating from the late 1800s until well into the 1900s include brickworks and potteries, tanneries and ice works.

Schools: Chatswood Public School, the first school in Chatswood, opened in 1883 on Findlay Avenue and in 1896 the school was moved to its present location on the Pacific Highway. In 1897, Our Lady of Dolours opened in Archer Street where it is still operating.



The Church of England Girl's School (formerly Astrea College) opened in Thomas Street in 1900 and moved in 1906 the school moved to larger premises in Centennial Avenue until its closure in 1936. Mowbray House School, a boy's school that was originally called Chatswood Preparatory School, opened in 1906 on Mowbray Road and closed in 1954. Brackley College was a small school that opened in 1911 on Victoria Avenue. In 1914 the school moved to a site on the corner of Albert Avenue and Archer Street where it operated until its closure in 1919. St Pius X College, originally called Christian Brothers Chatswood, has been open since 1937 in Kirk Street. Chatswood Co-educational High School has been open since 1959 on Centennial Avenue.

Churches: Churches in Chatswood/Chatswood West include Saint Stephen's Anglican Church on the corner of Sydney Street and Mowbray Road, Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church on Archer Street, Salvation Army on the corner of Archer and Johnson Streets, Church of Christ on Victoria Avenue, North Shore Temple Emanuel on Victoria Avenue, Armenian Apostolic Church on Macquarie Street, North Shore Christian Centre on Gibbes Street, Evangelical Free Church of Australia on Victoria Avenue, Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Anderson Street, Chatswood Baptist Church on the corner of Albert Avenue and Orchard Road, Japan Christian Church on Anderson Street, Second Church of Christ Scientist on Anthony Street, Australian Institute of Tibetan Healing Practices on Thomas Street, Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Beaconsfield Road, Saint Paul's Anglican Church on View Street and the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Johnson Street.

Parks and Reserves: Parks and reserves in Chatswood include Beauchamp Park on the corner of Nicholson and Darling Streets, Chatswood Park and Oval on the corner of Albert Avenue and Orchard Road, Campbell Park on Dalrymple Avenue, Fullers Road Reserve, Hotham Street Reserve, Lowanna Park on Fullers Road, Garden of Remembrance on Albert Avenue, Muston Park on Penshurst Street, Sutherland Reserve on Sutherland Road, Tinga Street Park, Wallace Park Reserve on Lone Pine Avenue, Kenneth Slessor Park on James Street, Mowbray Park on Avian Crescent, O.H. Reid Memorial Park on Reid Drive, Greville Street Reserve, Rotary War Memorial Athletic Field on Mowbray Road, Kingsford Smith Reserve on Ulm Street, Anglo Street Reserve, Park Avenue Reserve and Edgar Street Reserve.

Sporting Facilities: Chatswood Bowling Club on the Pacific Highway officially opened in 1900 and Chatswood West Bowling Club opened on Fullers Road in 1958. In 1914 approximately two acres of land adjoining Chatswood Bowling Club was purchased for a Croquet Club. Chatswood Croquet Club still operates today on the Pacific Highway. A Roller Skating Rink opened on Anderson Street in 1912 but closed approximately six years later. Chatswood Golf Club has been open on Beaconsfield Road since the 1930s. Other sporting facilities in Chatswood include Chatswood Tennis Club on Fullers Road, Chatswood Indoor Sports on Eastern Valley Way, Forest View Tennis Club on Eastern Valley Way, Cove Sports and Recreation Club on Eastern Valley Way, Willoughby District Tennis Club on Eastern Valley Way, Chatswood Skate Park on the corner of Orchard Street and Alfred Avenue and Chatswood Croquet Lawns and Tennis Courts on Ellis Street.

Chatswood District Community Hospital and Chatswood Community Nursing Home: Chatswood District Community Hospital opened as Kuring-gai Community Service Hospital in 1927. In 1956, when it became a public hospital, the name was changed to Chatswood District Community Hospital. The hospital closed in 1989 due to rationalisation of health services and continued as a nursing home. The hospital building was restored and expanded and opened as in November 1992.

Chatswood Library: The first library in the Chatswood area was that of the School of Arts on Mowbray Road, built in 1875. The School of Arts moved to Victoria Avenue in 1910 where the library operated until Willoughby Municipal Library (now Willoughby City Library) was built, also on Victoria Avenue, in 1977. The library operated on Victoria Avenue until 2007 when, having outgrown the premises, it moved to a temporary location at the Mandarin Shopping Centre. West Chatswood branch Library is located in the St Peter's Green aged care facility in Mowbray Road West and opened in 2010.

The Concourse: The Concourse involved the redevelopment of Willoughby City Council's 12,500 sq m site in Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. This project includes a new 5000 sqm public library, approximately 6000 sqm landscaped and terraced open space, a 1000 seat concert hall, a 500 seat theatre, a multipurpose/exhibition hall, rehearsal space, a boutique hotel, cafes, retail and commercial space and 460 car spaces. It was completed in September 2011: <http://www.theconcourse.com.au/>

May 2013

