



# REMEMBERING EURIMBLA

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A Suburban Community 1851 – 2018  
Randwick, New South Wales





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Randwick, New South Wales

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Researched and compiled by Eurimbla Precinct History Association, Inc

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Top: Panorama ~1960s Eurimbla Avenue *Image courtesy R&DHS*

Bottom: Panorama 2018 *Image courtesy Peter Blennerhassett*

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Eurimbla Precinct History Association Inc.



Our logo is based on an original fireplace tile found during restoration work at the oldest house in the Eurimbla Precinct, 4 Magill Street, built in 1883 by the owners William Joyce, stonemason, and his wife Honora. Tile kindly donated by Jane and David Shaw.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Eurimbla Precinct, the Gadigal and Bidjigal peoples and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



## THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO

all former residents of the Eurimbla Precinct, especially those who, despite being in the midst of their own personal life's upheaval, gave such enthusiastic support to the idea of a book to commemorate and record as much as possible of the long history and community spirit of the area in which they had lived. As well as contributing to a unique assemblage of oral, written and pictorial social history material, several fund-raising events were organised and very generously supported by the community, their families and friends. Their commitment has been invaluable for the production of this memoir of the Eurimbla Precinct.



# FOREWORD

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When, as Mayor of the City of Randwick, I was asked to support the Eurimbla Precinct History Association's application for a cultural grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society for research funding to record the story of their neighbourhood I didn't hesitate to endorse their application.

Where do you live? It's often the first question you ask after being introduced to someone. Home is a very special place. It's often referred to as your castle. This book is a record of the changes over time leading up to the very sad demise of this neighbourhood. With very little warning the residents of this neighbourhood in June 2017 heard that their houses were to be destroyed to make way for the Prince of Wales Hospital (POWH) redevelopment. Their loss was to be 'for the greater good' was the explanation they heard over and over. So with very little time the residents had to uproot and move out.

I admire the Eurimbla Precinct residents enormously, for the struggle they put forward to try and save their houses and neighbourhood from the claws of government. In the end however, it was a battle they couldn't win but they wanted to let others know what the neighbourhood meant to them and to provide a record for others so this little neighbourhood wouldn't just be flattened and forgotten.

It is a sad fact but this is but another chapter in a historical pattern of resumptions/redevelopments in this zone of our city namely: Kensington Racecourse – UNSW, Randwick Public Golf Course – UNSW, Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum – POW, Inglis Stables - Newmarket Development.

In pre-colonial times our Indigenous brothers and sisters trod more lightly on the land so it is more difficult to trace their legacy but hopefully the archaeological work associated with the hospital redevelopment will uncover more evidence for us. Middens and hearthstones dating back thousands of years have been uncovered in previous archaeological digs at the POW Hospital.

In August 2017, during construction of the Light Rail on High Street, a 19th century sandstone box drain was uncovered. The drain's location was very close to a stone house, The Willows, built by James Pearce, brother of Randwick's first mayor, Simeon, in the mid-1850s. It was an indication that as the archaeological work got underway more would be revealed about the early buildings in the Eurimbla Precinct.

The Association has a growing collection of oral history interviews with current and former residents, hundreds of photographs, memoirs, poems and artefacts and much of this is shared with you in the following pages.

This book is a tribute to the residents who rallied round to defend their homes and community. I hope over time their new homes and communities give them as much happiness as their old ones did. This book, a record of their memories, will be something they can treasure as a significant contribution to the community's understanding of the early history in Randwick and to ultimately add to the overall records of our City's history.

Thank you for sharing.

Cr Kathy Neilson, Labor Councillor North Ward, Randwick City Council



# CONTENTS

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<b>Abbreviations</b> .....	2
<b>Preface</b> .....	3
<b>Introduction</b> .....	6
<b>Early History of Eurimbla Precinct</b> .....	9
Location and Land Purchase	
Location and Land Titles	
The Land and its Locality Before the 1850s	
The First Purchase of the Eurimbla Precinct Land	
A Brief History	
1851-1876 James Pearce and the First Market Garden	
1877-1911 Later Market Gardens	
1912-1914 Sub-division and Eurimbla Avenue	
Building Sequence 1915-1927	
Other Historical Events Impacting Eurimbla Precinct 1915-2017	
<b>Early Buildings and their Owners</b> .....	33
1856 The Willows	
1883 4 Magill Street	
1888 Charles Conder – Chinaman’s Garden	
1889 Pearce Bros’ Nursery and Flower Farm	
1918 Commonwealth Government War Homes Acquisition	
1924 Eurimbla Avenue Shops	
<b>Housing – Names, Numbers and Styles</b> .....	53
From Names to Numbers	
Getting around – Cars and Where to Park Them	
Housing Styles in the Precinct	
Renovations and Extensions	
Changing Skylines – Perspectives from Eurimbla Precinct	
<b>Living in Eurimbla Precinct</b> .....	81
Growing up in the Precinct	
On the Home Front	
Out in the Garden	
Animals	
Passing the Time	
Lost and Found Treasures	
Policemen and Prostitutes	
Incidents – Alarming, Curious, Questionable, Malicious, Mysterious, Historic	
<b>A Sense of Community</b> .....	117
Community Action	
Belonging and Connection	
<b>Down Memory Lane</b> .....	129
<b>A Century of Construction and Community Life</b> .....	167
<b>Appendices</b> .....	171
Eurimbla Precinct Houses with Names	
Land and House References 2018	
Sales History of War Service Homes	
Two Ships Called Eurimbla	
Contributors – Oral History, Memoirs, Poems and Art	
<b>Sources and Selected Bibliography</b> .....	179
<b>Endnotes</b> .....	180
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	187
<b>Index</b> .....	189
<b>EPHA Inc – Note</b> .....	192

# ABBREVIATIONS

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CT	Certificate of (Torrens) Title to land ownership, available in NSW from 1863 (see Vol. fol.)
DP	Deposited Plan - plan of sub-division of Torrens Title land approved and registered by LTO
EP	Eurimbla Precinct
LTO	Land Titles Office, administered by NSW Land Registry Services (NSW LRS)
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of NSW
MWS&DB	Metropolitan Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board
NAA	National Archives Australia
NRS	NSW Record Series, State Archives and Records of NSW
POWH	Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick
RAHS	Royal Australian Historical Society
R&DHS	Randwick and District Historical Society
RHW	Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick
Sands Directory	Sands Sydney Suburban and Country Commercial Directory
SANSW	State Archives and Records of NSW
SIX maps	Spatial Information eXchange, NSW
SLNSW	State Library of NSW
SMH	Sydney Morning Herald
SRNSW	State Records of NSW
Trove	National Library of Australia, Canberra online resource collection
UNSW	The University of New South Wales
Vol. fol.	Volume and folio - Torrens Certificate of Title (CT) reference in the LTO records

## **Street, house and resident identification**

E	Eurimbla Avenue
B	Botany Street
M	Magill Street

Houses are identified within the text by a two part code using street and house number. For example, E7 refers to 7 Eurimbla Avenue, M4 to 4 Magill Street and B55 to 55 Botany Street, and so on.

# PREFACE

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'You can get your mojo back anywhere', said a resident from Eurimbla Avenue, Randwick after hearing that houses between the Prince of Wales Hospital and the University of NSW were to be compulsorily acquired and demolished. The northern side of Magill Street and the eastern side of Botany Street, between High and Magill Streets and all of Eurimbla Avenue were to be acquired by the NSW Government for the expansion of the Prince of Wales Hospital.

So started the often confusing and confronting process of letting go, not only of homes, but of a close-knit and vibrant community.

As this news reached the wider community, four local residents, Rosalie, Jan, Monique and Jenny saw the importance of the change and formed a group, to determine if a local history research project was feasible. The group named the area of acquisition as the *Eurimbla Precinct*. The purpose of the project was to record the history and social history of the Eurimbla Precinct area from early settlement up to the present day. The main objective was to produce a book, both in hard copy and digital formats, to celebrate and remember the Eurimbla Precinct. Our goal was to obtain as many photographs, anecdotes, poems, paintings and written memories as possible, as well as excerpts from recent and past residents' oral histories and reminiscences. Sourced and referenced historical records of this particular area's development over the past 150 years were also to be included. These ideas were discussed with interested residents living in the Eurimbla Precinct and a residents' fundraising committee was quickly formed. Funds raised from two street-based garage sales and sales of donated items assisted the group to initiate the project and oral interviews subsequently commenced. It was clear that further funding was required so that future graphic design and printing costs could be defrayed. This led to Incorporation and so the Eurimbla Precinct History Association Inc (EPHA Inc) was formed and the grant application process commenced. Indeed, EPHA Inc was successful in securing a Cultural and Community Grant from Randwick City Council in September 2018 and a Cultural Grant from NSW State Government Create NSW Program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society in 2019.

The authors, Rosalie, Jan, Monique and Jenny spent many hours interviewing residents, transcribing oral interviews, cataloguing photographs, researching historical records and applying for grants. Jenny acted as community liaison, particularly during the resident interviewing phase. Monique has made several paintings of houses in the area, as a unique addition to the project. Rosalie took on the role of project manager. Extensive historical research was carried out by Jan. Rosalie and Monique conducted the oral history interviews and

Rosalie did the preliminary preparation, the interview transcriptions including the analysis and cataloguing of the photos.

Prior to commencement of this project, a meeting was organised for residents and interested locals to discuss the objectives of the project and to answer questions about what would be required from potential participants. A total of eighteen residents and former residents volunteered to participate in oral history interviews.

A list of interview topics and questions was collated and used as a guide for each interview. All interviews were electronically recorded. An information sheet and an interview consent form were given to each interviewee prior to the interview. It was important that there was signed consent to take part in an e-recorded interview. The 'Consent to Interview' form outlined the conditions for participating in a recorded interview and for subsequent use of the recordings as part of the project. Participants were given the opportunity to indicate if they wished to be personally identified with the material collected. They were also given the opportunity to review and confirm the interview transcription and to make changes after viewing the transcript.

Oral history interviews ranged in time from 30-90 minutes. All interview recordings were transcribed with the accuracy of each transcription confirmed by the interviewee. A range of categories for subsequent analyses was produced from the overall content of all interviews. The content of each transcription was then coded according to these categories. These categories subsequently provided the basis for themes which were used throughout the publication. The social history content of this publication was largely based on interview content and photos.

The book is organised into four main sections. The first covers the early chronological history of the land and its houses, up to the end of the building phase in the late 1920s. The second deals with the social development of the area and its evolution throughout the decades. The growing 'sense of community' that made the Precinct so special for many of its residents, is explored and celebrated in the third section, while the final section, *Down Memory Lane*, brings together the contributions of residents as they recall their varied and wonderful memories of life in Eurimbla Precinct.

It was inevitable that, both because of the cul-de-sac design of Eurimbla Avenue, which more readily fostered a more intimate type of neighbourhood, and because of the outward orientation of the houses of the affected sections of Botany and Magill Streets, that the focus of the second, third and fourth sections are on Eurimbla Avenue, as that was the source of the majority of the material collected. However, in an attempt to redress





the balance, some of the earliest dwellings and their occupants of Magill and Botany Street have been described in rather more detail than those of their Eurimbla backyard neighbours.

The editors and writers who have combined to produce this book have made every effort to minimise errors, and trust that those that may have inadvertently occurred will be forgiven and brought to our notice. Any corrections will be posted on the website, along with any other material that readers may be kind enough to offer to contribute. Authors would like to note that quotes from oral history interviews are not primary sources for historical research, but subjective experiences as remembered by the interviewee and the provider of the memoir.

In order to avoid any misconceptions of personal bias, all the memoirs and photographs contributed by former residents of the Eurimbla Precinct that have been included in this book have been selected by those members of the EPHA Committee who were not themselves former residents. Other items contributed, but not published in this book due to space constraints, will appear in due course on our website.

As there are very few examples of large scale acquisitions in the Randwick area, the authors hope this book will provide insights into the social fabric of the area through the decades. Many photographs depicting social events and life in general over this time have been included. The people who have recorded their memories include many who are second and third generation residents or former residents of the area, as well as those who have lived in the Precinct for decades. Randwick's Eurimbla Precinct no longer exists but with the availability of this book, memories may be sustained and future generations can gain access to the history of this particular area of Randwick.

Our aim is that *Remembering Eurimbla* will prove to be a worthy commemoration of a unique place, one that has not only been part of the earliest history of the City of Randwick, but that has been made special by all those who have lived there until 2018.

Eurimbla Precinct located between the University of NSW (top left) and the Prince of Wales Hospital (centre). Randwick Racecourse (top). Late 1960s. Image courtesy of UNSW Archives S2257-21-02

# INTRODUCTION

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## POST-FEDERATION GOVERNMENT ACQUISITIONS OF EURIMBLA PRECINCT

Eurimbla Avenue has been the focus of two episodes of compulsory purchases of properties by government decree.

The first was in October 1918, when fourteen of the then twenty existing homes were acquired by the Australian Commonwealth Government for 'defence purposes'. In reality this meant that they were to be used as hostel accommodation for nursing staff of the adjacent Military Hospital (established in 1916 in the buildings of the former Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children, and officially renamed in 1953 as the Prince of Wales Hospital). In July 1922, these houses were legally transferred to the ownership of the Commissioners of War Service Homes, who sold off a few of the more dilapidated ones and allocated the remainder to men who had qualified for a long-term War Service house-purchase loan. Apart from the disruption caused in late 1918 to the existing tenants of the fourteen dwellings who suddenly had to find new accommodation in times of acute housing shortages, the repercussions to the ongoing progress of the growing community and the built environment of Eurimbla Avenue were relatively minimal. The second acquisition almost 100 years later, was not to be the case.

In June 2017 the NSW State Government conveyed the news that every house in Eurimbla Avenue, as well as neighbouring properties in Botany and Magill Streets, were to be acquired and then demolished to make way for extensions to the medical and associated research facilities of the Prince of Wales Hospital and the University of NSW. This time, the Government acquisitions were not just to accommodate nursing staff, but for the increasing demands of the 21st century for the 'excellence of medical care' of its citizens. Unfortunately, this also meant a death sentence for the 100 year-old community of the Eurimbla Precinct.

Residents in the proposed acquisition area were door knocked on Thursday 22 June 2017. If no one answered, a flyer was left in the mail box or under the door. This resulted in a number of residents learning this devastating news from other sources, including from friends, colleagues or the media. A written information pack was distributed once contact was made with an official from NSW Health Infrastructure, the acquiring body. Residents were informed that the acquisition was to be conducted in line with the land acquisition reforms announced in October 2016 by the NSW Government, in response to the Russell Review<sup>1</sup>. As per the reforms, all residents were to be supported through the process by a personal manager who would be on hand to support them through every stage of the acquisition process, including providing relocation support.

So began the confusing, confronting and fraught process of dealing with solicitors, valuers and officials from Health Infrastructure NSW. Securing a fair or just price under the NSW Land Acquisition (Just Terms) Compensation Act 1991 was complicated. Many residents were traumatised and realised that finding a similar property in the vicinity was highly unlikely in the required time frame.

The close-knit community established an action committee, as in the tradition of times past. A core role of the committee was to aim for consistent communication among residents, advise of any new developments and, in particular, to assist elderly residents through the process. Key achievements included negotiating meetings with State and Federal members of parliament, for small representative groups as well as for all affected residents, in addition to assisting individual residents with media interviews. Lines of communication were established. In time, monthly gatherings of residents were scheduled. As residents departed, these gatherings acted as farewells.

**Who was affected?** Dinah and Wendy <sup>[E56]</sup>, two former residents, door knocked houses in the Precinct area soon after the acquisition announcement and gathered some relevant data. For example, 'How long had residents lived there?' and 'How many people are aged 80 years and over?' Not everyone was home but the following is a good guide to the relevant numbers.

The number of houses acquired in the Precinct was 93. There were 56 privately owned houses, including two private dental practices. The remainder were owned by Prince of Wales Hospital, The Sydney Children's Hospital and the University of NSW. Five residents from the Precinct indicated that their parents or grandparents owned and lived in their home in the past. In some cases, for a number of years, all three generations were living in the home concurrently.

Through contact with former residents not living in the Precinct area at the time of acquisition, a further eight families at least, were either long term residents or lived with their parents and/or grandparents in the Precinct area:

Residents who had lived over 40 years in the Precinct **14 (25% of privately owned houses)**

Residents who had lived over 20 years in the Precinct **32 (56% of privately owned houses)**

Residents who had lived 10 years or more in the Precinct **41 (71% of privately owned houses)**

Number of residents aged 80 years and older in the Precinct **8**

Number of children living in the Precinct **41**

## THE IMPACT - A PERSONAL STORY

Losing 42 Eurimbla, aside from the heart-breaking pain it has caused me and my family, the financial loss in the short term i.e. not getting a realistic market value. Plus, the market value offered is based on a willing seller - I AM NOT A WILLING SELLER. In the long term, I will lose out because this area is rocketing up in value because of its unique niche location, dead end quiet street and combined with a unique 100-year-old fully renovated [home] with LOVE and no corners cut was to provide a great income for the short periods of holidaying that I had planned to do in my motor home. Using the short-term rental potential to finance these trips meant I did not have to rely on a pension. I worked very hard, did 95% of the renovations myself and now it is going to be bulldozed. Financially I will lose out big time and the compensation offered of 'up to \$75,000' solatium for the disruption to my life is an insult. I have lost a year of life surviving and dealing with this forced acquisition so far. A nightmare doesn't adequately cover the effect this forced acquisition has had on myself, my family and my community.

One year to assimilate that your home, your 'castle', your safe place, your future is to be taken without recourse. I observed my community in a state of shock, disbelief, fear, panic, confusion and uncertainty as the 'dark cloud' of a forced acquisition hit home.

To then be told that 'market value' will be based on the current condition of your property and so I observed my community 'clean up' their properties because they knew that to buy back into the area (which you are supposed to be able to do) you would have to get as much as possible. Neighbours painted, cleaned, de-cluttered, renovated, made extra bedrooms, put in new kitchens, spent money they didn't have just to get a higher price and then to have them bulldozed down. Very depressing and the whole time knowing that the end was soon. It didn't stop there, you needed to engage a lawyer, find a new home, move your life and family to a new area because no one that I am aware of has been able to find an equivalent place in an equivalent location in Randwick. Then physically move. All in 12 months. Unacceptable.

My community and myself have been and still are being disadvantaged to the 'Nth' degree.

Sam Sarkis

Finally, by October 28, 2018, there were only a couple of residents remaining in Eurimbla Avenue. Harriet Alexander from the Sydney Morning Herald, in an article *The Crows Move in as Randwick's Eurimbla Avenue is*

*Wiped Off the Map*<sup>2</sup>, interviewed several residents and broadly outlined the process and impact and captured the essence of the acquisition experience for residents who lived in the Eurimbla Precinct .

## AN UNUSUAL DISCOVERY!

In preparation for gazettal of the acquisition of Eurimbla Avenue and subsequent proposed closure of the road, it was discovered that there is no formal record at the NSW Land Registry Services of Eurimbla Avenue having ever been dedicated as a public road. Without first completing the dedication of the land as a road, it is not possible to close Eurimbla Avenue as per the executed agreement.

A report<sup>3</sup> was prepared by Randwick City Council, noting that Eurimbla Avenue has been used as a road since the early 1900s. There are circumstances where land that was set aside for the purposes of a road may not have been dedicated as a public road if it was set aside prior to the Local Government Acts of 1906 or 1919.

The NSW Land Registry Services has advised that the land may be dedicated as road under S16 of the Roads Act, 1993.

The requirements involve:

1. Registration of the Plan of Eurimbla Avenue with NSW Land Registry Services
2. Publishing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

# PLAN

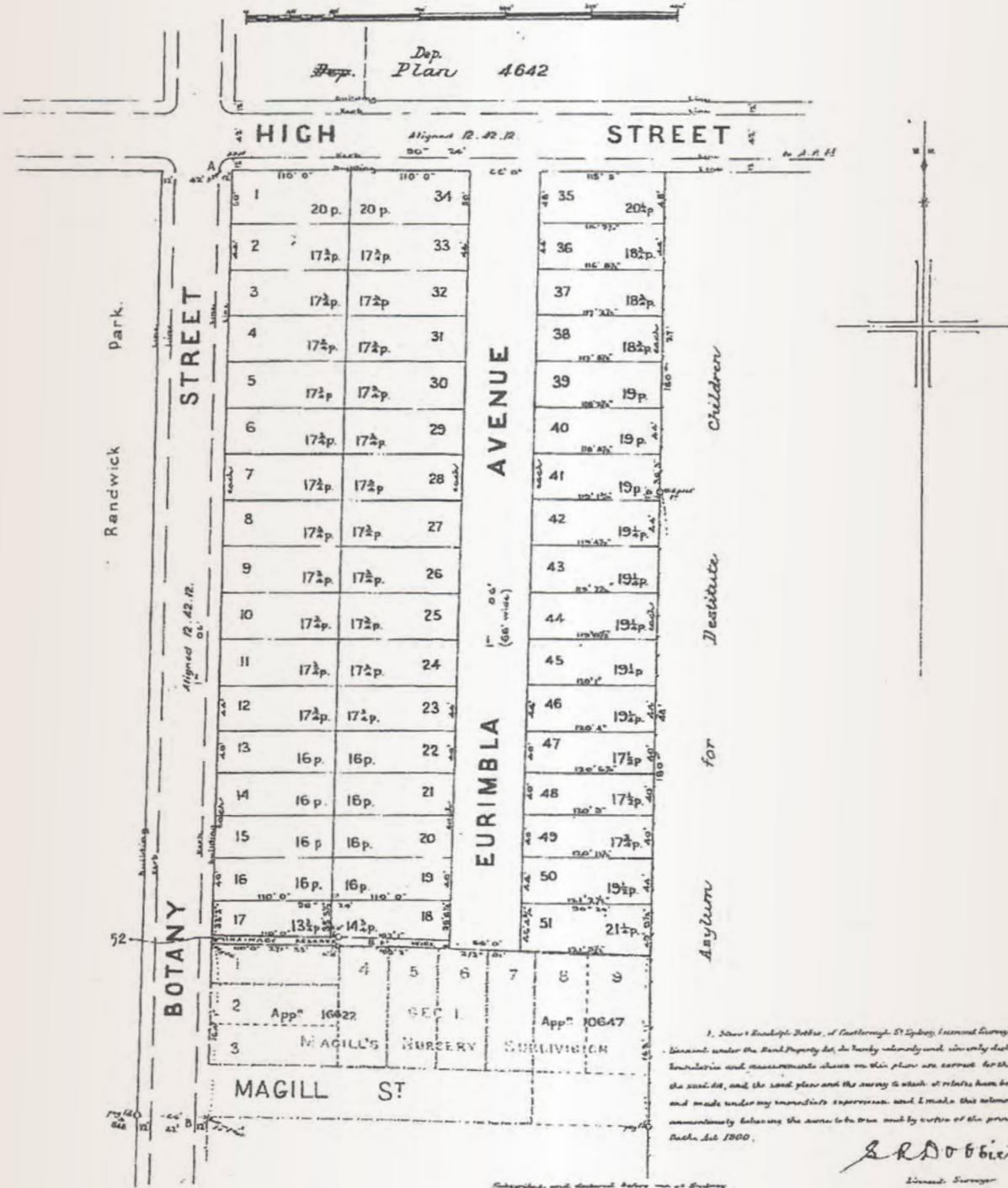
# DP. 7745 (E)

of subdivision of land comprised in Certificate of Title Vol. 1468 Folio 16.

Parish of Alexandria County of Cumberland

— Municipality of Randwick —

— Scale 80 feet to an Inch —



Dep. Plan 4642

HIGH STREET

BOTANY STREET

EURIMBLA AVENUE

MAGILL ST

Children

Prostitutes

for

Asylum

I, John Randolph Dobbs, of Newcastle, St. George, Licensed Surveyor, do hereby certify that the boundaries and measurements shown on this plan are correct for the purposes of the said Act, and the said plan and the survey to which it relates have been prepared and made under my immediate supervision, and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Act, Act 1900.

*J. R. Dobbs*  
 Licensed Surveyor

Subscribed and declared before me at Sydney  
 this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 1910  
*Wm. R. ...*

Assumed Magnetic Variation 3° 30' E  
 Azimuth taken from A.B.

Date of Survey April 1910

# DP. 7745 (E)

# EARLY HISTORY OF EURIMBLA PRECINCT

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# LOCATION AND LAND PURCHASE

## LOCATION AND LAND TITLES



The **Eurimbla Precinct** describes a suburban residential area immediately to the south west of the main CBD of Randwick, NSW. Rectangular in shape, with an almost north to south orientation on its longer sides, the site is defined by lands bounded by High Street to the north, Botany Street to the west, Magill Street to the south, and on the east is the western boundary of the Randwick Hospital Campus (Hospital Road). The Precinct contained just under 8 acres (3.2 hectares), an area about the equivalent of four rugby football fields.

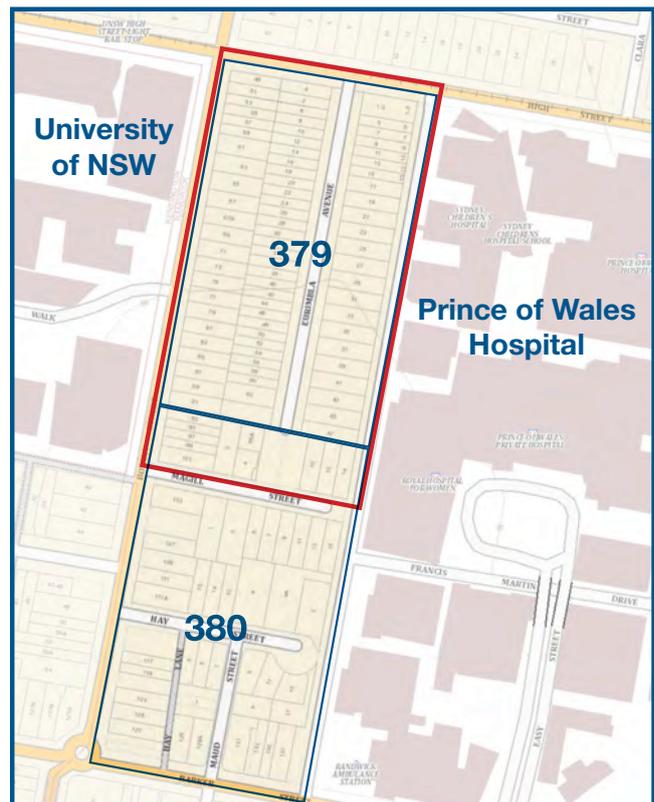
The properties contained within the Precinct were those within the cul-de-sac known as Eurimbla Avenue which opened onto High Street at its northern end, and the adjacent properties on the eastern side of Botany Street and the northern side of Magill Street. Under the 2017 Randwick Hospital Campus Re-Development Proposal, all were to be compulsorily acquired and then demolished. The Eurimbla Precinct, including all of Eurimbla Avenue, was to totally disappear.

## PORTIONS 379 AND 380, PARISH OF ALEXANDRIA, COUNTY CUMBERLAND, NSW

From 1788, all the land in the new Colony of New South Wales was considered to belong to the British monarch. As such it was known as Crown land, until such time as the King (or later, the Queen) 'granted' permission for parts of it to be 'alienated', that is, to be given away freely or sold to new owners. These people were thus known as the first Grantees, and the land they had acquired from the Crown was known as a 'Grant' - even if it had been paid for!

The boundaries of the land in which the future Eurimbla Precinct lay were first surveyed in 1850 as two separate (but adjacent and identical in size) blocks of land. They were subsequently bought at a government auction sale of Crown land on 15 January 1851 by the brothers James and Simeon Henry Pearce<sup>1</sup>.

In later decades, as mapping and land titles became more organised, all the individual parcels of land in each parish of a County (other than small town or village allotments) were given a unique identifying Portion Number. The two blocks of land bought by the Pearces were designated as **Portions 379 and 380 of the Parish of Alexandria, County Cumberland, New South Wales**. The Eurimbla Precinct occupied the whole of Portion 379, which contained Eurimbla Avenue and the adjacent Botany Street properties, and also the northern part of Portion 380, in which 93 to 101 Botany Street and the houses on the north side of Magill Street would later be built.

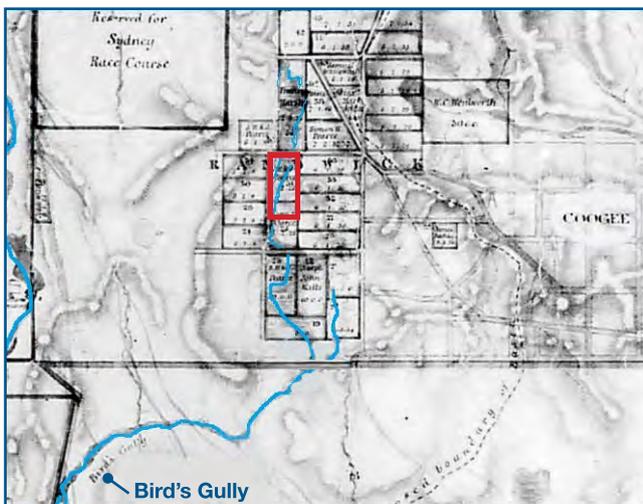


Portions 379 and 380 outlined blue. Eurimbla Precinct outlined red  
Source: SIX Maps, Spatial Information eXchange,  
NSW Government Spatial Services

# THE LAND AND ITS LOCALITY BEFORE THE 1850s

The Eurimbla Precinct and the land around it lies in a shallow north to south valley in the uplands of the sandstone ridge that divides Sydney and its inner eastern suburbs from the Pacific Ocean to the east.

Prior to the disruption of European settlement, at the northern end of the valley springs of fresh water rose to the surface in an area to the south-west of the junction of the present-day Alison and Belmore Roads. These springs collected in a swampy basin of land, and then formed a small creek running southwards in a gentle decline through the marshy terrain it created, until finally flowing in a more definitive course south west through the later named 'Birds Gully' to the lower lying lakes and ponds that we can still see at Eastlakes to the south of Rainbow Street<sup>2</sup>.



Section of a map surveyed in 1853 by John Adam, The Eurimbla Precinct has been outlined in red  
Source: 'Plan of the country between the Old South Head Road and Botany Bay shewing [sic] the Lachlan and other swamps. August 1853, JS Adam, surveyor'. SANSW Map 5690

As part of the early 1850s investigations into how to augment Sydney's water supply, the above map outlined the water catchment area to the south east of Sydney, showing the marshy area to the west of Belmore Road and the creek that flows through Bird's Gully to the north of Botany Bay. The map also shows the parcels of Crown land that had recently been surveyed in the Randwick area, five years after the Pearces had settled there, although not all of them were sold. Just two new houses were being built at that time.

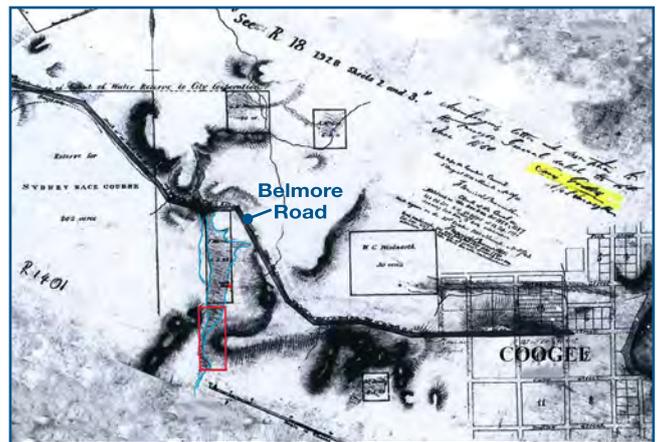
To the east of this valley the ridge of higher land follows the coast line, along which ran an ancient trackway, parts of which were soon utilised by the colonists for access both to the timber-getting areas in the valleys along the coast and south to the fishing resources of Botany Bay<sup>3</sup>.

To the west was another sharp uphill area, before the gentle slope down towards the southern straggle of swamps to the south of Sydney town.

The area remained in its natural state for more than 60 years after the founding of the Colony of New South Wales in 1788. Different parts of it were described

variously on early maps as sandy, scrubby or swampy. It soon became a popular place for the early colonists for hunting kangaroo, wallabies and wild fowl, as it would have been for the indigenous people<sup>4</sup>.

Until 1853 only a few isolated parcels of Crown land had been surveyed and sold in the area and, with the exception of the Pearce brothers' land, these were all to non-builders and the land remained uncultivated. These parcels of land were all situated around pockets of marshy land or creeks, as they were the most valuable sites in terms of water supply and potential soil fertility for future vegetable gardens, whether domestic or commercial<sup>5</sup>.



The map shows the area surveyed in early 1850 by Lewis Gordon, in preparation for making a new road to Coogee from Sydney via the Old Botany Road  
Source: 'Plan of a New Line of Road. June 1850, Lewis Gordon, surveyor'. SANSW Map 5312

## EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE DISTRICT

There are verbatim descriptions of the terrain as it was during that time. These have survived as a consequence of a Supreme Court case in 1861 over whether the site chosen in the vicinity for the new St. Jude's Anglican Church complied with the one stipulated in a benefactor's will (which was a main source of the building funds). During the hearings, numerous witnesses were called to describe the locality as it was up until January 1856 when the disputed benefactor, Frederick Jones, had written his will<sup>6</sup>.

One, Thomas Galvin, who had frequented the area since his boyhood in the 1830s, said, 'I used to mind my mother's cattle in that locality ... when I had to go from Sydney to Coogee I had to come through the racecourse then go to the top of the hill where there was a swamp called 'Reedy's Swamp' ... on further there was a quantity of little flat [land] which we used I think to call the Yellow Flats, and after these we came to the Rocks where the timber commenced and then we came to Coogee - this is previous to 1836 ...' From this description, 'Reedy's Swamp' would have been in the area to the west of Belmore Road and Avoca Street, including the **Eurimbla Precinct**.

The map shows the route that Thomas Galvin would have followed when going to Coogee before the road existed. From the racecourse, at the top of the hill he came to 'Reedy's Swamp' then passed through the Yellow Flats (the High Cross Park area) before descending into Coogee.

### THOMAS BALCOMBE'S DRAWING

There is also a drawing of the locality in the 1850s that depicts the landscape to the east of the present-day Avoca Street (the 'little flat'), and the view towards the Pacific Ocean. This drawing was done by Thomas T. Balcombe, a former surveyor who lived at Woollahra. It can be dated from between 1858 when St. Jude's first church was built and the artist's death in 1861. The little church was on the north west corner of the Alison Road and Avoca Street intersection, where the Easts House building now stands. The artist would have been working from somewhere in St. Jude's newly fenced off burial ground, and his picture shows the area to the east of the Eurimbla Precinct, looking south east across an open and relatively treeless terrain dotted with rocks and sandhills, with Coogee Bay in the distance.



Thomas T Balcombe (1810-1861), untitled drawing of St Jude's Church and the adjacent countryside (c.1858)  
*Image courtesy of its custodians, the Blue Mountains Historical Society.*

# THE FIRST PURCHASE OF THE EURIMBLA PRECINCT LAND

The purchase of the future Eurimbla Precinct land by James and Simeon Pearce in January 1851 was a turning point in their efforts to ensure the future of 'Randwick' as a viable settlement.

## FIRST KNOWN REFERENCE TO EURIMBLA PRECINCT LAND

Simeon Pearce had arrived in NSW as an assisted immigrant gardener from Gloucestershire, south west England in December 1841, just as the Colony was plunging into an economic recession so catastrophic that even many of its wealthy leading families and citizens were bankrupted. Simeon survived by using his country skills to re-invent himself as a butcher, leasing a shop in The Rocks district of Sydney. But by September 1845 he had given up on any prospects for a secure future in the colony, announcing in the Sydney Morning Herald his planned closure of business and imminent return to England<sup>7</sup>.

**TAKE NOTICE.**  
**T**HE undersigned being about to proceed to England, requests all persons who are indebted to him to settle their accounts without delay, and all to whom he may be indebted are also requested to forward their accounts for adjustment and liquidation,  
**SIMEON HENRY PEARCE,**  
 Cumberland-street.  
 4006  
 September 16.

Simeon Pearce announces his planned closure of business and his return to England  
 Source: SMH, 17 September 1845

Had he done so, Randwick NSW and the Eurimbla Precinct would never have existed. However, reverting to his true nature of perseverance in adversity, he changed his mind, stayed on, and by 1847 was in a position to buy his first piece of Australian land.

In the NSW State Archives there is a letter written on 30 July 1847 by 26-year-old Simeon Henry Pearce that contains the first known reference to the Eurimbla Precinct land<sup>8</sup>.

47/14. Sect. 3 et. 1.  
 Recd 2 Sept 1847.  
 Cumberland St. Sydney 30 July 1847.

Sir,  
 As it is my intention to become the purchaser of a measured portion of twelve Acres of land, situate in the Parish of Alexandria, near the Old Race Course Reserve, and under Proclamation for Sale, you will oblige by causing to be "put up" at your earliest convenience a piece of land, containing about Ten Acres bounded on the North by the said twelve Acres. on the East, by a line of Road

I remain

Sir

Yours Obedtly

Simeon Henry Pearce

To the  
 Surveyor General

Simeon Pearce's letter to the Surveyor General - first known mention of the future Eurimbla Precinct land, 30 July 1847  
 Source: NSW State Archives

The letter was addressed to the Surveyor General of NSW, and in it Pearce explained that he was intending to purchase 'twelve acres of land situate[d]... near the Old Racecourse Reserve' at a forthcoming auction, but that he would also like to purchase as soon as possible **'a piece of land containing about ten acres, bounded on the north by the said twelve acres...'** The 'twelve acres' Simeon referred to was a block of newly surveyed Crown land that was to be auctioned on 11 August 1847. It is now that part of Randwick between Alison Road and High Street, with Botany Street on its western border. The extra 'piece of land containing about ten acres' that he was also requesting would eventually become the **Eurimbla Precinct**.

Unfortunately, on the day of the auction, Simeon was unable to buy the 12 acres, as it had been pre-purchased on behalf of a Captain Francis Marsh, who was using some of his pension entitlement to free land and had already arranged to sell it on to a second purchaser. It was only by sheer good luck that the new owner, George Hooper, came from a village in Gloucestershire not far from the Pearce's village. Details of the subsequent meeting and negotiations between the two fellow countrymen remain unknown, but the outcome was that on 22 September 1847, Hooper sold Simeon the southern four acres of the original 12¾ acre block<sup>9</sup>. An additional happy outcome was that from that time on, the Hooper and Pearce families began a close friendship that lasted throughout their lives<sup>10</sup>.

### SIMEON PEARCE'S REPEATED REQUESTS TO BUY THE MUCH WANTED 'RANDWICK' LAND

In October 1847, Simeon again wrote to the Surveyor General. He was now, he said, the proprietor of four acres, but repeated his request that adjacent land be surveyed and put up for sale 'at the earliest possible convenience', because his portion was 'too small for any purposes of business.' Although the initial reaction was favourable, after further deliberation (the sequence of official comments is noted on the letter), the final decree was that of the Deputy Surveyor-General S.A. Perry, stating that 'This must stand over until the ground can be carefully examined and laid out'<sup>11</sup>. This decision resulted in a three year wait before Simeon and his brother James were eventually able to buy their next piece of much wanted land in the 'Randwick' area.



Deputy Surveyor General S.A. Perry's comments 6 December 1847, refusing S.H. Pearce permission to buy the future Eurimbla Precinct land  
Source: SANSW, NRS 13731, 2/1701, 47/23

In the meantime, Simeon was busying himself on his land, to which he had given the name 'Randwick', thus commemorating the Gloucestershire village of his forbears and in which he had been born and raised. In readiness to build a house, huts were erected for the stonemasons, and hardwood timber was ordered. By the end of 1848 Simeon's younger brother James had also arrived in Sydney, a ten-roomed solid stone house named Blenheim House had been built and cultivation of the 4 acres as a market garden and orchard had begun.



Blenheim House, Randwick



Simeon Pearce  
1821-1886

Alice Pearce  
1828-1900

James Pearce  
1825-1876

Sophia Pearce  
1831-1898

Source: Mitchell Library, SLNSW, Pearce papers PXA 2150

Despite not knowing when, or even if, they would be allowed to buy the land to the south that Simeon had requested, the brothers settled down at their new 'Randwick'. Both had married: Simeon in January 1848 to Sydney born Alice Isabella Thompson and James almost two years later to Alice's younger sister Sophia Frances Thompson. Both young couples and their infant children continued living within the sturdy shelter of Blenheim House. In order to make a reasonable living, the brothers had resorted to buying some of the nearest available land, acquiring 4½ acres near 'Waverley' (present-day Bondi Junction) soon after James' marriage in November 1849.

They also adopted another tactic. While James concentrated on developing the market gardens, Simeon offered his land management expertise to the Government, initially on a voluntary basis, as a bailiff for the protection of Crown land. Concerns over the theft of timber and unauthorised animals grazing on Crown land had been growing, as these resulted in an increasingly denuded landscape surrounding Sydney. The effects of this soon became all too obvious. Sand and dust storms were burying houses in Surry Hills 'up to their roofs', and making many of Sydney's streets and footpaths almost impassable<sup>12</sup>.

The brothers' partnership worked well. James made enough money to keep the families self-sufficient, at least for the time being. He also began to grow hundreds of saplings, which were planted around the district. This supplemented Simeon's land care efforts as a Commissioner for Crown Lands.

However, with their families growing, it seemed they might soon have to look elsewhere to find a new location with sufficient land to provide a livelihood. Fortunately for the future of Randwick, that was not necessary, as, still unwilling to give up on his original plan to buy the land to the south of Blenheim House, on 25 March 1850 Simeon wrote yet again to the Surveyor General<sup>13</sup>. This time his letter was diplomatically couched in the more conventional terms of humble petitioning!

Blenheim House, Randwick,  
25th March 1850

Sir, I beg most respectfully to inform you that I desire to purchase two allotments of land situate at Randwick, near the Township of Coogee. One allotment contains about 11 acres commencing at the Southern boundary of Charles [sic] Marsh's land.

2<sup>nd</sup> allotment contains 4 acres Commencing on the Eastern side of the said Charles Marsh's land.

By forwarding [expediting] the above allotments for sale you will greatly oblige.

Your Most Obedient Servant, Simeon Henry Pearce.

[To] Sir T L Mitchell, Surveyor General, etc.

Ent<sup>d</sup> as 50/ 17.

From the comments made by the Governor and other officials in the margins of this letter, it appeared that the earlier refusals of 1847 had been in part due to concerns that unchecked occupation of the higher land might result in the pollution of Sydney's Water Reserve (now Centennial Park). Those fears having been allayed by some reassuring comments from the local surveyor Lewis Gordon, at last the Surveyor General gave his consent to the survey and subsequent sale of the requested Crown land - noting again in the margin 'I conclude Mr Gordon may be directed to measure as required - in continuation of the general design for allotments in the same locality.'

### SURVEY OF THE 'EURIMBLA PRECINCT' LAND

When the land was surveyed by Lewis Gordon a few months later, it was set out as two separate parcels of land, each of identical size of 6 acres, 2 roods and 25 perches, making a total of just over 13 acres<sup>14</sup>. It was arranged as two rectangular blocks, lying from north to south, with a common central boundary. The northern block was separated from the Pearce brothers' original four acres by a length of open ground with a width of

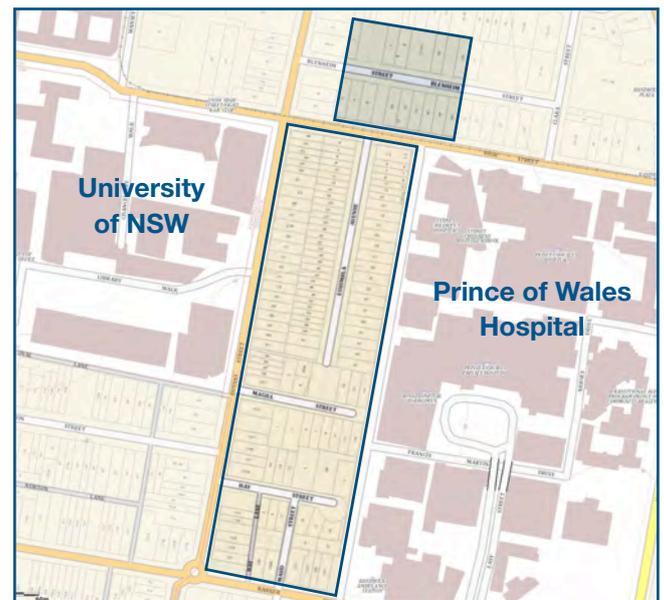
66 feet (just over 20 metres). This was the conventional width allowance for a future road, and so High Street came into being.

The land directly to the south, set 30 metres to the west, allowed for some higher and drier potential building land on the western side but still having the full benefit of the natural southward flow of the creek down the central length of the two blocks.

On Friday 13 December 1850 the 'suburban allotments' were listed in the NSW Government Gazette Proclamation as Lots 43 and 44 of an auction of Crown land to be held on 15 January 1851<sup>15</sup>.

43. CUMBERLAND, Ga. 2r. 25p., Six acres two roods and twenty-five perches, parish of Alexandria, near the village of Coogee; commencing at the north-west corner, (distant 1 chain 50 links west and 1 chain south from the south-west corner of Marsh's 12 acres 3 roods and 24 perches,) and bounded on the north by a road 1 chain wide, dividing it from part of that land bearing east 6 chains; on the east by a line bearing south 11 chains 10 links; on the south by a line bearing west 6 chains; and on the west by a line bearing north 11 chains 10 links to the north-west corner on the road aforesaid. Upset price £5 per acre.

Proclamation of Portion 379 boundary description  
Source: NSW Government Gazette, 13 December 1850



The Pearce's 1851 land outlined in blue, their original four acres (shaded) lie to the north. Source: SIX Maps, Spatial Information eXchange, NSW Government Spatial Services

### 'EURIMBLA PRECINCT' LAND PURCHASE - THE FOUNDING LAND OF THE FUTURE CITY OF RANDWICK

This time their bids at the auction were successful, and on 15 January 1851, James and Simeon Pearce at last became the freehold owners of the land they had waited for so patiently, paying £33 5s 8d for each block of land, which was the reserve (and uncontested) price of £5 per acre<sup>16</sup>. This allowed James the essential land to expand his market gardens locally and to contemplate building a new home for his growing family. As such, the Pearce's purchase of the future Eurimbla Precinct land secured once and for all the future viability of the initial settlement of Randwick, and so can justifiably claim to be the founding land of the future City of Randwick.

# A BRIEF HISTORY

1851 – 1876

## JAMES PEARCE AND THE FIRST MARKET GARDEN

### TRANSFER OF SOLE OWNERSHIP OF THE EURIMBLA PRECINCT LAND TO JAMES PEARCE

As with the purchase of the original thirteen acres (Portions 379 and 380), later acquisitions throughout 1851 and 1852 were also registered as being jointly owned by Simeon and James Pearce. However, towards the end of 1852 for various reasons the two families had decided to re-allocate the ownership of their land, so that each brother (and their wives) would subsequently own specific blocks independently of the other.

As a result, on 31 December 1852, James became the sole owner and freeholder of the future Eurimbla Precinct land contained in Portions 379 and 380<sup>17</sup>.

### THE FIRST MARKET GARDENS

Throughout his life, James' practical occupation was given as either a gardener or a farmer. For almost the next two decades, his thirteen acres of land of Portions 379 and 380, as well as other land that he owned to the north of High Street, remained in use as market gardens and fruit orchards, and possibly also included a small vineyard<sup>18</sup>.

In 1855, the Pearce families were paid a visit by the newly arrived Bishop of Sydney, Frederic Barker and his wife Jane. The Barkers were looking for a country retreat that would offer an occasional respite from their hot and noisy Sydney lodgings, and had been referred to Simeon, who was by then an officially appointed Commissioner. After enjoying a convivial glass of wine, the Bishop, Simeon and their wives visited Coogee. The Barkers chose their land and then they all returned to Blenheim House. Jane Barker recorded in her journal that as a parting gift they took back to Sydney 'pillow cases' full of leeks, cabbage, parsnips and herbs, as well as fresh milk and a dozen newly laid eggs<sup>19</sup>.

James was also developing a plant nursery. In August 1860 he was thanked by the recently formed Randwick Municipal Council - the Minutes record that Mr C. Moore brought to the notice of Council that a large number of pine trees, more than 450, had recently been planted in the [Coogee] reserve by Mr James Pearce, to the great improvement of that part of Coogee Park. A vote of thanks was given to Mr Pearce for his liberal present of pine trees<sup>20</sup>. Pictures of Randwick in later decades show the area well-endowed with maturing trees, many of which were said to have been planted by James Pearce.

Prior to this, however, in early 1854 there seems to have been a period of uncertainty as to whether James and

Sophia would remain permanently at Randwick. Sophia had given birth to her second child at Blenheim House in November 1853 not long after her 22nd birthday, and may have been missing the amenities of the town environment in which she had been raised. James was finding it hard to find suitable workers (one of the effects of the 1851 gold rushes) despite offering higher than average payment. Bad roads and the distance from a larger market also added to his woes. In March 1854 he advertised his property to let, which provides us with a good description of the land at that time<sup>21</sup>.

**TO MARKET GARDENERS.—TO LET,** for a period of seven years, or for any term which may be agreed upon, several pieces of excellent Garden Land, in lots from 5 to 12 acres, on which are erected dwelling houses, stables, piggery, &c. The land is properly fenced, and partly under cultivation. It is well watered, and from its elevated position it is one of the earliest and most suitable places for market gardens in the colony. The distance from the city is only 2½ miles, and the land is bounded by a new road, which is now being made. Two good heavy draft horses for sale. For further particulars apply to Mr. SAMUEL HEBBLEWHITE, York-street, Sydney; or to Mr. JAMES PEARCE, Randwick.

*TO MARKET GARDENERS, TO LET ... excellent garden land, in lots from 5 to 12 acres, on which are erected dwelling houses, stables, piggery, etc. The land is properly fenced and partly under cultivation. It is well watered and from its elevated position it is one of the earliest and most suitable places for market gardens in the colony. The distance from the city is only 2½ miles, and the land is bounded by a new road which is now being made... For further particulars apply... James Pearce, Randwick.*

James Pearce advertises Eurimbla Precinct land to let, March 1854  
Source: SMH 28 March 1854, p.6

The 'dwellings' referred to must have been small workers cottages, as James and Sophia were still living at Blenheim House. As it happened, there seems to have been no takers, although the adverts continued to appear for over a year. Eventually, sometime after the birth of their third child at Blenheim in January 1856, they had built their own permanent stone house close to the south west corner of the intersection of High and Botany Streets. Their fourth child was born there in January 1858, and they lived there for the rest of their lives. The name of the house, 'The Willows', did not appear in Sands Directory until 1883, some seven years after James' death.

### FUTURE MAGILL STREET LAND: JAMES' GIFT TO HIS SON AND ITS SUBSEQUENT LOSS TO THE PEARCE FAMILY

From 1869, James' financial affairs seem to have deteriorated. Whether from increasing competition, his ill-health or other reasons unknown, in January 1869 he found it necessary to re-mortgage half of his 15 acres north of High Street for £1,000. Later that year, on 5 October 1869, Portion 379 and the residence thereon, and occupied by the said James Pearce was mortgaged for £500, this land being the major part of the Eurimbla Precinct land, with the 'residence' referred to being The Willows<sup>22</sup>.

Just over a year later, on 12 December 1870, James gifted the northern half of Portion 380 to his eldest son, James Albert Pearce, two weeks before the latter's 20th

birthday<sup>23</sup>. This three and a quarter acres would become the future [Magill Street](#) area.

If James senior was hoping that James Albert would also become a gardener, he was soon to be disappointed. It would appear that James Albert's gift did not include sufficient money to develop the land, as in January 1872, a few days after his 21st birthday, young James mortgaged his land to Enos Napper, a long-established Randwick resident and local market gardener, who was living and working on land fronting Botany Street to the south of Barker Street.

James junior followed this up a month later by marrying 18-year-old London born Sophia Bruce, an unlikely choice if he was looking for a wife who would settle to growing cabbages in the country. The outcome was that on 16 July 1872, James Albert sold his 3¼ acres, including a 'dwelling house in the course of construction' to Enos Napper<sup>24</sup>. The Randwick rates record that the house must have been a very small one, with a total house and land rateable value of just £15 (in comparison, Blenheim House was rated at £100), and that by 1873 it was occupied by a tenant, George Dunn, with Napper listed as the owner.

### **JAMES PEARCE'S FINAL YEARS**

When James died in February 1876, age 49, the death certificate gave the cause as 'Amaurosis, duration nine months'. This now obsolete medical diagnosis was much used in the 1870s to describe blindness caused as a symptom of some other underlying disease, such as a brain tumour<sup>25</sup>. In which case, he may also have been suffering for a very long time from other debilitating symptoms such as migraines, and was simply physically unable to continue as a successful market gardener.

By August 1872, the land still owned by James was the whole of Portion 379 (the future Eurimbla Precinct land, still mortgaged) and his 15 acres north of High Street, half of which was also mortgaged. He mortgaged the other half a year later in August 1873. He also owned the southern half of Portion 380, the land between the present Hay and Barker Streets. His total mortgage liabilities at the end of 1873 were £2,000<sup>26</sup>.

By mid-1874, James finally gave in to the reality of his situation. Apart from his health, his younger sons were still too young to be of any immediate help, and so on 11 May 1874, with Sophia's agreement, he transferred the management of all his property in trust to his brother, Simeon Henry Pearce<sup>27</sup>.

Within five months, on 5 October 1874, the £500 mortgage on Portion 379 and 'The Willows' was paid off by Simeon, thus giving James and Sophia the peace of mind that their house and the land around it were now free from debt<sup>28</sup>. In August that year, Simeon had sold a block of land he owned to the west of Botany Street for a total of £600, which may have been the source of the funds to enable the repayment of the mortgage and the legal fees involved. A year later, in August 1875, continuing to act as James' trustee, Simeon sold 1¼ acres of the former's land at the south west corner of Hay and Botany Streets,

which realised £400, thus raising further funds for the ongoing living expenses of James' family.

On 14 February 1876 James Pearce died, aged 49, and without leaving a will<sup>29</sup>. He was buried in the Pearce family vault, in the burial ground of St. Jude's Anglican Church, Randwick. At that time, his widow, Sophia Frances was in her early forties, and their family, apart from James Albert, consisted of another seven children - three daughters aged 22, 13 and 7, and four sons, John Edward 18, Charles Morton 15, Alfred Ernest 11, and 4-year-old Arthur Sydney. All these boys followed their father's profession and by the late 1880s became the very successful and skilled nurserymen and florists known as the [Pearce Brothers of the 'Willows Nursery', Randwick](#).

## 1877 – 1911 LATER MARKET GARDENS

### **THE FORMATION OF MAGILL STREET - THE SOUTHERN-MOST PART OF THE 'EURIMBLA PRECINCT'**

On 6 June 1877, Enos Napper leased the land he had bought from James Albert Pearce (the northern half of Portion 380) to a 38-year-old market gardener, [Michael Benedict Magill](#). The lease was to run for ten years from 1 August 1877, and included a house and land used as a market garden, and also an extra adjoining strip of land - a parcel recently purchased by Napper, having a frontage of 50' to Botany Street and 396' to Hay Street. The annual rent was £90, and also in the terms of the lease, Napper reserved the right to harvest his existing crops for the first four months of the lease. In addition, Magill was given a pre-emptive option to buy the entire property for £1,400, which was valid for seven years until August 1884<sup>30</sup>.

Michael Magill and his wife Jane moved into the house on the land (which faced onto Botany Street), naming it [Violet Hall](#). In the following year, on 5 February 1878, Magill was elected as an Alderman for the West Ward of Randwick's Municipal Council, a position he retained until resigning in November 1881. The Council Minutes suggest that his main focus (and achievement) as an Alderman was for the improvement of the roads in his ward, including Botany Street.

The extension of the steam tram line from Randwick Racecourse to Randwick was officially opened on 19 March 1881. The line ran to its initial Randwick terminus at High Cross Park, near the junction of Belmore Road and High Street. The improvement in transport to the district intensified a 'boom' period of local sub-divisions of land for residential purposes. Within a few months, Napper and Magill advertised that their 4-acre market garden, and Violet Hall was to be auctioned on 6 July 1881<sup>31</sup>. The property was bought by business partners Arthur John Viles, a 23-year-old clerk, and Harmsworth Robert Way, a solicitor, who was also the husband of one of Arthur's aunts<sup>32</sup>.

**BOTANY-STREET, RANDWICK.**

**VIOLET HALL.**  
 A substantial and well-built 2-story Residence, contains 7 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, man's room, laundry, &c., together with the usual outbuildings and stabling.

The grounds contain an area of about 4 acres, with frontage of about 420 feet to Botany-street, and about 400 feet along Hay-street, adjoining Mr. Pearce's land, and opposite the Reserve.

Messrs. GANNON and M'LAUGHLIN, Vendor's Solicitors.

**HARDIE and GORMAN** will sell by public auction, at their ROOMS, Pitt-street, at 11.30 o'clock, **WEDNESDAY, 6th JULY,**

**VIOLET HALL, RANDWICK,** with 4 acres of well cultivated land, suitable for a gentleman's residence, or for subdivision, being within convenient distance of the tramway.

The property is well-known as the residence and nursery garden of Mr. Magill.

**INSPECTION IS INVITED.**

Advert for sale of Magill's nursery, July 1881  
 Source: SMH 18 June 1881, p.13

Viles and Way lost no time in sub-dividing their new purchase into 27 building allotments, which they named the 'Magill's Nursery Sub-division', advertising the blocks for auction on 1 October 1881. The sub-division consisted of two sections divided by a new road running eastwards from Botany Street to the boundary fence of the grounds of the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children. The road, which at 50 feet wide was slightly narrower than the conventional 66 feet, was named **Magill Street**.

Section 1 consisted of nine allotments to the north of Magill Street, three of which faced west onto Botany Street. This area subsequently became the southern-most part of the Eurimbla Precinct. Section 2, to the

south of Magill Street, contained 18 allotments, and included Violet Hall.

Initially sales were slow, with only a few allotments being bought in Section 2. In February 1882 Joseph E. Ives bought Lot 1, Section 1 of Magill's sub-division, and eventually house numbers 93, **Anville** and 95, **Alma** Botany Street were built on this land in 1916.

Later that year, in August 1882 another Clearing Sale auction was held, but there were no sales of any allotments on the north side of Magill Street.

On 2 March 1883 **Honora Joyce**, the wife of **William Joyce**, a stonemason of Surry Hills, bought Lot 5, Section 1, for £69<sup>33</sup>. Within a few months they had moved to Magill Street, as William Joice [sic] was listed in the Sands Directory published in January 1884, which contained information collected up to October 1883. Their home was later described in a valuation as a small brick cottage with an iron roof, at what was later known as **4 Magill Street**. Despite William's vocation as a stonemason, they had opted for brick, having twice been refused permission by the Randwick Council to quarry stone locally (the reason for these refusals were not recorded in the Council's Minutes).

**27 SPLENDID BUILDING SITES  
 MACILL'S NURSERY**

**RANDWICK**

**TO BE SOLD ON THE GROUND  
 On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
 AT 3 O'CLOCK**

**HARDIE AND GORMAN**



BOTANY ST.		PIERCE								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BOTANY ST.		MACILL ST. [50' wide]								
		SEC. 1								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		SEC. 2								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BOTANY ST.		HAY ST.								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**C.A. ATCHISON.**  
 Licensed Surveyor.  
 Opposite City Bazaar.

Sales poster for Magill sub-division, 1 October 1881

Also in 1883, the tram line was extended from Randwick to Coogee, which may have been an incentive for the land speculators who, from April 1883 onwards bought the remaining allotments of Section 1 of the Magill's Nursery sub-division. With the exception of Lot 7, which was occupied from about 1912 by the Joyce's son Patrick (Jack) and his family, these allotments remained as vacant land with a succession of absentee owners until 1920.

### 'THE WILLOWS' AND ITS LAND, A PRIVATE RETREAT – THE NORTHERN-MOST PART OF 'EURIMBLA PRECINCT'

Meantime, after James Pearce's death in February 1876, his widow Sophia Pearce continued to live at The Willows with the younger members of her family. The Randwick Council Rates record a decrease in valuation for the house and the land around it from £58 in 1876 to £40 the following year, which may indicate that the use of the land as a market garden business concern had ceased. Instead, it would have been used purely for the family's own requirements of vegetables, fruit and poultry, with perhaps some flowers and herbs.

In 1883 the house was given the name of 'The Willows', as this name first appeared in the Sands Directory for that year. Prior to that, for each year Mrs Sophia Pearce had been simply listed as living in High Street, with no house name supplied.

Later on, two acres of the land, with access from Botany Street, were rated separately from the main house and land. From 1884 to 1888 the tenant was named as [Lee San Loong](#), and the rateable value increased in 1885 from £20 to £30. It is possible that during these five years the southern third of The Willows land was again being used as a market garden, as the name of the lessee would imply a person of Chinese origins, and they were by that time acknowledged in NSW as hardworking and skilled market gardeners.

By 1880, just before his 20th birthday, Charles Pearce began advertising 'hardy pines and shrubs' for sale, giving simply 'Randwick' as his address<sup>34</sup>. Newspaper reports in the late 1880s about the progress of the second generation of 'Pearce Brothers' and their 'Willows Nursery' enterprise indicate that they had used their father's land to the north of High Street, (which was closer to the main Sydney road), for plant cultivation for much longer than the land around 'The Willows'.



Charles (standing) and Alfred Pearce, Melbourne, pre-1891  
Image courtesy of Nola Pearce

A. Reuss and Nott's map of 1886 would also seem to bear this out, as market gardens are clearly marked to the north of High Street, with no such distinction made for the future Eurimbla Precinct land to the south<sup>35</sup>.



Eurimbla Precinct and market gardens on James Pearce's land, in red  
Source: Reuss and Nott map, 1886

On 18 January 1886, Simeon Henry Pearce died at Blenheim House, a week before his 65th birthday, after suffering a second stroke. On 26 March 1886, at the request of Sophia Pearce and her elder children, the Equity Court of the Supreme Court of NSW granted a vesting order for two of Simeon's executors, a former Randwick Alderman George Wall and Burwood solicitor Edwin Thomas Penfold, to act as the new Trustees to manage the financial affairs of James' family<sup>36</sup>. Simeon's other executor was his widow Alice Isabella Pearce, who would not have been expected to participate in such matters.

In October 1886 the executors formalised the use of the land by James' sons by registering a lease of two separate (but undescribed) sections to 26-year-old Charles Morton Pearce for 6½ years, that is, until December 1892<sup>37</sup>. That year was also the first year that Charles and Alfred were listed in Sands Directory, with Mrs Sophia Pearce, at The Willows, High Street, Randwick, the occupation of each being given as 'Nurseryman & Florist'.

### THE PEARCE BROTHERS AND THE 'WILLOWS NURSERY'

The following autumn, Alfred was left to 'hold the fort', as on 18 March 1887 Charles departed for London on the RMS *Massilia*<sup>38</sup>. Later newspaper articles explained that his purpose was to visit European gardens and set up supply contacts with overseas seedsmen. He returned in early 1888, with many new ideas for the expansion of a new horticultural business - to be known as the '[Pearce Brothers' Willows Nursery](#)', Randwick. Together with their older brother John, Charles and Alfred began to expand their gardening activities, soon developing a very successful plant nursery business raising and hiring out decorative palms, ferns and flowers. The following year they built new greenhouses, (in the area of the [future 19 - 25 Eurimbla Avenue](#)) and opened a retail outlet shop in the recently built Sydney Arcade off King Street, Sydney<sup>39</sup>. By early 1889 they became the official suppliers of flowers and plants to Government House, Sydney<sup>40</sup>. They also began to acquire land further afield, producing flowers on 20 acres at Springfield to the east of Gosford, as well as at a nursery to the south of Gardeners Road near Maloney Street in North Botany. By 1895 they were also famous for their Christmas floral displays in the Arcade, and were reported to have four nurseries, having also opened one in the Ulladulla area<sup>41</sup>.

After the death of their mother Sophia Frances Pearce at The Willows in September 1898, Charles and Alfred continued to occupy the house. Despite an eight-year long NSW drought that lasted from 1895 until 1903, the water supply from the creek and wells enabled their nurseries to survive better than most.

### **CHARLES PEARCE 'BUYS BACK THE FARM', AND THEN LEASES IT TO THE VALENTINE FAMILY**

In December 1888, the trustees Penfold & Wall had decided to apply to the NSW Land Titles Office for a secure Torrens Title for all of James' former land at Randwick.

An essential part of the legal requirements for this process was a new survey of all the land concerned. The survey of Portion 379 had revealed that the block contained 6 acres, 3 roods and 23 perches, about a quarter-acre more than the original 1850 survey. After the application had been approved, two Certificates of Torrens Title were issued to the trustees on 19 August 1889 - one for James' former land north of High Street, and the other for Portion 379, which comprised the majority of the Eurimbla Precinct land<sup>42</sup>.

Over the years, different trustees were appointed to manage James' and Simeon's land, and most of the family, including the two widows, seemed happy with the situation. But after both of the latter had died, Charles eventually obtained a Supreme Court hearing, and the outcome was that on 19 February 1903 Charles Morton Pearce, now aged 42, finally became the owner of the future Eurimbla Precinct land, 'buying back the family farm' from the Perpetual Trustees Co. Ltd., for £1,500<sup>43</sup>.

Two months later, on 4 May 1903, Charles leased the nursery land to the south of 'The Willows' to William George Valentine, a Sydney nurseryman and florist, for the next six years. The Sands Directories and the Council rates show that Charles and Alfred lived on at The Willows house itself, retaining half an acre as a house garden<sup>44</sup>. They may have continued utilising what was left of the land to the north of High Street as nurseries, although by then some of it had been sub-divided and sold by the former Trustees for the ongoing support of James' family.

### **FINAL YEARS OF THE WILLOWS AND ITS NURSERY**

By 1909, Charles was paying Randwick Council rates for Portion 379 based on a rateable value of £1,250 for just under 6 ¼ acres of land, huts and gardens, and on a £250 valuation of The Willows and its surrounding half acre of land. In 1910, Alfred married and both brothers moved to Wyong. The Willows was let for two years until 1911 to William Pegrum, (a brother-in-law of William Valentine), who was, according to Sands Directory listings, the last recorded occupant of The Willows.

On 15 December 1911 Charles Morton Pearce finally sold The Willows and its land to Albert Edward Reid, a Sydney-based commercial traveller, for £3,000 - almost twice its Council rateable value of two years previously. Charles was described on the property transfer record as a 'Gentleman of Ulladulla, formerly a nurseryman of Randwick'. Whether it was due to his relative

remoteness from Randwick, or he simply wanted a quick sale, he seems to have been unaware of or indifferent to the potential value of the future Eurimbla land. Within a week after his purchase, Reid re-sold the property on 22 December 1911 for £4,000 to a young builder, [Harold Longworth](#)<sup>45</sup>. Having made a profit of £1,000 on his transactions in just a week, Albert Reid must have enjoyed a very merry Christmas in 1911!

## **1912 -1914 SUB-DIVISION AND CREATION OF EURIMBLA AVENUE**

Harold Longworth purchased the former Willows Nursery land, Portion 379 of the Parish of Alexandria, from Albert Reid on 22 December 1911. He then engaged a very highly regarded and experienced surveyor, Stuart Randolph Dobbie to design a sub-division plan for building allotments<sup>46</sup>.

By April 1912, Dobbie had completed the sub-division survey and design of Longworth's land, creating 51 building allotments on a north-south alignment, following the natural downhill slope of the land rather than cutting across it. Seventeen allotments faced west onto the existing Botany Street land boundary while the other two rows, also of seventeen allotments, faced each other across a new road. This was in the form of a cul-de-sac that was accessed from High Street and then ran south on a slight downhill slope to end at the northern boundary of the properties of the Magill Street sub-division. This 'cul-de-sac' design of Eurimbla Avenue, which overlaid the bed of the former creek, was a relatively new concept in town planning at that time.

## **HAROLD LONGWORTH**

Harold Longworth was born near Singleton in 1890, the fifth in the family of ten children of Thomas and Frances (nee Nowlan) Longworth. After years of struggle, his father and uncles' perseverance as mine owners paid off and they had made a great deal of money, especially in the Cobar copper mines<sup>47</sup>. When Harold was about nine years old, his father bought Woollahra House and several acres of land at the northern end of Point Piper overlooking Sydney harbour<sup>48</sup>.

Despite his financially privileged teenage years, Harold was no drawing-room layabout. By the time he was eighteen he was building and selling 'cottages' in Sydney's eastern suburbs. Three years later, in October 1911, just before his purchase of the main Eurimbla Precinct land in December 1911, his reputation had ensured a contract in October to erect a three-storey bank in Hunter Street, Newcastle<sup>49</sup>.

## THE EURIMBLA WALKWAY

There was one final lot on Dobbie's 1912 plan for the sub-division of Portion 379, and that was Lot 52 at the south west of the land. This was not for building purposes, as it was only a narrow eight-foot-wide (2.4m) section, but was originally designed to act as a storm water easement to channel flood waters from the former creek bed away from the allotments at the lower end of the sub-division and the Magill Street properties. By the mid-1920s, this easement had also become a convenient throughway for pedestrians (and especially frequented as an access to the nearby open play spaces by the younger residents) as it connected the end of the Eurimbla cul-de-sac with Botany Street, where it emerged between 91 and 93 Botany Street.

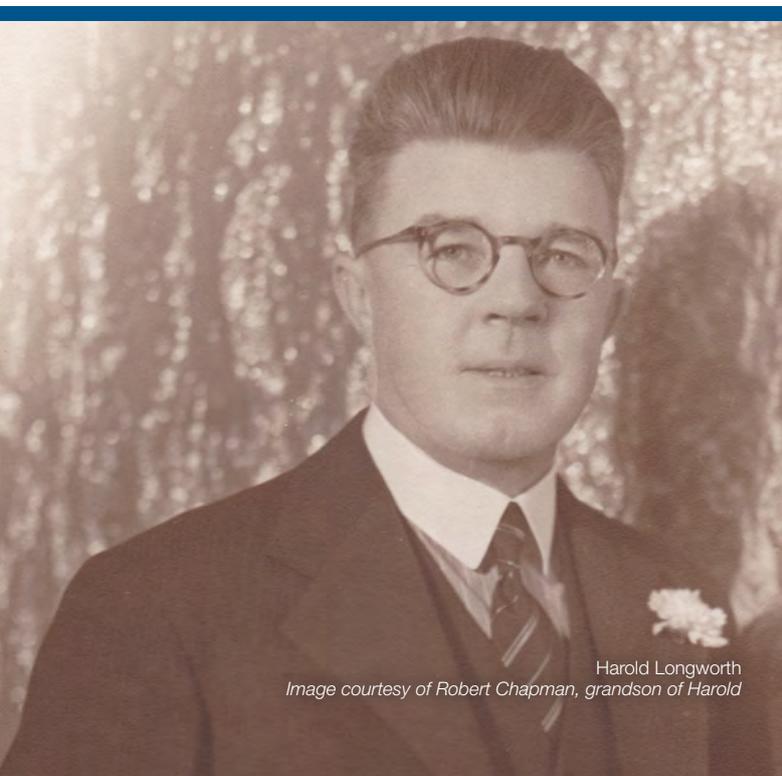
At about the same time that Dobbie was designing the Eurimbla sub-division, in June and July 1912, Randwick Council had received some correspondence from Harold Longworth, in which he insisted that the Council should bear the cost of installing new 24" drainage pipes along High Street, to the north of his land. The Council refused to do this, and from then on matters seem to have stalled as far as any plans were concerned for Harold to start building houses.

By 1913, 'The Willows' house had disappeared as a Council rateable entity of its own. As no further occupants were listed in Sands Directory from 1912 it seems likely that it was demolished, or at least dismantled for the re-use of its building materials, at around this time. The former market gardens around the house also lay unused for the next two years, reverting to sand hills and, at the northern High Street end, as a convenient place for use as a local rubbish tip<sup>51</sup>.

On 28 July 1914, the British Government declared the war on Germany. WWI began and Australia allied with Great Britain. Whether this had any direct influence on Longworth's next decision concerning the Eurimbla land is open to conjecture, but by 11 August 1914, he had gained approval for Stuart Dobbie's 1912 sub-division plan from the NSW Surveyor General's office, where it was registered as Deposited Plan (DP) 7745<sup>52</sup>.



Walkway - Botany Street to Eurimbla Avenue

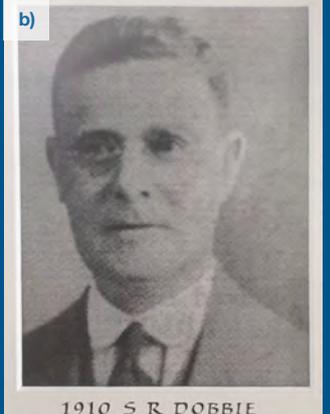
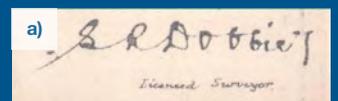


Harold Longworth

Image courtesy of Robert Chapman, grandson of Harold

## STUART RANDOLPH DOBBIE

Mr Dobbie, qualified for a surveyor's licence in April 1887 at the relatively young age of 22. He was a founding member of the NSW Institute of Surveyors, and had served as their Honorary Secretary for over a decade and in 1910 as their President<sup>50</sup>.



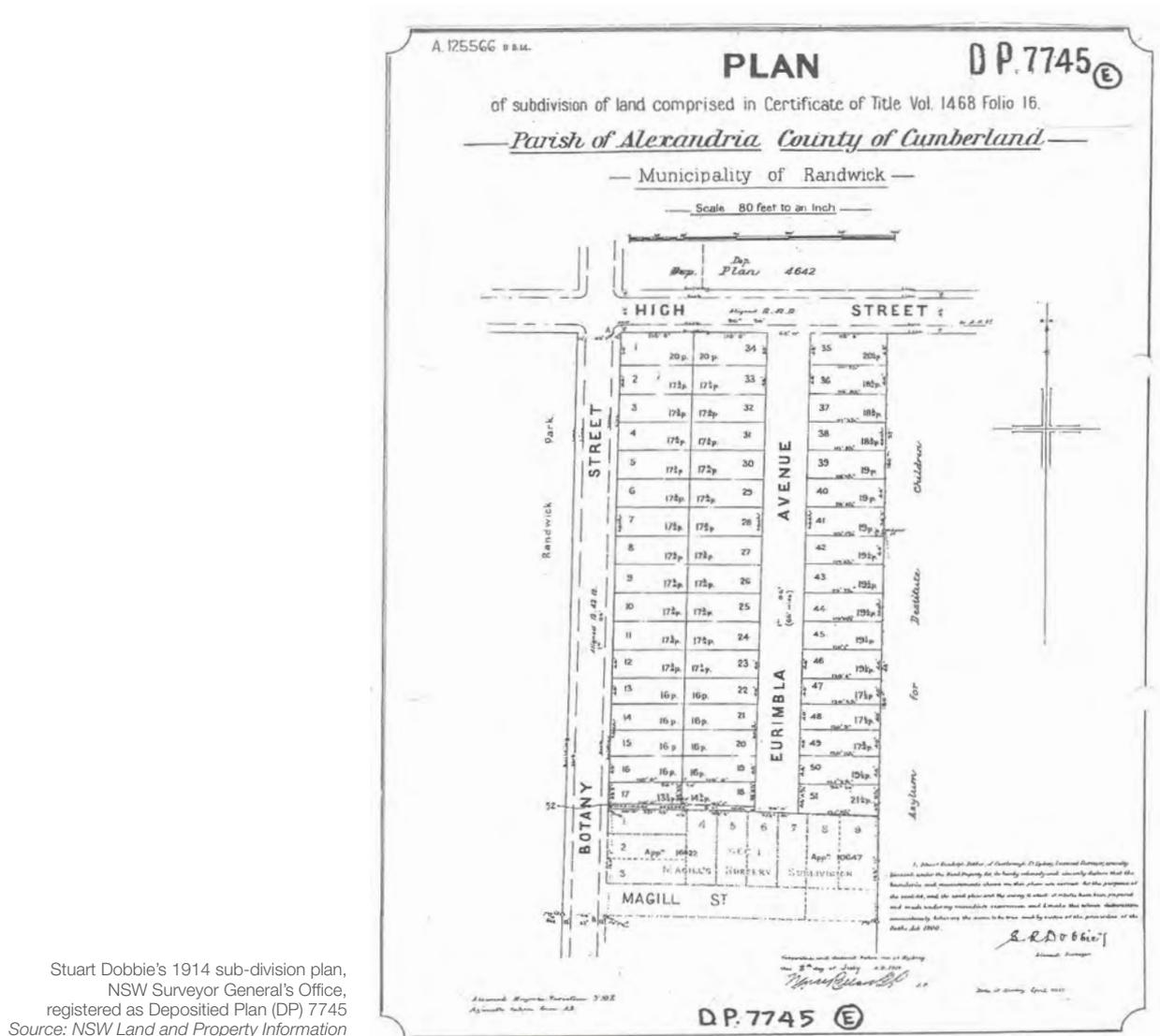
a) Dobbie's signature on his sub-division plan (DP 7745) for Portion 379, April 1912

b) Stuart Randolph Dobbie, 1910  
Image courtesy of NSW Institute of Surveyors

## COMMENCEMENT OF MAIN BUILDING PHASE OF EURIMBLA PRECINCT

A few weeks later, on 21 September 1914, Longworth sold the land for a total amount of £8,250. So even allowing for legal costs and Dobbie's professional fees, young Harold Longworth had at least doubled his investment in just over 2½ years. The purchasers were master builder [Charles William Coultou](#) of Randwick and his business partner and close family friend, [Frederick](#)

[Curry](#). Towards the end of the following year, Charles Coultou completed two pairs of semi-detached cottages, the future 53 to 59 Botany Street, thus beginning the main building phase of the Eurimbla Precinct. Over the next twelve years, almost 90 homes were built, laying the foundation for the development of the close-knit community of the Eurimbla Precinct.



Stuart Dobbie's 1914 sub-division plan, NSW Surveyor General's Office, registered as Deposited Plan (DP) 7745  
Source: NSW Land and Property Information

## EURIMBLA!

This new road was named Eurimbla Avenue, almost certainly by Harold Longworth. In 1906 the Longworth family had bought 'Eurimbla', a rural property in the Narrabri district of NSW, converting it for breeding and training racehorses<sup>53</sup>.

In 1910 Harold's sister, Rose Nowlan Longworth, had married and moved into a large house, also named 'Eurimbla', newly built for her on some of her father's land in Wunulla Road, Point Piper, which was also named 'Eurimbla'<sup>54</sup>. The name had obviously become a family favourite - so much so that one of Harold's nieces was given 'Eurimbla' as a middle name when she was christened at St Jude's Church, Randwick in 1915!

a) Eurimbla station, near Burren Junction, the property of Mr. Rupert H. Lord, has been purchased by Mr. Thomas Longworth.



a) Notice regarding Thomas Longworth's purchase of Eurimbla Station, 1906  
Source: Sydney Mail, 3 October 1906 p843

b) Eurimbla, Wunulla Road, Pt. Piper  
Source: Lee album, Mitchell Lib, PXE 1433 Box 1

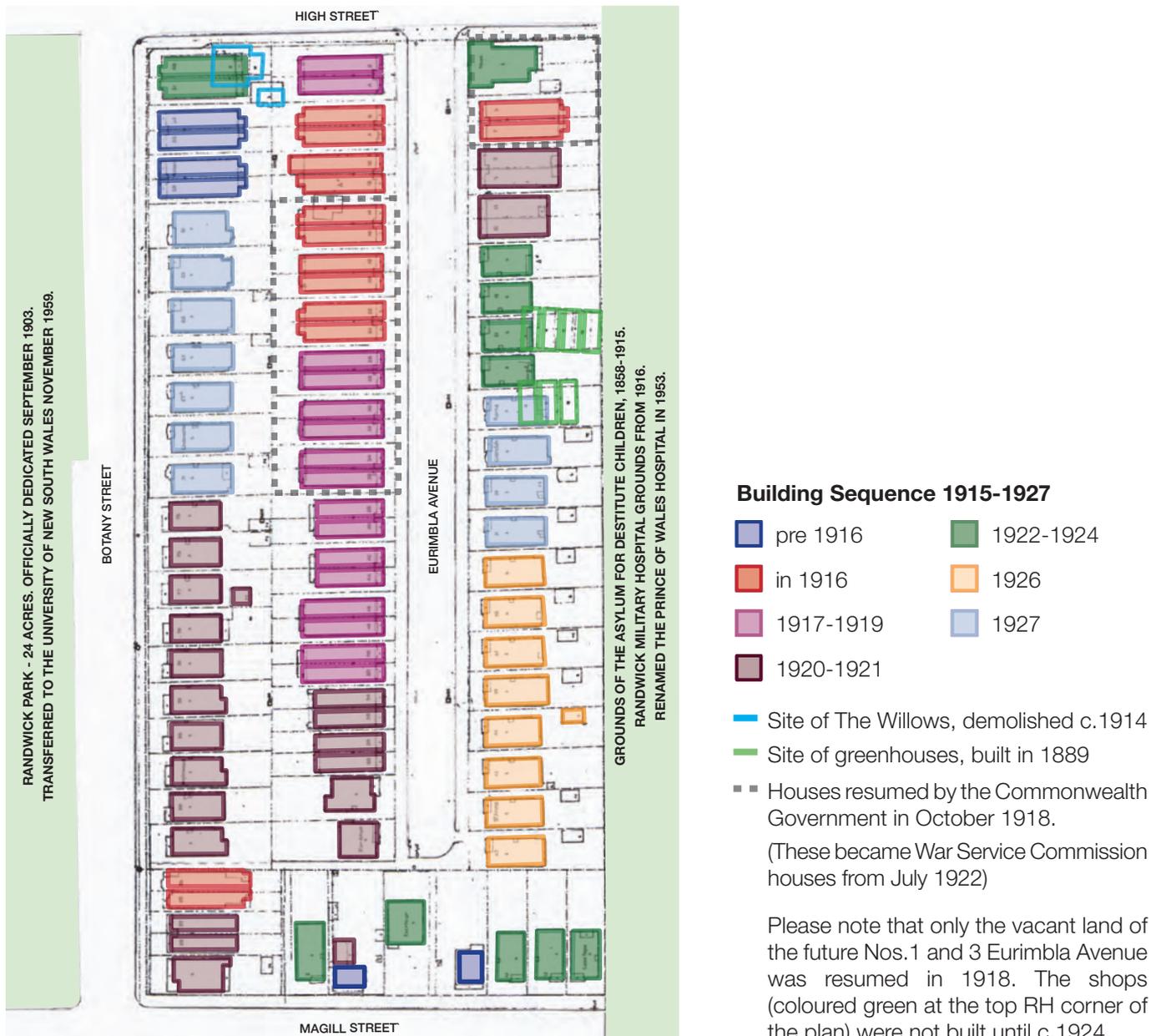
# BUILDING SEQUENCE 1915 – 1927

From October 1914, the new owners of the sub-divided Portion 379, the main part of the Eurimbla Precinct land, were master builder Charles William Coulton of Francis Street, Randwick and his business partner and close family friend, Frederick Curry.

Rather than being bought as a single entity by Coulton and Curry, the land was purchased in two separate transactions. Lots 1-17 (on the east side of Botany Street from High Street to the future 91 Botany Street) and Lots 35-51 (on the east side of Eurimbla Avenue) were bought by Charles William Coulton for £5,500. He received a new Certificate of Title, Volume 2521 Folio 228. The remaining 17 allotments on the west side of Eurimbla Avenue, Lots 18 to 34, were purchased by Frederick Curry, a 'clerk' living at Ashfield, for £2,750. He also received a new Certificate of Title, Volume 2521 Folio 227. This meant that both men could develop or sell their land independently.

In reality, both purchases were part of a single business enterprise. From the pattern of building activity from 1916, it would seem that the land bought in Curry's name was intended to be a reserve 'land bank' of allotments to be bought and built on by Charles' younger brother, Sydney Coulton, as and when the latter's finances permitted. Until 1920, with one exception, that is what eventuated.

The main building period of the Eurimbla Precinct began in 1915. For the next twelve years, with the exception of 1925, semi-detached and then post-WWI detached brick and tile residential dwellings were built on the land. Initially the houses all had names, as numbering was not introduced in the area until 1918. Even then, some of the numbers were later changed as new buildings were constructed on adjacent vacant land. All the numbers given in the following house descriptions are those that applied in 2018. There were 91 houses built up to 1927.



### 53 TO 59 BOTANY STREET

In May 1915 it was reported<sup>55</sup> that builder Charles W. Coulton had accepted tenders for the construction of the first four houses of the main building development of the Eurimbla Precinct. The houses were probably completed by the end of 1915. Certainly all four were tenanted by March 1916. In 1915, Eurimbla Avenue appeared in the Sands Directory for the first time, although no residents were listed for that year.

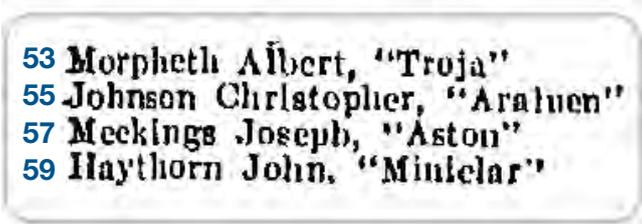


53 to 59 Botany Street, built in 1915  
Source: Google, 2017

The four houses at 53 to 59 Botany Street were built in late 1915 by master builder Charles W Coulton. They were constructed on Lots 2 and 3 of DP 7745, part of the land Coulton had purchased in September 1914 from Harry Longworth<sup>56</sup>. In April 1915 it was noted that Coulton intended to build two pairs of semi-detached brick cottages on his Botany Street land<sup>57</sup>. The Randwick Council rate lists for January 1916 recorded that four dwellings were *in situ*, with a resultant increase from a land value of £110 to £500 for each property<sup>58</sup>.

The new occupants were among the first of those of the Eurimbla Precinct to be listed in Sands Directory<sup>59</sup>. The householders were Albert Morpheth (or Morfoot) at Troja (53), Christopher Johnson at Araluen (55), Joseph Meekings at Aston (57), and John Haythorn at Miniclar (59).

Their house numbers were first allocated in 1919, but these were changed in 1926 to the numbers still in use in 2018.

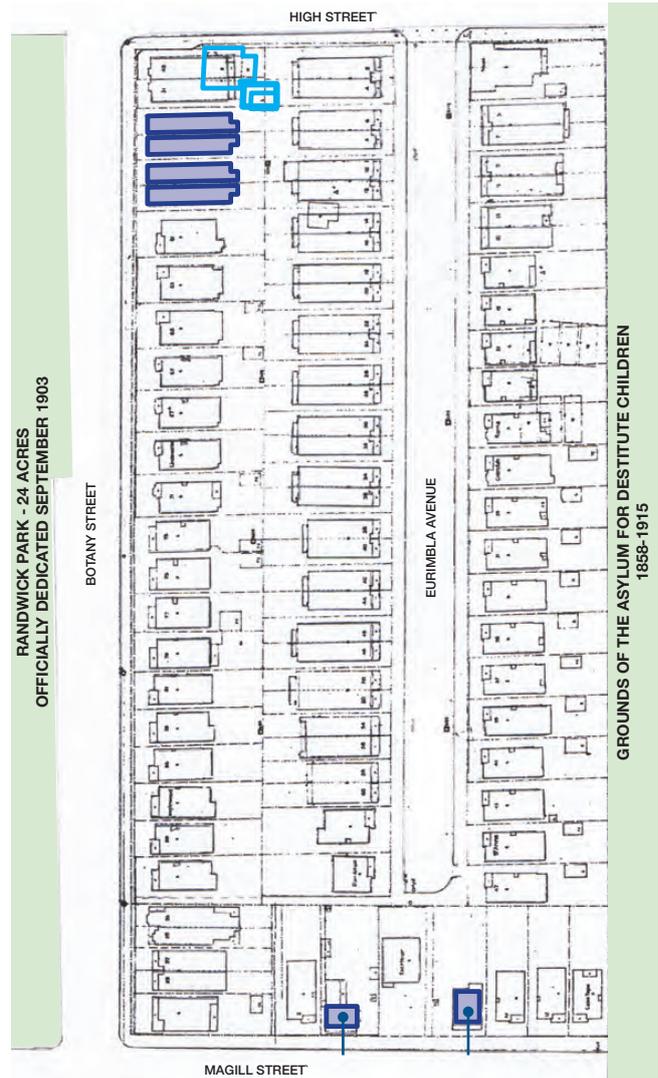


The first householders of 53 - 59 Botany Street in 1915.  
The modern house numbers are shown in blue.  
Source: Sands Directory, January 1916 edition

The following plans of the Eurimbla Precinct buildings are based on those used and regularly updated by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board (MWS&DB) from the early 1890s to the late 1930s. This plan is a detail from Randwick, Sheet 36 that was issued in 1935 as an updated version of the original, which was based on surveys done in 1891. The plan thus provides not only the outline of all the houses and outbuildings present in 1935, but also retains the footprint of those still in existence in 1891.

### Houses built in Eurimbla Precinct in 1915

- Houses built in 1915
- Site of The Willows, demolished c.1914
- Houses not yet built



The residents were all tenants of the Coultons. On 17 March 1916, 'Charlie' Coulton died aged 48 at Wiringulla, Francis Street, Randwick, and his widow and executrix Alice Maude inherited the properties<sup>60</sup>. Following Charles Coulton's death, his estate was valued for Deceased Estate tax duty on 12 April 1916 by Batt, Rodd and Purves, Sydney. The report included:

Four cottages, Botany Street, Randwick; The land has a frontage of 88 feet to Botany Street by a depth of 110 feet. On it is erected 2 PAIRS of SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGES of Brick with roofs of Tile and Iron. Each cottage contains four rooms, kitchen, Laundry, Bathroom and W.C. combined, and Front Verandah. The Rentals are 21 shillings per week each. TITLE, TORRENS, and is part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title, VOLUME 1468 FOLIO 16. WE ESTIMATE the present market value of the above described property at £2,200' (ie, £550 for each cottage and land)<sup>61</sup>.

The four cottages remained in the Coulton family as letting properties until Alice's death in May 1954, after which time her surviving sons sold them to private buyers during 1956.

## TROJA

53 Botany Street



For the first sixteen years of its existence, Troja was home to seven different households, with only those of Norman Ross and Clarence Parsons, a policeman, staying for at least four years. The residents for the next 24 years are unknown, but on 19 December 1956, Troja was sold by the Coultons to Mary Josephine Lester, of Woollahra, the wife of Francis Jack Lester, a commercial traveller<sup>62</sup>. They lived at Troja until Mary's death in June 1962. In January 1964, the house was bought by Peter and Angeliki Panigiris of Surry Hills. They lived at Troja until 1976, but by 1980 they had moved to Rosebery, and in September 1988 the property was sold to Harry Loeb.

## ASTON

57 Botany Street



On 27 January 1956, Aston was sold to James Dixon and Irene Ruth Hayes, clerk, Randwick, who had been tenants since at least 1943<sup>63</sup>. After 25 years of residency, they sold the house in August 1968. It then had a few changes of ownership until being purchased in July 1992 by Paula Outten, for whom it was home for 27 years until 2018.

## ARALUEN

55 Botany Street



Apart from a brief period from the mid-1920s, this house had a much more stable occupancy. For the first nine years it was the home of the family of Christopher William Johnson. From 1925 until 1931 there were three different tenants, until in 1932 Mrs Leila May Corbett moved in. Mrs Corbett, who came from Forbes, had been widowed in 1928, leaving her with seven children aged from four to sixteen. She and her family remained as tenants and then owner-occupiers of Araluen for almost 60 years - one of the longest durations of residency of the Eurimbla Precinct<sup>64</sup>.

Two of Mrs Corbett's sons had served in WW2, so in April 1956 the eldest, Eric William Corbett purchased Araluen with the assistance of a War Service loan (paid off in May 1982)<sup>65</sup>. After 84-year-old Mrs Corbett's death in October 1968, Eric and one of his four sisters, Leila Cecelia, neither of whom married, lived on at 55 Botany Street. Both died sometime after 1989, and the house was transferred to their eldest surviving sister, Monica Hazel Ayton in January 1991.

Araluen was bought in May 1991 by its final resident owners, and during the following 27 years, until 2018, Debra and her family carefully restored the property, retaining or sourcing many original period features. During the process, they made several 'finds', including a collection of newspapers dating from March to June 1925, and a cache of very old bottles buried in their backyard. (See Living in Eurimbla Precinct - Lost and found treasures)

## MINICLAR

59 Botany Street



The first tenants until 1920, were John and Amelia Haythornthwaite, aka Haythorn, who had migrated in 1911 from Toxteth Park, Liverpool, England. From 1921 to 1932, four successive heads of household were listed in Sands Directory for number 59, including in 1923 police constable Clarence Parsons, who then moved to Troja, 53 Botany Street in 1925.

In 1933, Henry Charles and Hannah Betsy Lillian Chaffer moved in to Miniclar. Henry, a painter and decorator, died in 1950 but Hannah stayed on, and in May 1956 she purchased Miniclar with the help of a War Service home loan<sup>66</sup>. She lived there until her death in 1980, having been resident for over 47 years. The property was sold in February 1981 by her son Leonard Chaffer to Dr Christopher Kirkby.

## 1916 – 1919

### SYDNEY COULTON'S HOUSES

During the four years from 1916 to 1919 a total of 24 houses were constructed under the supervision of Sydney Coulton (the younger brother of the late Charles). They were all on the west side of Eurimbla Avenue, in the form of pairs of semi-detached 'cottages', an essential way of saving building costs and time during wartime material and manpower shortages. Other builders during this period included Henry John Miller who constructed 5 [Clonbonny](#) and 7 [Heremai](#), in addition to 22 [Kia-ora](#) and 24 [Kesby](#) in Eurimbla Avenue. In Botany Street, 93 [Annville](#) and 95 [Alma](#) Botany Street, were built by Herbert W. Nesbitt. Herbert and his wife Amy (who had bought the land) moved into 93 [Annville](#), living there until 1927.

From March 1916, Sydney Coulton began his four years of building on the west side of the Avenue by erecting 6 - 20, which were four pairs of 'cottages'.

#### *Sydney Coulton's eight houses of 1916*

Although Coulton built four pairs of cottages in 1916, these were not constructed in a regular north to south sequence. He bought his first block of land, Lot 32, in March 1916, and built the future 10 and 12 Eurimbla Avenue, to which he gave the names [Alpha](#) and [Agenda](#). In May he bought Lot 31, on which [Beltrees](#) and [Blaxland](#) duly appeared (14 and 16). He then acquired Lot 33 to the north of [Alpha](#) in August and built the third pair, [Clarence](#) and [Carlton](#) (6 and 8). He finished the year by buying Lot 30 to the south of [Blaxland](#) in October, and built the future 18 and 20, carrying on the alphabetical tradition by naming them [Dayton](#) and [Denton](#).

#### *Sydney Coulton's eight houses of 1917*

Sydney Coulton built another eight houses in 1917. The first six were in a much more orderly sequence in a southerly direction down the west side of Eurimbla Avenue, as [Essex](#), [Eaton](#), [Farleigh](#), [Fenton](#), [Glendenning](#) and [Glenalpine](#) all made their appearance (26 to 36). He then completed his year's building activity by reverting to type and heading north to settle [Hamlet](#) and [Hexham](#) on the block of land adjacent to High Street (2 and 4).

Why, or how, this delightful and eclectic mix of names was chosen is sadly unknown, but Sydney's alphabetical naming pattern must have been useful for keeping track of the progress of his buildings and their subsequent sales. It would be interesting to know whether this format had previously been used by any other builders before the availability of house numbers, or if this method of alphabetical 'project management' was devised solely by Sydney Coulton and thus unique to the Eurimbla Precinct!

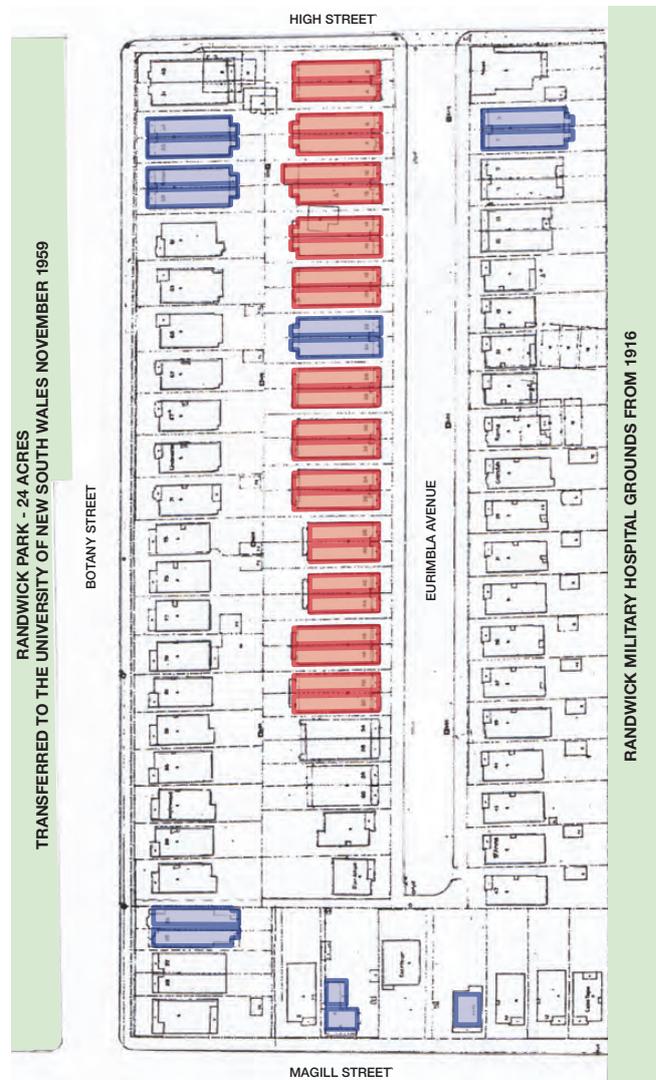
#### *Sydney Coulton's houses of 1918 and 1919*

In any case, this marked the end of a consistent house-naming era, as the further progress of house construction from 1918 was accompanied by the introduction to Eurimbla Avenue of the routine use of mundane house numbers. Looking south from the High Street access, the odd numbers were on the left (the eastern side), and even numbers to the right, the western side. During 1918 and 1919 only eight houses were built in the Eurimbla

Precinct, all by Sydney Coulton, who completed two pairs of cottages in each year. These were given the numbers 38 to 52, but there is evidence that at least two of these were named, as name plates can be seen in old photographs: [Melron](#) at number 42 and [Rosered](#) at number 48. As with his earlier houses, all were sold on to investors for letting.

### Houses built in Eurimbla Precinct, 1916-1919

■ Sydney Coulton's houses    ■ Other builder's houses  
— Houses not yet built



## 1920 – 1927

### PRECINCT BUILDINGS

In 1920, two new builders appeared on the Eurimbla Precinct, and between them completed nine new homes. Daniel Arthur Webster (known as Arthur) bought three allotments in Botany Street, (Lots 10-12), and subdivided them into four building blocks. On each of these he built a free-standing house. Apart from the houses at 4 and 8 Magill Street, these were the first detached houses to be built in the Precinct, and were 73-79 Botany Street. Arthur, his wife Irene and their family moved into number 75, and the property remained in the family until November 1979.

Further south, Harry Walter Talman erected two attached cottages at 97 and 99, and 101 [Sherwood](#), Botany Street, on Lots 2 and 3 of Section 1 of the Magill's

Nursery sub-division. Talman gave the house the same name as his own in Earl Street, and then moved in for a couple of years, before moving briefly to 17 Eurimbla Avenue after building the house in 1922. His wife Sarah must have become very practiced at moving house!

Either late that year or in early 1921, Talman also completed 9 [Laurale](#) and 11 [Homely](#) on the east side of Eurimbla Avenue.

## 1921

This was a 'boom' year for house construction, with four new builders producing fourteen new homes. In Botany Street, Lots 13 -17, were bought in January 1921 from the Coulton family by builder Christopher William Hunt in partnership with Duncan Davidson, a commission agent living in Randwick Street<sup>67</sup>. They sub-divided the five blocks into six, having already applied to Randwick Council in November 1920 for permission to build six single brick cottages, each costing just over £800. These became numbers 81 to 91.

In July 1921, only one property, 87, was sold on completion, to one Charles J. Regan, a Sydney commission agent<sup>68</sup>. Mr Regan did live in the house for a couple of years before moving to Carrington Road. It is noteworthy that as the only privately-owned house of the six, it was also the only one to have been given a name, being noted as [Inglewood](#) on the Sydney Waterboard's map for that era. From 1924 [Inglewood](#) was, like its neighbours, home to a series of tenants. Charles Regan sold the house in 1962.

Duncan Davidson bought out builder C.W. Hunt's half-share in the other five properties in May 1922. After Davidson's death in 1925, his wife Margaret G. Davidson retained them as investment letting properties until her executors sold them after her death in 1943.

On the west side of Eurimbla Avenue, bricklayer/builder Thomas F. Bradford produced 54 and 56, while builder George P. Cook was responsible for 58 and 60. The neighbouring free-standing houses to the south at 62 and 64 Blair Athol, were the work of Noel Tomlinson. Meanwhile, on the eastern side of the Avenue, Harry Talman continued his building input with another pair of 'semis', 13 and 15.



54 to 62 Eurimbla Avenue, built 1921  
Image courtesy Google, October 2017

A relatively quiet construction year was 1922, with just six houses built. In Eurimbla Avenue, Harry Talman bought three allotments, and erected four houses at 17 to 23, while in Magill Street, 10 and 12 [Myeo](#), were built. In 1923 the only houses built were 2 and 6 [Excelsior](#), Magill Street, the builder may have been R. Anderson for John E.P. Ducker.

In 1924, apart from the two attached shops with their first-floor accommodation, only three more houses were built in the Precinct. These were 49 [Broxburn](#) and 51 [Merool](#) in Botany Street, by builder Edward P. Hennessy on land bought in July 1920, and 14 Magill Street, named [Gaba Tepe](#) by its new occupant.

In 1925, no houses were built in the Precinct. Eight houses were built in 1926, all detached properties on the east side of Eurimbla Avenue and under the supervision of builder Victor Herbert Fielder. They were 33, 35, 37, 39 [Clery](#), 41 [Idane](#), 43 [Yulalie](#), 45 [St. Anns](#), and 47, the last house on the eastern side.

## 1927

### CONSTRUCTION OF THE FINAL ELEVEN HOUSES OF THE MAIN BUILDING SEQUENCE

John Marron made his first and last contribution to the Precinct by completing the Botany Street section, with seven detached houses at 61-67 and 67A-71, Botany Street. Yet again, these were erected on a new sub-division of six allotments of the original plan, Lot 4-9.



Some of John Marron's final 1927 Botany Street houses. Top left: 61 Botany Street. Top right: 63 Botany Street. Bottom: 67 Botany Street.

Victor Fielder put the finishing touches to 25 to 31 on the east side of Eurimbla Avenue. House naming seems to have had a revival, as 25 was called [Roma](#), 27 became [Coondah](#), and rather fittingly, the final house to be built at 31 was given the name [Eurimbla](#).



27-31 Eurimbla Avenue were some of Victor Fielder's final 1927 houses

# KERBING AND GUTTERING

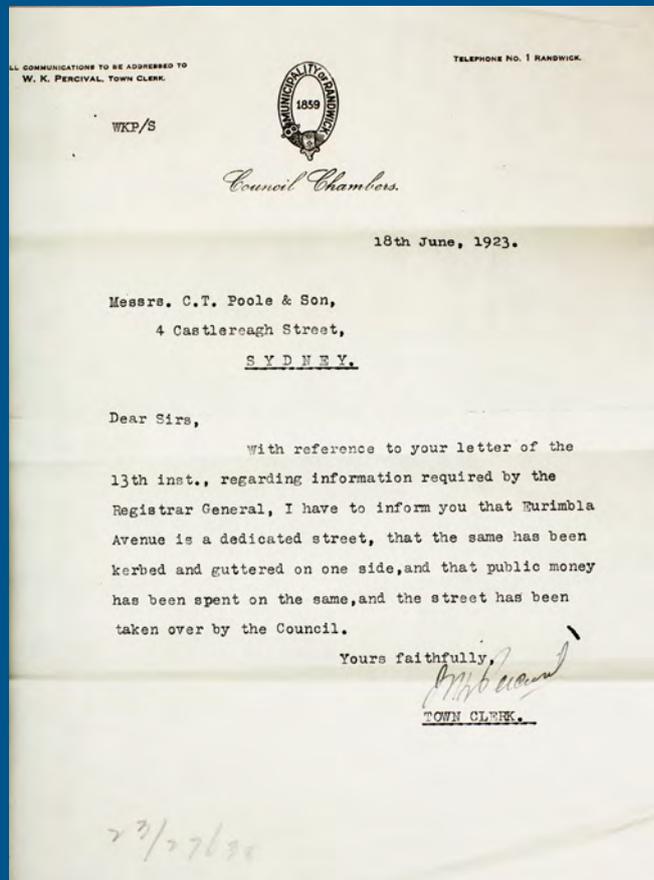
On 18 June 1923, in response to a property conveyance query, Randwick's Town Clerk, W.K. Percival, wrote to Sydney solicitors Messrs C.T. Poole and Sons as follows:

'I have to inform you that Eurimbla Avenue is a dedicated street, that the same has been kerbed and guttered on one side, and that public money has been spent on the same, and that the street has been taken over by Council.'

The kerbing and guttering referred to 'on one side' would have been on the west side, as all the buildings on that side had been completed by 1921. On the east side, only the houses down as far as number 23 had been built by 1923, with the remaining land to the south still consisting of sand hills<sup>69</sup>.

It seems that the Town Clerk, Mr W.K. Percival was mistaken in thinking that 'Eurimbla Avenue was a dedicated street.' (see page 7)

Letter regarding Council ownership and work in Eurimbla Avenue, 1923



# OTHER HISTORICAL EVENTS IMPACTING EURIMBLA PRECINCT 1915-2017

**1915** On 11 October 1915, a Select Committee report on the Asylum for Destitute Children recommended its closure for subsequent use as a military hospital, which would soon impact on many new residents of Eurimbla Avenue.

The Ford Model T car was introduced into Australia, which would have future, if less immediate, implications for the residents.

**1916** In early 1916, the former Asylum for Destitute Children buildings were adapted for use as a military hospital and later officially designated as the 'Fourth Australian Repatriation Hospital'.

**1917** Automatic totalisers were introduced at Randwick Racecourse. Many of the future residents of the Precinct were involved with Randwick's famous horse-racing activities in various capacities.  
(See [Animals - The Place of Many Horses](#))

On 2 August 1917, the employees at the Randwick Tram Sheds in King Street refused to work under a new 'time-card' system. Their 'strike' spread to include coal mines, the wharfs and shipping, in both NSW and Victoria. It lasted until October 1917, after which many of the strikers lost their jobs and pension benefits. At the Sydney Cricket Ground a huge camp was set up for the government employed 'strike breakers'. It is unknown how many Eurimbla Precinct residents would have been financially affected, directly or indirectly, but Sands Directory listings do show that of the 17 Eurimbla houses occupied in 1917, almost half had new residents listed in 1918.

**1921** On 21 February 1921, the Waratah Theatre re-opened as the Odeon Cinema, at the corner of Belmore Road and High Streets, Randwick and naturally became a very popular local entertainment venue for the local residents - including the younger ones who enjoyed the Saturday children's matinee sessions.

**1922** Enrolment on the Electoral Rolls became compulsory for all eligible voters aged 21 and over.

November 1922, the foundation stone was laid for a new Roman Catholic boys' school, Marcellin

College, in the grounds of Greenstead, Alison Road (originally Brisbane Villa, one of the earliest substantial residences to be built in Randwick about 1853 for auctioneer and merchant Samuel Hebblewhite). The builder chosen to erect the new Marcellin school buildings was Patrick David Ryan, who subsequently built the pair of shops at 1 and 3 Eurimbla Avenue.

**1927** One in ten Australian families now owned a car<sup>70</sup>. This was reflected in the growing number of building applications for garages by the Eurimbla Precinct home-owners.  
(See [Getting Around - Cars And Where To Park Them](#))

**1928** Randwick West Progress Association organised a media campaign and petitions concerning the current state of the former Randwick Park at the south-west corner of High and Botany Streets, which had assumed a toxic state as a Council Rubbish Tip.  
(See [A Sense of Community - The Randwick Tip](#))



Opening night at Randwick Odeon, aka Kismet Theatre, 21 June 1921  
Source: *The Sun*, 20 February 1921, p.23

**1930** Eurimbla Precinct Shop lessees: Grocer, William George Aked and butcher, Samuel Herbert (Bert) Gibson.

Voting in Government elections was made compulsory

**1932** Rubbish cleared from Randwick Park, after Council Incinerator opened at Matraville.

**1933** Randwick Municipality population - 78,957

**1937** Ritz Cinema opens in St. Pauls Street in the area known as 'The Spot'.

**1939** WW2 begins

**1940** Randwick Municipality population - 86,120

**1944** Randwick Junior Boys High School opens

**1945** WW2 ends

**1949** Kensington decided on as a site for the new university campus, University of NSW (UNSW)

**1950** UNSW, foundation stone laid for Main Building (Physics), 25 February 1950

**1953** Prince of Wales Hospital was officially re-named as such.

**1958** Official naming of UNSW, formerly NSW University of Technology.

**1959** Randwick Park was resumed for UNSW by Robert J Heffron, Minister for Education and MP for Maroubra - 11 November 1959. Randwick Municipality compensated by developing the much more extensive area of Heffron Park at Maroubra.

(See [Changing Skylines - Perspectives from Eurimbla Precinct](#))

**1960** In October, the last tram operates from Coogee to Sydney via Randwick

**1967** Prince of Wales Hospital - a substantial phase of new buildings commences

(See [Changing Skylines - Perspectives from Eurimbla Precinct](#))

**1974-75** Butcher's shop, 1 Eurimble Avenue, is converted to 'Eurimbla Inn', a Chinese restaurant.

UNSW, Upper Parking built (Botany Street area)

**Mid 1970s** Franklins, and then other supermarkets, established in Belmore Road shopping area.

**1976** Sydney Children's Hospital established

**1980** Randwick Plaza shopping centre opens. Randwick Odeon cinema closes, final night 6 June 1980.

Both shops in Eurimbla Avenue had closed ([See Eurimbla Avenue Shops](#)).

**1990** Randwick Village (later Royal Randwick) shopping centre opens.

Randwick declared the 'City of Randwick', 1 July 1990

**1997** Royal Hospital for Women transferred from Paddington to Prince of Wales Hospital site

**1998** The Sydney Children's Hospital redeveloped ([See A Sense of Community](#))

**2001** Prince Henry Hospital buildings closed, all patients transferred to POW Hospital

**2017 Eurimbla Precinct compulsory acquisition process begins**





# EARLY BUILDINGS AND THEIR OWNERS

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# 1856 THE WILLOWS

The Willows, on the south side of High Street, Randwick, just to the east of its intersection with Botany Street, was the home of James and Sophia Frances Pearce for the last almost two decades of their married life, until James' death in 1876, and for Sophia as a widow for another 22 years until she died there in 1898. The house was built sometime during 1856 and 1857, as evidenced by the births of their third and fourth children. Maud Mary was born at Blenheim House, Randwick on 3 January 1856, while John Edward arrived on 12 January 1858, his birth and baptism records stating the place of his birth as simply 'Randwick'.



Site of The Willows (in blue)

Image courtesy of NSW Government Spatial Services, SIX maps

Blenheim House, with its 'twelve good rooms', as Simeon later described it, had been built in 1848 for Simeon and Alice Isabella Pearce, and completed in time for the birth of their first child in December that year. After Simeon's younger brother James married Alice's younger sister, Sophia, in November 1849, they had also made Blenheim House their home.

The year of construction of The Willows may have been 1856, as at the end of January 1857 Simeon, Alice and 8 year old Thomas Robert departed on the ship Vimeira for an eight month visit to England. The previous month, Simeon had advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald that Blenheim House was '[To LET, for any period which may be agreed upon...](#)', which meant that James and Sophia would also be moving and living elsewhere.

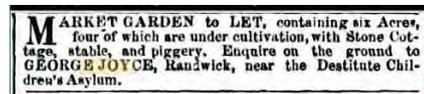


Advert to let Blenheim House, 1856  
Source: SMH 23 December 1856, p1

James' new abode was not necessarily immediately to a newly built Willows however, as in February 1857 baby Maud Mary died, and at that time he was named in the newspaper notice of her death as being 'of Rodborough'. This was the name the Pearce brothers had given to 200

acres they had bought in the hills to the north of Sydney's Middle Harbour in December 1853, just to the east of present day Frenchs Forest. In 1856, they had advertised for 'Masons and sawyers to proceed to Rodborough', and also applied for a free grant of two acres for a church and school adjacent to the southern boundary of the 200 acres, which was approved in January 1857. However, as various newspaper items indicate that both James and Simeon were back with their families at Randwick by the end of 1857, having sold half of the 200 acres in November, it would seem to have been a short-lived pioneering venture for James.

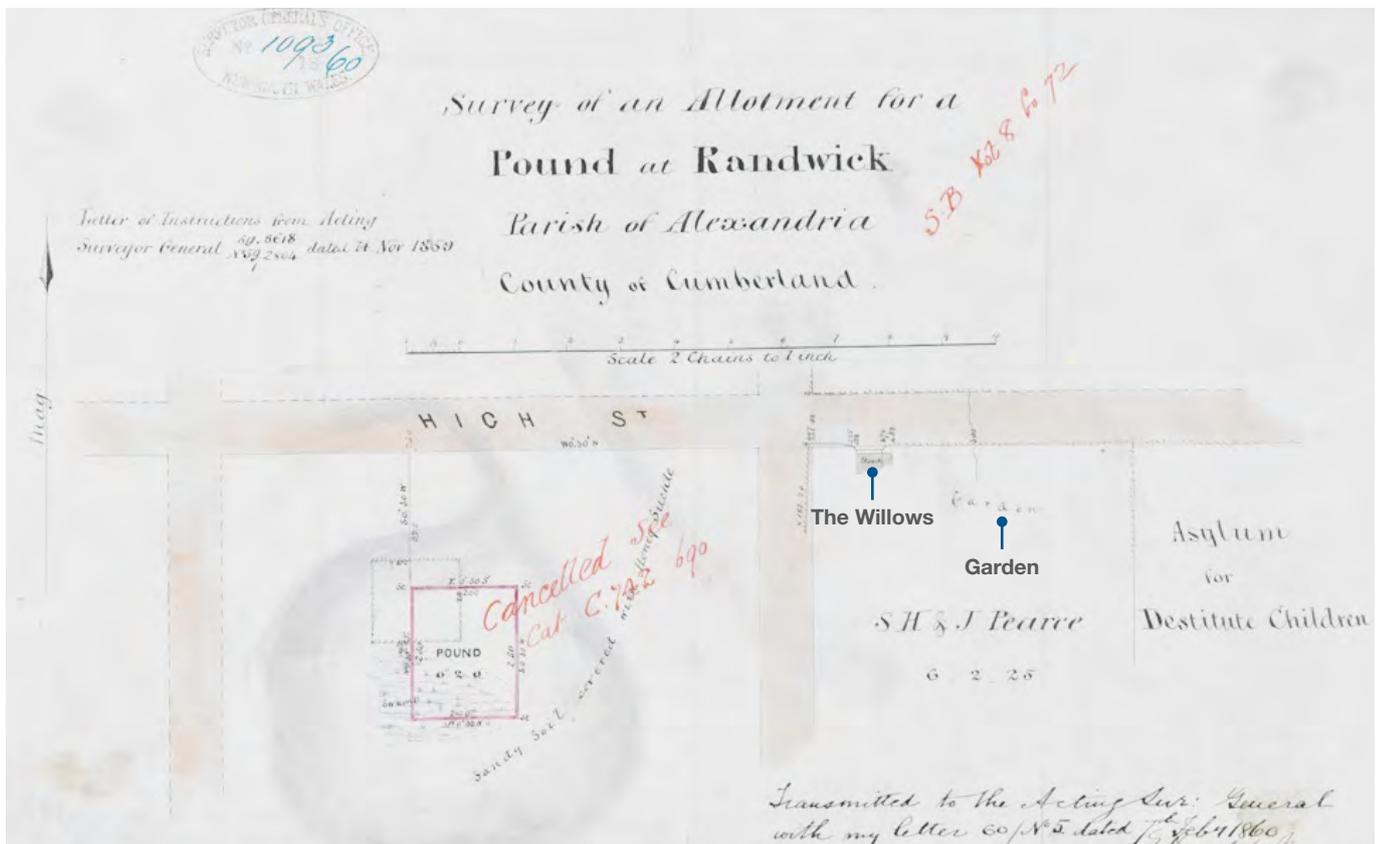
There are other possible clues. In August 1856, Simeon H. Pearce advertised in the SMH for tenders for 'a large cottage at Randwick' but this could also have been for his new Barker Street house on the south east corner of Jane and Barker Streets in which the Simeon Pearce family lived from about 1858 until the end of 1868. In April 1857, a market garden of six acres, with a stone cottage, piggery and stables 'near the Destitute Children's Asylum' was advertised to let, but again, although it seems like a very good contender to be The Willows, it is not conclusive evidence, as interested persons were advised to make enquiries to a George Joyce, rather than James Pearce!



Advert to let a market garden on 6 acres, April 1857  
Source: SMH 20 April 1857, p8

Whichever year The Willows was built, whether 1856 or 1857, a later commentator about 'Old Randwick' wrote that the building had started life as a new stable block for Blenheim House, and that James had had it converted into a dwelling house. There are no known photographs of the house, but it was probably similar in style to Blenheim House, being also a two-storey house built of stone that would have been sourced locally, probably from the quarry that was at the present day junction of High Street and Wansey Road (formerly Bourke Street), Randwick. The building is noted as 'stone' on the Randwick section of the Metropolitan Water maps, and also on a plan drawn by surveyor Edward Knapp in January 1860 for a new pound (a collecting area for stray animals) to be sited just to the west of The Willows on land that later became known as Randwick Park<sup>1</sup>.

When Sophia died in 1898, the list of her possessions valued for death duties under the Deceased Estate regulations contained a reference to 'stair carpet and rods', which would seem to confirm that there was an upper storey to the building. Her furniture was listed room by room, as was the custom of the 'valuators', and these were a sitting room, dining room, ante-room, and a bedroom (which contained the stair carpet). Then followed details of items in a further three bedrooms and



Knapp's 1860 survey, showing the Willows as 'stone'  
 Source: Surveyor General, Sketch Book, Vol.8 fol.72

a drawing room, followed by the kitchen. The latter would have been in the adjacent out-house, as was customary, partly to reduce the risk of fire in the main house, but also to keep the odours and insects that gathered in such places to a minimum in the living areas.

The first edition of the Sands & Kenny's 'Sydney Directory', published in 1859 and containing information collected in 1858, has an entry for James Pearce, market gardener, Randwick. In the January 1860 Edition, relating to events up to October 1859, James is listed at High Street, but no occupation was given. Randwick was proclaimed a Municipality on 22 February 1859; the earliest rates lists are for the half year period for June-December 1859, and James was recorded with a house and land (area not given) in High Street, with a rateable value of £75. By comparison, the value of Blenheim House and land (area not given) was £132. (The occupant at that time was Charles Moore, who went on to become a Randwick Alderman and a Mayor of Sydney).

After the death of James' widow, Sophia, in February 1898, their two remaining unmarried sons, Charles Morton Pearce and Alfred Ernest Pearce, continued living at The Willows until 1909.

From the late 1880s, Charles, Alfred and two other brothers, John and Arthur, had re-invented the old market garden into a very successful plant and seed nursery business, the 'Willows Nursery', with branches in North Botany, the Central Coast and south to Ulladulla. In 1910, both Alfred and Arthur married and moved away, Alfred to the nursery at Gosford and Arthur to Macquarie Street, Sydney. Charles briefly settled at Ulladulla, and

The Willows was let for two years. In December 1911 the house and its surrounding 6½ acres of land were sold. The records of the Randwick Council rates indicate that The Willows and its outbuildings were probably finally dismantled by 1913, after the new owner had subdivided the land for building allotments.

## HOUSE NAME

The Willows was named after the valued water-loving trees (Salix) that grew along the banks of English streams and rivers, and whose bark contained the pain relieving qualities we now know as aspirin. Willows were among the trees grown by the Pearce brothers, some of which may have been planted alongside the creek that flowed south through the centre of their land and then through Bird's Gully to feed the swamp land that drained into Cooks River and Botany Bay. Who named the house and when it was named is not known - the house name The Willows was not listed in Sands Directories until the January 1884 Edition for 1883.

## POSTSCRIPT

In January 2019, the foundations of The Willows were investigated for archaeological recording by Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd. At the invitation of NSW Health Infrastructure, EPHA members visited the site in February, 2019.



In June 2019, NSW Health Infrastructure posted an item on their website relating to the Randwick Campus Redevelopment. An extract follows:

Engaging local Aboriginal young people from La Perouse Youth Haven, lead Aboriginal archaeologist and La Perouse Aboriginal Elder, Uncle David Ingrey and the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council have collaborated with the Randwick Campus Redevelopment to deliver a unique cultural artwork.

Through a traditional stone carving workshop with a technique used by Aboriginal people to tell stories for thousands of years, the group has carved 'Buriburi' - a large-scale humpback whale artwork.

It was confirmed to the EPHA by a Lend Lease spokesperson (email 26 July 2019 ) that 'the sandstone was extracted from the project site at the location of The Willows foundations. As detailed in the article, the artwork will be placed in the garden of the new Acute Services Building.'



a) and f) Uncovering The Willows' foundations, 2019.  
 b) Well at The Willows, 2019.  
 c) (i) Leather shoe. An upper of a left, adult, leather shoe. The shoe has been dated to 1845 due to its manufacturing process when a rolling machine was invented that compressed the leather making it more durable. The style and size of the shoe suggest a working shoe or boot.  
 (ii) Shut off key. A decorative copper alloy shut-off key, probably used for opening and closing gas valves.  
 (iii) Glass bottle. A small octagonal glass bottle with grapevine leaves and grapes painted around the body. This bottle was probably part of a decorated toiletry set which would have sat on a ladies dressing table. It has a manufacturing date of c.1835 due to the polished base.  
 d) & e) Willows jugs, plates and bottles  
 g) The Willows' cess pit, 2019.

Images c), d) and e) courtesy of NSW Health Infrastructure

# 1883 4 MAGILL STREET

KNOWN AS **THE POPLARS** FROM 1918, LATER **GREEN HILLS**



Fireplace tile, 4 Magill Street  
Tile courtesy of Jane and David Shaw

## 1883 ORIGINAL HOUSE AND LAND

The oldest building still *in situ* in the Eurimbla Precinct area in 2018 was 4 Magill Street. It was built on the north side of Magill Street, on Lot 5, Section 1 of the 1881 'Magill's Nursery' sub-division. The allotment measured 114 x 46 feet frontage to Magill Street, an area of 486 square metres.

The land was bought on 2 March 1883 by Norah (Honora) Joyce of Surry Hills, the wife of William Joyce, a stonemason. She paid £69, a price identical to that of the adjacent allotments<sup>2</sup>.

Despite William's occupation, the Joyce's opted to build a brick house, which must have been completed by October that year, as they were resident in time for 'William Joice [sic], M'Gill [sic] Street' to be listed as the householder in the Sands Directory, January 1884 edition (entries for that edition closed in October 1883).

*Sands Directory -  
Listings for 1883*

**M'Gill street**  
*Off Botany street*  
**Joice, William, mason**

Wm Joice [sic], Magill Street, 1883 Source: *Sands Directory*, 1883

An 1890 survey shows that the house was situated in the southwest corner of the land, right on its western boundary, with a small veranda facing onto Magill Street from the front rooms<sup>3</sup>.

## 1883 - 1911 THE JOYCE FAMILY

When they moved into their new home in 1883, William and Norah Joyce were both aged about 37, and at the time had two children, seven year old Patrick John (Jack) and four year old Margaret Annie. No further children were born, and their subsequent lives seem to have escaped any newspaper or official comment, adverse or otherwise. Four months after buying their land, the couple had arranged a mortgage of £200 from the St Joseph's Investment and Building Society, which both William and Norah signed on 9 June 1883, committing to monthly repayments of £2.12s.0d (or 52 shillings) for 10 years<sup>4</sup>. As the local daily wage for an unskilled labourer at that time was about six shillings, their monthly

repayments would have been easily earned by William in less than five working days each month<sup>5</sup>.

The mortgage was paid regularly, the final payment being in May 1892<sup>6</sup>. However, as with all such financial obligations, there may have been times of stress. The final owner-occupiers of 4 Magill Street have described the occasional sightings of a Victorian gentleman in one of the front rooms, accompanied by a distinctly chilly atmosphere<sup>7</sup>. Perhaps William had returned yet again to his desk in the parlour, to sort out the bills to be paid and to try to balance the family finances in difficult times.

Norah Joyce died, age 60, on 29 September 1905, and William died in 1908<sup>8</sup>. A valuation of the property in 1909 described the house as being a brick cottage with an iron roof, containing two rooms, a hall and kitchen<sup>9</sup>. Randwick Council's assessment of the property's rateable value had not increased in relative terms over the years from 1883 to 1909, so the house must have remained much the same as when it was first built.

MUNICIPALITY OF RANDWICK.			
Situation	Plan No.	Lot	Section
Magill Street	114/115		2394
Description	W.B. Addition at rear of Cottage		
Plan deposited at Council Offices	16. 7. 13.		
Plan approved by Committee			
Name of Owner	A. E. Moore		
Name of Builder	Magill St. Randwick		
Name of Architect	"		
Value of Buildings to be erected	£35		

Building Application, 4 Magill Street, A.E. Moore, 1913. Valuation supplied by Fred W.H. Pearce Source: *Randwick Building Application*, 16 July 1913

After Norah's death, the house had also been home to the Joyce's son Jack and his family, and they remained at 4 Magill Street until 1911. An unfortunate family dispute over the property, and the subsequent opportunist legal costs, resulted in Jack's voluntary bankruptcy. The house was sold in March, followed by an eviction order in September 1911<sup>10</sup>. By 1912, Patrick and Annie Joyce and their six children had moved into temporary accommodation on the nearby Lot 7, which became 8

Magill Street. They built a new weatherboard house in 1914 and the family subsequently owned and occupied number 8 for over 50 years.

### 1911 – 1923

#### ANDREW MOORE AND WILLIAM NAYLOR

The successful bidder in March 1911 for 4 Magill Street was Russell George Williamson, described in the title deeds as an 'engineer of Randwick', who paid £60, less than half its estimated value. The house was then occupied by Andrew Edward Moore, a telephone engineer. On 10 February 1916 Williamson applied to have the title of the land converted to Torrens Title. The process took almost two years, with a new Certificate of Title being issued on 15 December 1917, to nominee Andrew E. Moore<sup>11</sup>.

There had been an agreement (noted in the application) that Andrew would eventually become the owner. In July he had lodged a building application for a weather board addition of the value of £35 to the rear of the house<sup>12</sup>. In 1918, having become the legal owner, he named his property [The Poplars](#), a name noted in the Sands Directory listing for that year.

The next owner was William Naylor, a musician of Stanmore, who bought 4 Magill Street on 16 October 1919 and almost immediately lodged a planning application to Randwick Council for 'Alterations' to the value of £40, which it was noted commenced on 5 December 1919. William occupied the house until 1923<sup>13</sup>.

### 1923 – 1934

#### MRS SUSANNAH JOHNSTONE

On 19 March 1923 John E.P. Ducker, an estate agent, bought 4 Magill Street, and also a few weeks later the vacant block of Lot 4 (the future number 2)<sup>14</sup>. When Ducker sold 4 Magill Street on 23 July 1923 to Mrs Susannah Johnstone, he also sold her an extra four feet width of land from the eastern side of Lot 4. This allowed for a side access to her back garden on the western side of the house, as well as removing any potential neighbourly problems with the overhang of the roof into Lot 4<sup>15</sup>.

Mrs Johnstone was the wife of Edward Johnstone, a joiner, and they had previously lived in Paddington. They kept the name of [The Poplars](#), and by 1924 Randwick Council's rateable value of the house had almost doubled, from £412 to £750. No building application has been found to explain this increase, although in July 1925 Mrs Johnstone did apply for consent to build a corrugated iron tool shed, to the value of £10<sup>16</sup>!



Building Application for shed at 4 Magill Street, S. Johnstone, 1925  
Source: Randwick Building Application, 27 July 1925

Sands Directory lists Mrs. Johnstone as the occupant until at least 1932, but on 30 May 1934 the house and land was auctioned, and sold for a reported £550<sup>17</sup>.

### 1934 – 1938

#### JOHN JAMES SWEENEY

The new owner was John James Sweeney, whose occupation on the title deeds was given as a manufacturer's agent of Sydney. The following year, in August 1935, Sweeney submitted a building application for an extension to 4 Magill Street, of brick with a tiled roof, value £150, although there were no Inspectors' comments giving start or completion dates<sup>18</sup>.

### 1938 ONWARDS

#### VARIOUS OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS

From 1938 several owners were noted on the title deeds, including Mrs Lily F. Hale, a widow of Kensington, then from November 1940 Ms Beryl Stott of Ramsgate. In December 1947 Mrs Lilian T. Bray became the owner for the next 16 years, until May 1964, when Rex Keane Robinson and his wife Nancy bought the property. It remained in the Robinson family for almost 25 years until December 1988.

The final occupiers in 2018 were Jane and David Shaw, who used the house name [Green Hills](#).

# 1888 CHARLES CONDER - CHINAMAN'S GARDEN



(Rainy Day) 14 Feb 1888. Chinaman's Garden Randwick  
Image courtesy of AGNSW

In the Art Gallery of NSW there is a little oil painting which was created on the lid of a cedar cigar box. It was painted by the English 'impressionist' artist Charles Conder (1868-1909), and he gave it the title [\(Rainy Day\) 14 Feb 1888. Chinaman's Garden Randwick](#)<sup>19</sup>.

While admitting to a certain bias, we have concluded that it is quite possible that the painting depicts the southern part of the Eurimbula Precinct as it was in early 1888. The scene encompasses a distant and dipping tree line, and in the intervening very wet looking 'garden' area the eye is drawn by the blue clothing of two Chinese gardeners, one wearing a typical coolie hat and the other carrying a watering can, working in a verdant landscape.

Assuming that the inclusion of Randwick in Conder's title can be taken literally, there is a distinct possibility that the scene depicted was indeed in the vicinity of the township rather than somewhere in the outlying municipal districts. It may have been painted from a vantage point behind The Willows, looking towards the south across James Pearce's former market gardens.

Our research suggests several reasons for making this claim. The first is the confirmation of the Chinese gardeners on the land at that time. Randwick Council Rates record that from 1885 until 1888, one Xian Loong

(or Lee Sang Loong) was a named tenant, on at least two acres at the southern end of the Pearces' property<sup>20</sup>. This was in the years following the death of James Pearce, when his young sons were concentrating their efforts on their land north of the High Street. It was not until the elder son Charles returned in April 1888 from a year-long tour of European plant nurseries that the Eurimbula land began to be intensively developed as the Willows Nurseries. Happily, the 'Chinamen' were not summarily evicted, but became tenants in Pearce properties near Alison Road.

A perusal of Sands Directories has confirmed that there were no other market gardens or plant nurseries in the immediate Randwick town area in the late 1880s which could have been likely settings for the painting<sup>21</sup>.

It is on record that Charles Conder was familiar with neighbouring Coogee and Bronte, completing other paintings of the beaches around the date that he has assigned to 'Rainy Day'. Furthermore, transport to the area had become much more accessible from Sydney since 1882, with a steam tram service that stopped at the eastern end of High Street (less than five minutes' walk from The Willows Nurseries), and then ran down to the beach at Coogee. An 1888 painting of a Chinaman's garden situated in the more distant southern suburbs

of Randwick, where Chinese market gardens are still in existence, would have entailed a very much longer and more arduous journey!

Finally, we have a photo taken almost exactly 131 years later during a visit to the Eurimbla Precinct site in February 2019 to view the archaeological investigations of The Willows' foundations. The newly revealed topography and the horizon of trees does bear a certain similarity, albeit a much denuded one, to that shown in Conder's beautiful artwork.

Subsequent research into Conder's letters at that time did not reveal any new information about the exact location of his St. Valentine's Day painting, but the circumstantial evidence certainly makes it a distinct possibility that the painting does indeed depict a snapshot in time of the Eurimbla Precinct in early 1888<sup>22</sup>.



Archaeological investigations reveal topography and tree line at Eurimbla Precinct, 2019

# 1889 PEARCE BROTHERS' NURSERY AND FLOWER FARM

In 1888 there were only two main residential houses in the Eurimbla Precinct, the Pearce family's The Willows on High Street and the Joyce's little brick cottage on Magill Street. However there may have been some 'huts' for temporary accommodation for the gardening staff. From early 1889, another type of substantial building appeared in the form of a number of brick-based greenhouses. These were erected to nurture the delicate and exotic plants for a new style of gardening business being developed at that time by three of James Pearce's sons, John Edward (31), Charles Morton (29) and Alfred Ernest (25).



Left: Alfred Pearce. Right: Charles Pearce, age c.24  
Source: Mitchell Library, SLNSW, Pearce Papers PXA 2150

In establishing their business, Mr Charles Pearce visited 'a great many of the chief nurseries in England and the Continent and gained considerable advantages from his trip, and made arrangements to have the firm kept supplied with all the latest novelties of good quality.'<sup>23</sup>

Those interested in floriculture will do well to read Pearce Bros. advertisement in to-day's issue, they having purchased the flower and retail seed business recently carried on by Treseder and Bartlett, at 31 Sydney Arcade, King-street. The nurseries are at Randwick, and extend over many acres. Mr. C. Pearce, has just returned from a long visit to the principal nurseries of France, Germany and England, and has brought back a most interesting collection of new seeds, plants, and bulbs. We have before us their catalogue, which contains a large amount of information, well printed and illustrated. The packing of plants, fruit trees, etc., for any part of the colony receives the attention of a thoroughly practical man, cost price only being charged for packing. Those who have not as yet received one of the catalogues used by this firm would do well to get one, and they may rest assured that should they require any of the specimens contained therein, their wants will be punctually attended to.

Pearce Bros' new shop, Sydney Arcade, 1888  
Source: Kiama Independent 13 April 1888

In early 1888, after Charles' return from his fact-finding tour in Europe, the brothers opened a retail outlet in one of Sydney's newest shopping experiences, the Sydney Arcade on King Street<sup>24</sup>.



Sydney Arcade, 1889 Source: Mitchell Library, SLNSW



**BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY LORD CARRINGTON,**  
**PEARCE BROS.,**  
**NURSEYMEN, SEEDSMEN, FLORISTS AND LANDSCAPE GARDENERS.**

New Seeds for the Flower and Kitchen Garden. Send stamps for our 3s Novelty Collection. Vegetable Seeds. Send stamps for our 2s Novelty Packet. Choice Flower Seeds. All Seeds guaranteed if fairly treated.

**PEARCE BROS.,**  
**31, SYDNEY-ARCADE, KING-STREET, SYDNEY.**  
Nurseries, Randwick.

Pearce Bros', suppliers to Governor Carrington, 1889  
Source: Australian Trade & Construction Journal, 23 March 1889

By 1889, it was a thriving business producing 'an immense quantity of plants and beautiful flowers'<sup>25</sup>. They had been honoured as suppliers of flowers and plants to Government House. Their success caused quite a stir in horticultural circles, and many detailed articles appeared in national and local newspapers<sup>26</sup>.

On Saturday 25 May 1889, a very lengthy article appeared in the Sydney Mail & NSW Advertiser, which reported that in the previous year 'about 35,000 plants were sent out from the nursery. An average of from eight to ten [ten] large clothes-baskets full of flowers ... as well as large quantities of ornamental plants of various kinds in pots', were sent daily to their shop in the Sydney Arcade<sup>27</sup>.

At their business in the Arcade (1889) 'no less than 10 hands are employed, and the firm has at the present moment about 130,000 plants of various kinds in pots ready for sale. It was delightful to meet and converse with young men brimming full of energy and go, anxious to keep up with the times, and fully alive to the fact that the public taste in the colonies is improving more and more every day with regard to plants and flowers; and it shows their confidence in an increasing trade to hear that they are sinking large sums in their property, to meet future public requirements'<sup>28</sup>.

The seemingly idyllic location of the Nursery and Flower Farm 'in a sheltered valley, or rather undulation, surrounded by fine large pines, figs, willows, and other shelter trees, a few minutes' walk from the Randwick post office<sup>29</sup>, is situated the plant nursery and flower farm of Messrs. Pearce Brothers, nurserymen, florists, and seedsmen, and here is produced, to supply a daily increasing demand, an immense quantity of plants and beautiful flowers'<sup>30</sup>. Situated near the sea, the Nursery and Flower Farm reportedly did not suffer from frost, and 'therefore many varieties of flowers will bloom here during the winter months that would be cut off a little further inland; and another great feature here is that there is a constant supply of water, the wells or ponds are never dry'<sup>31</sup>.

The plan shows the location of buildings and greenhouses in Eurimbla Precinct when the area was surveyed in 1891. The plan shows relative positions of later houses. Wooden buildings are outlined in brown, Portion 379 boundaries are outlined in red. The Joyces' 1883 brick house on Magill Street lies to the south within Portion 380.



Interior of 'Fernery' at Randwick, 1889  
Source: Illustrated Sydney News, 22 August 1889

With glasshouses large and small, a large hothouse and several bush houses, the plant nursery produced not only plants for sale but large quantities for decorative purposes, 'enormous quantities of beautiful flowers' to supply the large and increasing demand in Sydney. Plants were hired 'out to various clubs and hotels, and sometimes to one of the theatres. The Grosvenor Hotel, the French and German clubs, the Gaiety Theatre and other establishments are decorated by the plants from this nursery. The taste for decorative plants is greatly on the increase in Sydney, and before long the method adopted generally in London will obtain here, not only in hotels and private houses, but in places of business. The plants being replaced every week (the old ones being taken back to the nursery), the rooms are kept always fresh and beautiful, and this is well worth the small expense, for there is not the least trouble entailed on the occupiers of the houses or offices'<sup>32</sup>.

Their floral business in the Sydney Arcade was also 'daily engaged in making up a supply of hand, table, and buttonhole bouquets; also supplying orders for weddings, banquets, etc., some of the bridal posies and baskets being of exquisite quality'<sup>33</sup>. At one social wedding the bridal bouquet supplied by Pearce Brothers was described as 'composed of white roses, white camellias, white primroses, white hyacinths, snowdrop, tuberose and maidenhair fern'<sup>34</sup>.

By 1889 the Pearce Brothers and their Nursery and Flower Farm were well-known and successful exhibitors of plants and flowers at agricultural exhibitions in Sydney and surrounds<sup>35</sup>. They won prizes for their baskets of flowers, their button-hole bouquets, and their rose collections<sup>36</sup>, and large numbers of prizes for their general exhibits and displays.

About two minutes' walk from the nursery was the flower farm, and here there seems to be no end of beautiful flowers of all kinds<sup>37</sup>.



- Site of The Willows, demolished c.1914
- Site of greenhouses, built in 1889
- House not yet built

Location of buildings and greenhouses, 1891  
Source: MWS&DB 1891 plan, Randwick Sheet 36

- 47 -

# PEARCE BROS.,

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Vice-Regal Florists,  
Nurseries: High Street, Randwick, Sydney.

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## DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

... OF ...

### Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, and • •

### • • • Seeds of Every Description.

... ALSO ...

Choicest Florist Flowers, -  
- Camellias, Azaleas, Roses,  
- Climbers, Ferns, Palms,  
Stove and Green-house Plants, Fruit Trees, Vines, &c.

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GROWN AND FOR SALE BY

## PEARCE BROS.,

(Late SHEPHERD & CO., of Darling Nursery, Lachlan Street,  
Waterloo, Sydney)

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

### Nurserymen, Seedsmen and Florists,

HIGH STREET, RANDWICK, SYDNEY.

---

ESTABLISHED SIXTY-NINE YEARS.

NOTE.—A copy of this Catalogue will be sent gratis and post free to all applicants, and we shall feel very grateful to those who may receive a copy, and have no use for it, if they would kindly hand it to some person interested in Gardening.

Front Cover of Catalogue, Pearce Bros., Sydney, 1900.

## WHAT WAS GROWING IN THE PEARCE BROTHERS' NURSERY AND FLOWER FARM, 1889?

The nursery and flower farm covered 'a considerable area of ground ... thickly planted with every variety of flower, tree, and shrub suitable to the climate'<sup>38</sup>. Various ferneries, bush houses and hot-houses were 'filled with a vast and beautiful collection of foliage plants and ferns of choice and delicate species'<sup>39</sup>. Roses, petunias, and ferns were a specialty<sup>40</sup>.

'The roses grow exceedingly well here, and produce an immense number of flowers throughout the year'<sup>41</sup>. There were 'some twenty thousand different kinds' of roses<sup>42</sup>. 'Roses in masses of the best varieties for cut flowers and conspicuous amongst them is that good old variety, *Souvenir de la Malmaison* ... Pearce will have about 25,000 own root roses for sale this season, and amongst these a very great number of *Marechal Neil* growing over the trellises near the bush house. There were also 'about 5000 roses in pots, of good varieties'<sup>43</sup>.

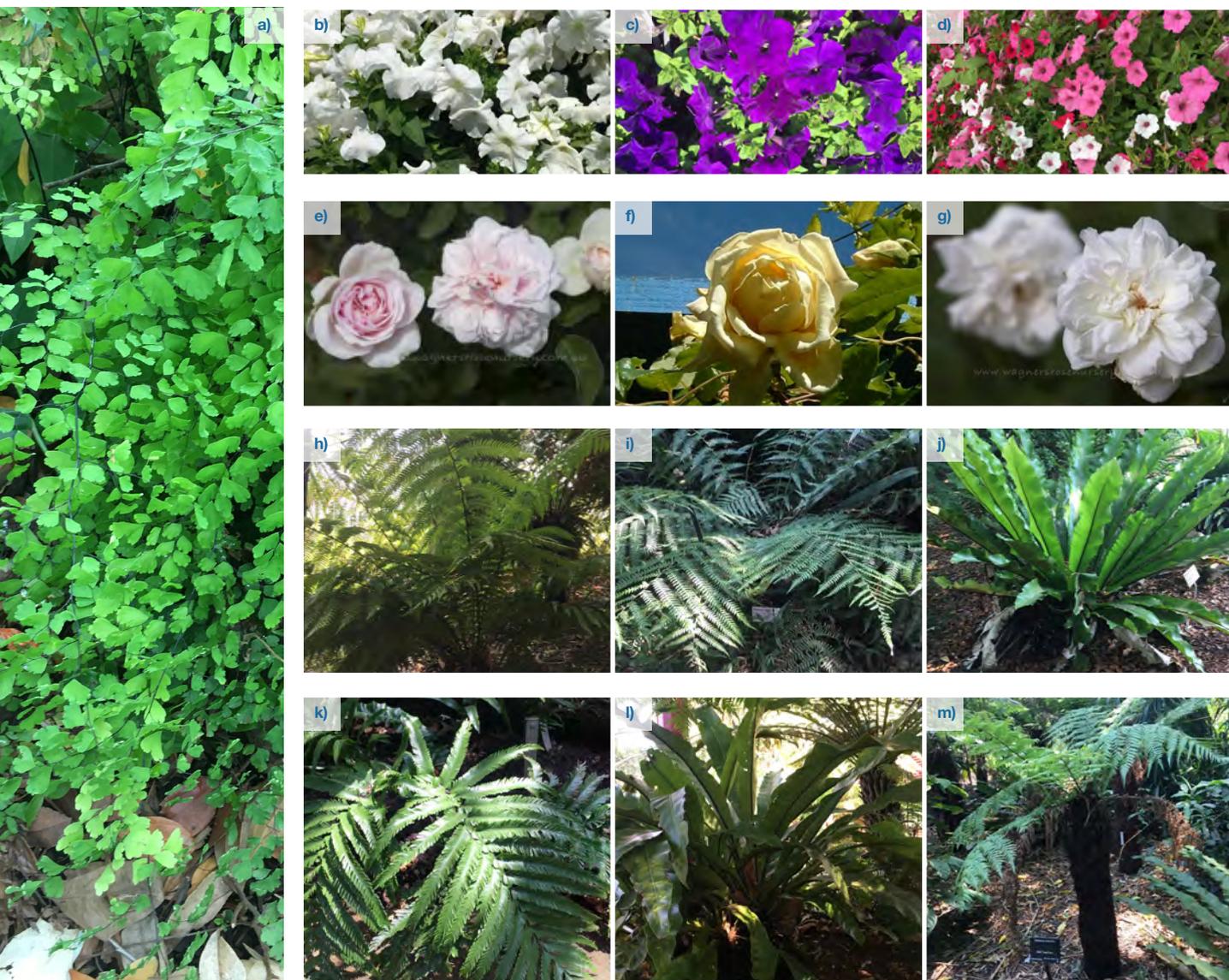
Bordering the footpaths were 'dense masses of violets ... Messrs. Pearce perhaps grow the largest quantity of violets in the colonies, if not in the world. During the season they pick at least 120 dozen bunches a day—about two or three dozen flowers to a bunch'<sup>44</sup>.

Of this enormous quantity of violets ... 'rows and rows are to be seen everywhere, about fourteen different variations are grown ... Some days six men are employed the whole day picking these violets, and the next day the flowers are apparently as thick as ever. More violets are probably grown here than at any other place in the colonies'<sup>45</sup>.

*Petunias* 'were exceedingly good, double and single; but the single were the best'<sup>46</sup>. 'Outside the bush houses there is a magnificent collection of seedling petunias, about 4000 most healthy-looking young plants in pots, and about 1000 more to pot off'<sup>47</sup>. 'Messrs. Pearce have spared no trouble or expense to obtain seed from Europe of the very best strains that could be procured'<sup>48</sup>.

'Probably there is no nursery in the colonies where one could see such a magnificent collection of healthy young ferns in thousands. ... In another month or two these houses will be a picture to make a pteridologist's mouth water. Nearly every one of these ferns has been raised from seed ... In the hot house are thousands of young ferns just ready for potting, and in pots are about thirty varieties just germinating'<sup>49</sup>.

a) Maidenhair Fern, *Dicksonia Antarctica*, *Dicksonia Antarctica*, *Asplenium australasicum*, b) *Petunia white*, c) *Petunia violet*, d) *Petunias*, e) *Souvenir de la Malmaison* Image courtesy of Wagner's Nursery: <https://www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au/products/souvenir-de-la-malmaison-clg-1>, f) *Rosa Marechal Neil* Image courtesy of Valarie McDonald: [valmac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:valmac@xtra.co.nz), g) Cecile Brunner Image courtesy of Wagner's Nursery: <https://www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au/products/souvenir-de-la-malmaison-clg-1>, h) *Asplenium*, i) *Asplenium australasicum*, j) to m) Australian Tree Fern





a) Pansies, b) Gaillardia, c) Canna, d) Canna generalis, e) Daisies, f) Arctotis Daisy, g) Daisies, h) Camellias growing in Eurimbla Precinct 2018, i) *Dracaena hookeriana*, j) *Rhaps flabelliformis*, k) *Kentia fosteriana*

'Of *Adiantum gracillimum* alone there are about 3000 pots, and most of those are grown for their fronds for ornamenting bouquets, etc. This fern ... is remarkably beautiful, and there is always an immense demand for its graceful fronds'<sup>50</sup>. Large numbers of *Adiantum* are reported from Peru, from 'tropical America', from Barbados, from Hong Kong and from the Malay peninsula<sup>51</sup>. 'There are altogether in the nurseries twenty-five thousand different varieties of ferns'<sup>52</sup> including 'one of the most beautiful maidenhair ferns in cultivation'<sup>53</sup>.

'Near a small watercourse is a number of the beautiful double *Abutilon Thompsoni*, and beyond is a huge bed of thousands of magnificent tuberose just coming into bloom. Imagine the delightful perfume from these! The value of the flowers on this bed is at least £150. Here are thousands of *marguerites* of varieties, *gaillardias* of varieties, a large bed of *daisies*, hundreds of white aster *dahlias*, rows of *camellias*, most beautiful *pansies*, which have been blooming for the last six weeks; a fine lot of *cannas*, numbers of *Dracaena australia* and *Aspidista variegata*, a fine collection of all sorts of *chrysanthemums*, and other kinds of flowers too numerous to mention'<sup>54</sup>.

'There are many good varieties of camellias here and there'<sup>55</sup>. There were '1000 healthy-looking plants of *Primula sinensis*, just about to break into flower, and a splendid lot of clean-looking gardenias'<sup>56</sup>. Also '*daisies*, *ageratum*, *snapdragons*, *Marguerites*, *cannas* in profusion, and no end of the useful winter flowering *carnations*'<sup>57</sup>.

'About 20,000 plants of beautiful pansies now coming into full bloom, and thousands of seedlings ready to plant out'<sup>58</sup>. 'The beds of *pansies*, *violets*, *snowflakes*, *hyacinths*, and other early Spring blooms at present growing are fragrant patches of beauty'<sup>59</sup>.

'In the bush houses are ... about 4000 *palms*, chiefly seedlings of *Kentia Belmoreana*, *K. Fosteriana*, *K. Canterburyana*, which are found to be most useful for decorative purposes'<sup>60</sup>.

'In one of the bush houses are about 4000 pots, containing a fine, clean, healthy-looking lot of *cinerarias* just coming into bloom ... and here are also about 1000 *dracaenas* of many varieties in pots'<sup>61</sup>.

'One of the prettiest of the flowers now in full bloom *Fresia refracta* ... also numbers of the *belladonna lily* ... thousands of *hyacinths* and *narcissus*, and *daffodil*'<sup>62</sup>. Over other trellises, there were 'various other creepers and climbers ... Between these trellises is a splendid collection of bouvardias of all varieties, grown chiefly for cut flowers'<sup>63</sup>.

There were not just flowers in the Pearce Nursery and Flower Farm but also a new variety of potato from London. '14lb. of seed was sown, and from this 4½ cwt. of good potatoes has just been dug up'<sup>64</sup>.

Melancholy Jacques sums up his article on the Pearce Nursery and Flower Farm

*'To give a detailed description of all the beautiful things grown in this garden would occupy so much space that a mere mention of some only has been attempted'*<sup>65</sup>.

Below are some of the plants grown in 1889 by the Pearce Brothers at their 'Eurimbla Precinct' market garden as reported in 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070

**ABUTILON THOMPSONI**

**ASPIDISTRA VARIEGATE, ASPIDISTRA LURIDA VARIEGATE**

**ASPLENIUMS**

**CANNAS**

**CHRYSANTHEMUMS**

**DAISIES, MARGUERITAS**

**DAVALLIA DISSCOTA**

**DRACEONA AUSTRALIA**

**FERNS**

Adiantum gracillimum

Adiantum decorum

Adiantum cuneatum

Adiantum tinctum

Adiantum Victoria

Adiantum Farlyense

**GAILLARDIAS**

**MICROLEPIA HIRTA CRISTATA**

**PETUNIAS, CAMELLIAS, VIOLETS, PANSIES**

**POTATO**

**ROSES**

Marechal Neil rose

Souvenir de la Malmaison rose

Manetti

Beaumontia grandiflora

Taceonia Morti, Taceonia Empress Eugenie

Phascolus Caracalla

Bouvardias

**TUBEROSES**

**WHITE ASTER DAHLIAS**

**WHITE ROMAN HYACINTHS**

**YUCOS**



# 1918 COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WAR HOMES ACQUISITION



Destitute Children's Asylum, Randwick, mid 1860s. Samuel T. Gill  
Source: NLA, NK 9593.3

In 1857 the little village and market gardening settlement at Randwick was transformed by the building activity of numerous stonemasons, who were constructing the future 'Destitute Children's Asylum' on a 60 acre land grant to the east of James Pearce's market garden (the future Eurimbla Precinct)<sup>66</sup>. On 29 March 1858, this massive structure, which combined all the welcoming and homely aspects of a military barracks, became home to 200 of the orphaned and abandoned children of Sydney. By 1863, a further residential south wing had been added, doubling the dormitory space, and in 1870 a separate building to the south was completed for the specific use as a hospital for children or staff who needed medical care<sup>67</sup>.

From the 1870s onwards concerns were raised about the suitability of raising young children in such an institutionalised way, especially as the 'boarding-out' system of foster care was proving so successful almost everywhere else. Despite this, nothing was done until the advent of the 1914 World War, when the NSW State Government seized the opportunity to convene an Official Enquiry, during which Sir Charles Mackellar, a leading physician of the time, called the Asylum (amongst other things) 'a palatial evidence of a barbaric and obsolete method of treatment of destitute children'<sup>68</sup>. The Asylum was finally closed on 30 September 1915 and the buildings and land, having been reinvested in the Crown, were swiftly adapted for use as a military hospital.

Palatial it may have been, but it was soon filled to capacity with wounded soldiers, and the Commonwealth Government (which was responsible for defence matters) decided to alleviate the situation by providing off-site accommodation for nurses and other staff as close as possible to the hospital. Time was of the essence, and there was neither the man-power nor ready source of building materials to embark upon a rapid program of construction. So the decision was taken to purchase under compulsion some of the recently built houses in Eurimbla Avenue. Accordingly, in October 1918 a Notice of Acquisition appeared in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, informing that as from the 9th of that month almost an acre of land in Randwick, 'together with all the buildings thereon...' was now the property of the Commonwealth government for 'Defence purposes'<sup>69</sup>. Thus in October 1918, the Commonwealth Government resumed fourteen of the Eurimbla Avenue houses and an allotment of land at the north-east corner. The fourteen resumed houses were used to accommodate staff working at the Military Hospital.

The land concerned was Lots 26-31 and Lots 35-36, which, apart from Lot 35 which was the vacant block adjacent to High Street on the east side, contained seven pairs of brick and tile semi-detached cottages, fourteen homes in all. They were 5 and 7 on the east side (the only ones built on the east side at that time), and 14 to 36 on the west side. While 5, 7, 22 and 24 Eurimbla Avenue

Commonwealth of Australia.  
The Lands Acquisition Act 1906.  
**NOTIFICATION OF THE ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE COMMONWEALTH.**

IT is hereby notified and declared by His Excellency the Governor-General, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, that the land hereunder described, together with all buildings and tanks (if any) thereon, has been acquired by the Commonwealth under the Lands Acquisition Act 1906, for the following public purpose, namely, for Defence purposes, at Randwick, New South Wales.

Dated the 9th day of October, One thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

R. M. FERGUSON, Governor-General.  
N.L.18/2315.

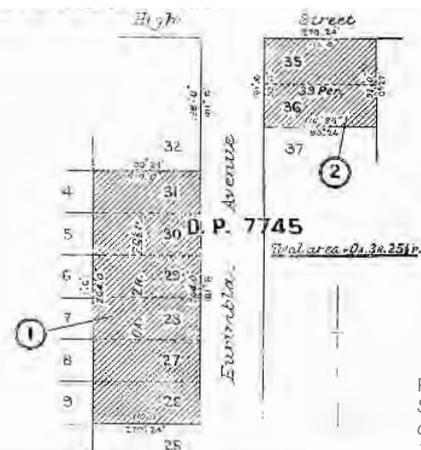
By His Excellency's Command, P. McM. GLYNN,  
Minister of State for Home and Territories.

**DESCRIPTION OF LAND REFERRED TO.**

All those pieces or parcels of land containing a total area of 3 roods 26½ perches, more or less, in the borough of Randwick, being Lots 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36, shown on deposited plan No. 7746, parish of Alexandria, county of Cumberland, State of New South Wales, Commonwealth of Australia, as shown hachured on plan hereunder, and more particularly described as follows:—

Firstly.—All that piece or parcel of land containing an area of 2 roods 26½ perches, more or less, being lots 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 of deposited plan No. 7745; Commencing at the south-eastern corner of lot 32 of deposited plan No. 7745, being a point on the western side of Eurimbla-avenue bearing 181 deg. 6 min. and distant 138 feet from the intersection of the southern side of High-street with the western side of Eurimbla-avenue; thence by part of the western side of Eurimbla-avenue bearing 181 deg. 6 min. 264 feet to the north-eastern corner of lot 25 of deposited plan No. 7745; thence by the northern boundary of that lot bearing 270 deg. 24 min. 110 feet to the south-eastern

Notice of Acquisition, Eurimbla Avenue houses, 1918  
Source: Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 17 October 1918, p.2038



Plan of acquired land, 1918  
Source: Commonwealth of Australia Gazette  
17 October 1918, p.2039

# FEDERAL COTTAGE DEAL

## Homes for Nurses at Randwick

Economy, Randwick, writes: "Knowing that you are a consistent opponent of public money being squandered, I desire to point out to you a recent transaction of the Federal Government, wherein they have purchased ten pairs of cottages, together with vacant land, situated in Eurimbla-avenue, Randwick, to provide homes for nurses. I understand the price paid for the cottages is £1400 per pair, which will run into at least £15,000 with the transfer fees, etc., included. Does it not seem strange that this property is being purchased in the face of the fact that there are acres of vacant land within the Randwick Hospital grounds that residences for nurses could easily be built on at a very moderate cost? Apart from this costly transaction (the purchase is notified in the Federal Government Gazette of the 17th inst.), the Government have overlooked the fact that they will be turning out of house and home twenty families, who will, in all probability, be unable to find other houses to rent, owing to the tremendous shortage of houses.

Letter to the SMH regarding the re-housing for evicted tenants, 1918  
Source: Sunday Times 1918, 27 October 1918, p.5

had been built by Henry J. Miller in 1916, the other ten were constructed by Sydney Coulton in 1916-1917. All had been sold on to unsuspecting investors and were tenanted at the time of the October 1918 acquisition. For some unknown reason, the other three pairs of existing semis, 2 - 12, which were also tenanted, escaped the acquisition process, while, according to the notes on the building applications lodged with Randwick Council, 38-40 and 42-44 were still in the process of being built by Coulton.

Several of the houses that were taken over were occupied by young couples with infants and small children, such as Arthur and Dorothy Merchant, at number 18, Dayton, whose baby boy was only four months old, so it must have been quite hard for them at a time of housing shortages to find new homes<sup>70</sup>. The McGowans at number 5 stayed on for an extra year - perhaps because they had a war dependant as a lodger - Mrs Finegan, whose son John Pender Finegan had enlisted in 1914. The only tenant not disturbed was John Hokin at number 32, so perhaps he

was already a hospital employee, or a war worker in some other capacity.

On 11 November 1918, the hostilities of WWI ended, later called 'Armistice Day', and gradually the need for extra staff accommodation for the Military Hospital eased. In July 1922 the Commonwealth Government announced the transfer of the fourteen Eurimbla Avenue houses to the War Service Homes Commission, and by September 1922 the Commission had registered the properties with the NSW Land Titles Office as Lots 1-14 on the Deposited Plan DP 12909<sup>71</sup>. This enabled the Commission to begin the process of selling or allocating the houses. By the end of 1928 five had been sold outright, mostly to builders, but the remainder were assigned with long-term War Service purchasing loans to qualifying occupants. Seven out of the original fourteen people and their families remained as long term residents and owner-occupiers of the Eurimbla Precinct for three or more decades, well into the 1950s and beyond.

(See Appendix - Sales History of War Service Homes)

# 1924 EURIMBLA AVENUE SHOPS

In April 1923, Patrick David Ryan, (the building contractor for the new school buildings for Marcellin Boys College, Randwick), submitted a building application for 'shops and dwellings' on Lot 35, on the north east corner of High Street and Eurimbla Avenue. A comment on the application reads as follows: 'The building [application] is in order also the cantilever awning which is applied for, but as there are no other shops in this locality I beg to refer this plan to Council'<sup>72</sup>.

After a few Council committee meetings, by September 1923, all was approved. The land owner was stated to be John O'Riordan, of Avoca Street, who was also involved with Marcellin as an enthusiastic fund-raiser<sup>73</sup>. The Randwick Council rates indicate that the shops were finally completed in 1924.

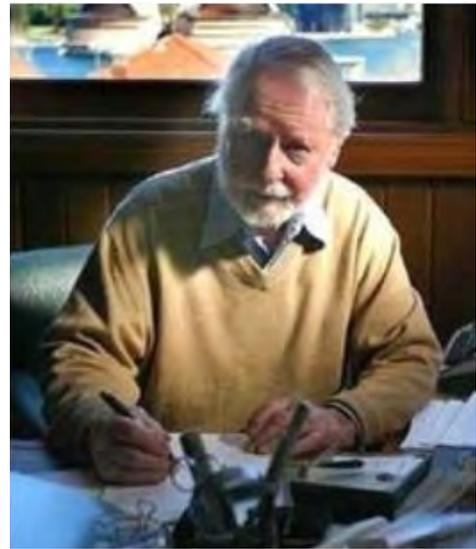
On 25 June that year the property was purchased by Henry Robert Doubleday, a gentleman of Kogarah, who remained the owner until 1955. On the same day, leases for the shops were also signed. The shop at number 1 was taken by Marcellus Anton Shell, a master butcher, who had an established business at 32 Orange Street, Randwick, (now Clovelly Road, and still a butcher's shop!). The other shop, at number 3, became a grocery store, the first lessee, from June 1924, being Alfred Westroff Evans<sup>74</sup>.

In 1927, Mrs I.G. Scott took over the grocery business, and in February the following year she applied to the Council to erect a 'motor garage' at the back of the store, to be built of fibro and costing £50<sup>75</sup>.

Resident Betty Lane Holland <sup>[E43]</sup> recalls the grocery shop where 'things like sugar, flour were scooped from a large hessian sack which sat on the floor behind the counter, scooped into a paper bag and weighed.'

By 1930, both shops had new proprietors. William George Aked, and his wife Minnie, formerly of Murwillumbah, took over the general store, while the butchery was in the hands of Samuel Herbert (Bert) Gibson. Bert continued to live at Camperdown, but later, with his wife Florence (nee Purvis) and his mother-in-law moved into the flat above the butchers' shop at 1 Eurimbla Avenue<sup>76</sup>.

Prior to the Gibsons moving in, the flat was home until 1930 to a teenager who would later become world famous as an author. This young lad was Jon Stephen Cleary, born in 1917, and now better known to millions of book readers as Jon Cleary, writer of 'the Sundowners' among numerous other books, and the creator of the much-admired detective, Scobie Malone. Jon was educated until he was 14 at Marcellin College - although whether he knew that the builder of the school rooms he frequented had also built the house he was living in is unknown<sup>77</sup>!



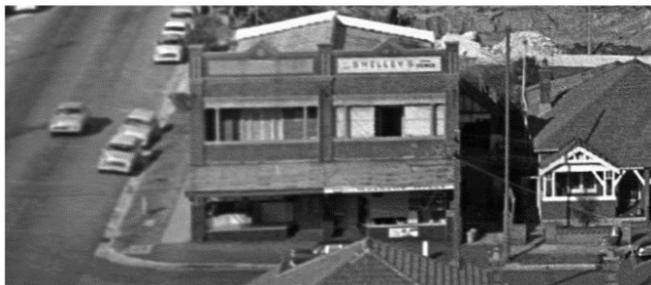
Jon Cleary, Author (1917 - 2010)  
Source: Wikipedia

During an interview for 'The Weekend Australian' in 1998, Cleary described a harrowing event that took place in 1928 when living above the butcher's shop, as the eldest of seven during the Great Depression. 'When I was eleven, Dad was sentenced to six months in Long Bay for stealing five pounds from his baker's delivery bag because we were in debt up to our eyebrows ... a month later, a Friday night at 6 o'clock, the 'time payment' people came to our place, which was above a lock-up butcher's shop, and repossessed everything except my mother's double bed. I remember sitting on the steps with Mum, who was weeping bitterly, and she said to me, 'Don't ever owe anything to anybody' ... that sort of thing sticks with you... the night after we were repossessed, mum and dad's friends turned up with chairs, an old table, cakes, sandwiches and so on - they were all battlers but they helped out'<sup>78</sup>.



A grocery store typical of the late 1940s  
Image courtesy of the Mitchell Library, SLNSW

Towards the end of 1955, Doubleday sold the property to Cecil J Thompson and his wife Lilian, who lived at Bankstown. Thompson was a builder. Whether he effected any changes to his new purchase is not known, although after 30 years no doubt some updating would have been welcomed by the tenants<sup>79</sup>.



Eurimbla Avenue shops, 1966  
Image courtesy of UNSW Archives: S2257-1026-1966

From the mid-1970s, Franklins, and then other supermarkets were established in the Belmore Road shopping area. Perhaps unable to compete with the lower prices and wider choice of goods, the corner shops took on new roles. By 1974-75 the butchery had become the very popular Eurimbla Inn, a Chinese restaurant, well known for its take-away fried rice. The grocery/milk bar seems to have managed to survive for longer by installing pin-ball machines and other amusements much appreciated by the younger generations<sup>80</sup>.

Kim <sup>[E31]</sup> recalls 'We had a small mini-mart shop at the top of the street for items such as milk, bread etc. and lollies you could get for a few cents. Think cobbers, freckles, milk bottles and clinkers to name a few! Once pin ball machines were installed it became the place to hang. I'm sure my brother Stephen and Bronwyn, my younger sister held highest points honours at different times!'

Hercules <sup>[E10]</sup> also remembers the 'pinball machine in there and the jockeys [coming] up from High Street ... playing there.' Another resident<sup>[E42]</sup> recalls playing endlessly there 'every day after school, 5c a game, pinball wizard. I certainly was that [a pinball wizard] with all my practice.'

In 1977 the building was sold back to the Commonwealth of Australia, and on 6 February 1980, it was leased to the University of NSW<sup>81</sup>.



Eurimbla Avenue shops, 1980  
Image courtesy of UNSW Archives, S2257-389

In August 2015, with the support of the Faculty of Law at UNSW, the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) moved to the previous location of the shops at 1-3 Eurimbla Avenue. In April 2016 a mural, designed and painted by Giles Fryer, was unveiled to celebrate the partnership of the Service with UNSW. The colourful mural on the High Street wall caught the eye of all who entered Eurimbla Avenue. The mural presented an Arctic Tern, a bird known for its long annual migrations and representing here freedom and flight<sup>82</sup>.

### JON CLEARY'S DESCRIPTION OF RANDWICK, TAKEN FROM HIS BOOK 'NOW AND THEN, AMEN'<sup>83</sup>

Published 1988

Randwick was a sprawling suburb five miles from the heart of the city, spread out along the top of a ridge that looked down on the smaller seaside suburb of Coogee. The western side of the ridge sloped down to the famous Randwick racecourse and to the university of New South Wales, built on the site of a former racecourse. It was an area whose few wealthy residents had made their money from racing; some grand old homes survived, though most of them now had been converted into flats. Indeed, most of the area now seemed to be flats, many of them occupied by overseas students; Asian faces were as common as the wizened faces of jockeys and strappers had once been. It was somehow illustrative of the country that the State's largest university and the biggest racecourse should be separated only by a narrow road. Life was a gamble and no one knew it better than the elements in Randwick.



Refugee Advice and Casework Service mural on the wall of 1 Eurimbla Avenue



# HOUSING

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## NAMES, NUMBERS AND STYLES

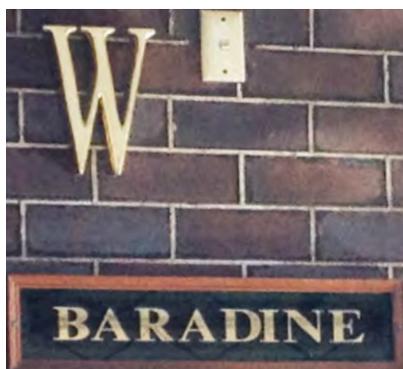
# FROM NAMES TO NUMBERS

## HOUSE NAMES<sup>1</sup>

Initially houses in Eurimbla Precinct nearly all boasted house names, rather than numbers. In many cases, house names in the Precinct reflected the personal connections, interests and sense of humour of their residents and their builders. While the majority of house names seem to be derived from places, of which some perhaps were of personal significance to the occupants at the time, quite a few had other origins, such as botanical and family names. There are a couple of reminders of wartime battles as well as descriptive names, indigenous names and those with a comic twist. The origins of some house names, however, remain a mystery. While these added a charming sense of individuality, from the point of view of officialdom they were a problem. Sometimes the house names changed as often as their occupants, some were hard to spell consistently, and they often took up far too much room on official forms!

Early name plates were generally presented as a brass plaque with or without a wooden frame and installed on the entrance wall or adjacent to the front door. Others were located above the front door as an inscribed glass panel <sup>[E20, E32]</sup>.

The earliest houses in Eurimbla Avenue (1916 and 1917), were built by Sydney Coulton who named his houses in an alphabetical sequence as he completed each pair of semis. Names for each pair of semis included [Alpha](#) <sup>[E10]</sup> and [Agenda](#) <sup>[E12]</sup>, [Beltrees](#) <sup>[E14]</sup> and [Blaxland](#) <sup>[E16]</sup>, [Clarence](#) <sup>[E6]</sup> and [Carlton](#) <sup>[E8]</sup>, [Dayton](#) <sup>[E18]</sup> and [Denton](#) <sup>[E20]</sup>, [Essex](#) <sup>[E26]</sup> and [Eaton](#) <sup>[E28]</sup>, [Farleigh](#) <sup>[E30]</sup> and [Fenton](#) <sup>[E32]</sup>, [Glendenning](#) <sup>[E34]</sup> and [Glenalpine](#) <sup>[E36]</sup>, [Hamlet](#) <sup>[E2]</sup> and [Hexham](#) <sup>[E4]</sup> and finally [Kia-Ora](#) <sup>[E22]</sup> and [Kesby](#) <sup>[E24]</sup>. [Alpha](#) was subsequently replaced by [Baradine](#) and later a [W](#) was placed adjacent, presumably when the Wooden/Walton family moved in.



Only six of the original plates for the 1915-1917 buildings in Eurimbla Avenue survived. These were from four of the Coulton houses, [Beltrees](#) <sup>[E14]</sup>, [Denton](#) <sup>[E20]</sup>, [Eaton](#) <sup>[E28]</sup>, [Fenton](#) <sup>[E32]</sup> as well as [Melron](#) <sup>[E42]</sup> and [Rosered](#) <sup>[E48]</sup>.



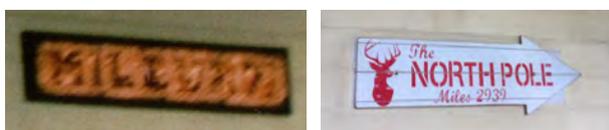
Botanical names are among other surviving early name plates. House numbers changed for [Laurale](#) <sup>[E7, 1920]</sup> and the adjacent semi, originally named [Homely](#) <sup>[E9, 1920]</sup>. These were renumbered to E9 and E11 respectively in 1924<sup>2</sup>. The name [Homely](#) also changed later to become [Camelia Grove](#).



The 1883 cottage at 4 Magill Street, was named in 1918, [The Poplars](#). The house was later again renamed, this time to [Green Hills](#).



House names had such personal significance for some that plates were transported from place to place as residents took their memories with them to their next place of abode. A lighter note appears at 7 Eurimbla, from the original name [Heremai](#) (1916), a possible pun for 'Here am I', to [Milburn](#) then to [North Pole](#). Eileen recalls 'I brought my sign ('Milburn') here from Woolloomooloo. I've [now] had it taken off the front and I've had it placed on the place I'm going to [next] ... It left a dirty mark there so I went to the dollar shop and bought the 7 'North Pole' out the front ... Sam down the road took that out and put that [new sign] on for me.' <sup>[E7]</sup>



Names with personal family links included [Miniclar](#) <sup>[B59, 1915]</sup>, named after Minnie Clara, daughter of John and Amelia Haythorn in 1916. The reasons behind the choice of the names [Annville](#) <sup>[B93, 1916]</sup> and neighbour [Alma](#) <sup>[B95]</sup> as well as [Idane](#) <sup>[E41]</sup> and [Kesby](#) <sup>[E24]</sup> remain a mystery. According to Betty Lane Holland, the property name [Yulalie](#) <sup>[E43 1926]</sup> is a misspelling of Eulalie chosen by her grandmother. The house was in later years renamed [Bundarra](#).



[Alma](#) <sup>[B95]</sup> is the name of a battlefield at the Crimean war. Other house names with connections to wars and battlefields are [Clery](#) <sup>[E39, 1926]</sup>, a small village of Cléry-sur-Somme on the River Somme and [Gaba Tepe](#) at Gallipoli were battlefields in WW1. However, there is no evidence that these connections were the reasons behind the naming of these houses in the Precinct.

Indigenous names, both Australian and Maori, were very popular and included [Merool](#) <sup>[B51]</sup>, [Coondah](#) <sup>[E27]</sup>, [Eurimbla](#) <sup>[E31]</sup> and perhaps [Myeo](#) <sup>[M12]</sup> and [Kia-Ora](#) <sup>[E22]</sup>.



Place names were the most popular and more than likely had nostalgic or personal connections. Many were names from England, Scotland or Ireland and included [Aston](#), [Sherwood](#), [St. Anns](#), [Hexham](#), [Essex](#), [Eaton](#) and [Fenton](#); Scotland place names included [Blair Athol](#) <sup>[E64]</sup> and [Broxburn](#) <sup>[B49]</sup> and [Clonbonny](#) <sup>[E5]</sup> is a town in Ireland. Many names referred to local NSW towns, themselves undoubtedly UK derivatives: [Araluen](#) <sup>[B55]</sup>, [Bundarra](#) <sup>[E43]</sup>, [Clarence](#) <sup>[E6]</sup>, [Blaxland](#) <sup>[E16]</sup>, [Glendenning](#) <sup>[E34]</sup> and [Glenalpine](#) <sup>[E36]</sup>.

Names with descriptive word meanings were popular too, including [Homely](#) <sup>[E11]</sup>, [Kia-Ora](#) <sup>[E22]</sup>, [Melron](#) <sup>[E42]</sup> and [Excelsior](#) <sup>[M6]</sup>. In recent times, as ownership changed, a number of the house names were replaced by business plaques such as [Sydney Day Surgery](#) <sup>[E2]</sup> and [Sydney Children's Hospital](#) <sup>[E19]</sup>. [The Refugee Advice & Casework Service](#) <sup>[E1-3]</sup> advertised themselves with a very bright and colourful mural on the High Street side of their premises at 1 Eurimbla Avenue (see Page 51).

The Appendix includes a list of those houses in the Eurimbla Precinct with house names, together with the first recorded house occupant, the year the house was built, as well as some other places where the house name was used. Commercial enterprises have not been included. Only 'historic' house names have been listed, many of which were renamed over time.

# HOUSE NUMBERS



In 1919 house numbers came into use in the Eurimbla Precinct<sup>3</sup>. The first houses to be occupied in the Eurimbla Avenue and the Botany Street sections of the Precinct from late 1915 to 1918, had all been identified by house names (as was the case for the majority of the streets in the Randwick Municipality at that time)<sup>4</sup>. Despite the growing density of housing, it was wartime, and the relevant authorities were far too pre-occupied with other matters to have time for numbering houses. So until 1918, either the builders or the new occupants of the Eurimbla Precinct continued with the tradition dear to many of their forbears, of identifying their place of abode with a house name (although even from 1919 many householders still chose to continue to personalise their homes, with a few houses having more than one name in the course of their existence).



On the west side of Eurimbla Avenue, the 1919 process of house numbering was relatively uneventful, and the numbers they were given (which were the even numbers) remained unchanged throughout their existence. Matters were not quite so straightforward on the eastern side, due to a subsequent need for re-numbering - despite the fact that by 1919 only the one pair of cottages, [Clonbonny](#) and [Heremai](#), had been built on that side, on Lot 36. This land was directly to the south of the vacant corner block (Lot 35) adjacent to High Street, and whoever was responsible for the 1919 allocation of numbers had decided that the empty block would be number 1, and that [Clonbonny](#) and [Heremai](#) would be 3 and 5.



Unfortunately, when Lot 35 was finally built on in 1924, instead of it containing one house bearing the number 1 postal address, the reality was two shops with their upstairs living accommodation. Rather than compromise and simply designate them as 1 and 1A, the authorities bravely opted for future clarity and so the shops became 1 and 3 Eurimbla Avenue. As a consequence, all the other ten houses already in existence to the south of the new shops had to be re-numbered. Thus in 1924, [3 Clonbonny](#) and [5 Heremai](#) became 5 and 7, and the former 7 to 21 became 9 to 23. As the houses 25 to 47 were not built until 1926/27, they were not affected by these changes.

If you are finding this confusing to read, think what it must have been like for the residents, especially those with no house name-plates to help with their identification!

Botany Street also had its numerical teething problems, as new buildings were erected on vacant land in between existing houses. In 1926, ten years after the first houses had been built, the early 55 to 61 were changed to become 53 to 59, although this dislocation of identity would also have been mitigated by their well-entrenched house names of [Troja](#), [Araluen](#), [Aston](#) and [Miniclar](#). The re-numbering, also in 1926, of the five houses further down the street at the original 119, 119A, and 121, 123 and 125 was rather more drastic. These were re-numbered as 93 to 101 Botany Street, only three of which had the aide-memoire of house names to fall back on!



What the postmen of that era thought about these bureaucratic disruptions to their daily delivery routine can only be imagined, but no doubt it all led to lots of lively conversations - and new social contacts - between the various affected Eurimbla Precinct neighbours as the contents of their mail-boxes were being sorted out!

The compilers and typesetters of street directories, an essential item for businesses and many households before the electronic age, must also have much preferred house numbers. These greatly reduced their production time and costs by eliminating the need for space consuming (and often unreliable) house names. The change in the appearance of the Sands Directory listings for Eurimbla Avenue from 1918 to 1919 amply illustrates this point.

**Eurimbla Avenue  
(South Randwick)  
East side  
Off High street.**  
Ryan Patrick J., "Clonbonny"  
McGowan Ernest S. T.  
**West side**  
Konvaris Mrs. Lucy, "Hamlet"  
Barrett Thomas, "Hexham"  
Allen Mrs. D. J., "Clarence"  
Tierney Thomas, "Carlton"  
Bell Thomas, "Alpha"  
Rafferty Mrs. M. E., "Agenda"  
Randall Charles, "Beltrees"  
Menzies Benj. D., "Blaxland"  
Merehan Arthur, "Dayton"  
Bond Albert E., "Denton"  
McLaren Gilbert, "Kia-Ora"  
Maiden Gordon, "Kesoy"  
Grant Reginald H., "Essex"  
Mitchell Mrs. Daisy, "Eaton"  
Eastwood Harry, "Parleigh"  
Hokin John, "Fenton"  
McIntyre E. E., "Glendenning"  
Stephen Mrs. E. J., "Glenalpine"

**Eurimbla Avenue  
(South Randwick)  
East side  
Off High street.**  
McGowan Ernest S. T.  
**West side**  
2 Rogers Frank  
4 Barrett Thomas  
6 Cruise Mrs. Kate  
8 Tierney Thomas  
10 Bell Thomas  
12 Rafferty Mrs. M. E.  
32 Hokin John  
38 McKay Angus  
40 Davies Edward S.  
42 Fitzpatrick Walter  
44 Fox Frederick W.  
48 Greenwood Lawrence

Left: Sands Directory listing for Eurimbla Avenue, 1918  
Right: Sands Directory listing for Eurimbla Avenue, 1919

# GETTING AROUND – CARS AND WHERE TO PARK THEM

When the first houses were built in Eurimbla Precinct, there was no demand for parking space, for garages or carports. These one-storey freestanding and semi-detached homes had small backyards often with no room for the side driveway, which was later to become a regular feature of Australian homes. With increasing car ownership in the 1920s, Californian bungalows often incorporated 'car ownership' within the design. The narrow side passage alongside the house was designed to allow enough space for a future driveway. It was almost too narrow at 33 Eurimbla Avenue for Barry Gumbley's huge Dodge car. Where possible, garages in the Precinct were placed discreetly to the rear of properties. Carports later became an added feature to the front.



Garage placed to the rear of E47

Narrow side driveway, E45

## WHO OWNED THE FIRST CAR IN THE PRECINCT?

According to Doreen Gumbley [E33], the first car in Eurimbla Avenue, a Fiat, was owned by Harold Gumbley's father. Betty [E43] remembers Mrs Ellis, at 39 Eurimbla Avenue as the first owner of a car in the street. Mrs Ellis died in 1936.

Betty recalls: 'She only had it a short time, had an accident on Christmas Eve and was killed. I think I was about 12 years old.'

There were only a few garages in Eurimbla Precinct and for many, little land to build one. Many residents solved the parking problem, with varying degrees of difficulty, by building a carport.

Tom Kotsornithis was the first person in the street to build a carport. As son Hercules [E10] recalls:

'Dad was the first person in the street to have the carport ... parking was getting very difficult because of

the hospital and ... Dad was a shift worker, a waterside worker, and because of that ... he found it very difficult ... [and decided on the carport] ... It was very difficult. Randwick Council refused the application for the carport because at that time the Council was corrupt and they wanted ... a 'back hander' in the early 70s. And once the Council was kicked out Dad went to the Administrator and there was no problem. Dad was miffed because a house he used as what he called a 'precedent', was in Avoca Street ... and was approved... but they wanted ... a 'back hander' ... People used to park in front of our driveway and Dad got irate. One time, Dad was furious because a person had parked not only in front but in our property. But it was out of desperation, the car was in the drive with keys in the car and because when they came back they explained ... [they explained it was] out of desperation ... [they had to see a specialist at the Hospital]. ... Cars parked in driveways ... part and parcel of that.'



First carport in Eurimbla Avenue, E10

Charlie Sarkis [E42/44] 'rode an old push bike the five kilometres to the brewery [Reschs Brewery] until 1963, by then he had saved enough money and with the assistance of a neighbour he purchased a brand-new Holden EJ sedan.' Sam [E42]

Sam, his son [E42], describes how his father proudly cared for the car, 'a brand-spanking new Holden', which he used to pull apart every weekend.



Iconic Holden at E8

Right up to the acquisition in 2018, an iconic red 1950s Holden was a familiar sight in the carport of 8 Eurimbla Avenue, unless it was out with its owner for an occasional drive. From time to time, when interested passers-by asked Maria about the possibility of purchasing the car, she would reply that it was her son's and not for sale.

Over time there were dramatic increases in traffic density within the Precinct and parking controls were introduced. 'As a youngster ... there were a lot less cars on the street, and as time got on there was more movement ... the University and the Hospital. I remember there were no parking signs and then there were parking signs.' [E10] In surrounding streets 'Botany and High [Streets] was originally uncontrolled in 1978 [that is, no traffic lights], then they put 'Give Way' signs and then 'STOP' signs and then over time we got traffic lights!' [E47]. Similarly in Magill Street, 'Gradually over time there were more and more parking restrictions, parking zones.' [M4]

## THE CHALLENGE OF FINDING A PARKING SPOT!

With ever increasing expansion of the surrounding University and Hospital, the demand for parking spaces increased astronomically. Eileen [E7] recalls the problem with cars and finding a parking space in the '80s. Her husband Hilton would park in the middle of the road.

'There was not as much traffic as now but you still found it hard to get a parking spot. We would park our car in the middle of the street, go to bed thinking later we would have a spot and of course we fell asleep and the car would still be in the middle of the Avenue in the morning. No one complained.' Eileen [E7]

'And you know, I had a high stool for Dad to sit on the verandah when they brought him from the bush, and he was in his 90s and he'd sit there and ... we didn't have a driveway then and Dad would sit there and if they pulled up out the front in the afternoon, he'd sing out 'How long are you going to be there?' and they'd say 'I don't know' and he'd say 'Well don't park there because my son-in-law will be home soon and he'll want that spot' and they'd move off. Could you imagine doing that now? They'd tell you where to go quick smart now! You know, little things like that ... so that's something that's changed now really.' Eileen [E7]

Eileen talks of the carport and driveway down the side of her house which she built in the '80s. 'I do believe then you had to get a carport in because the traffic got so bad around here that it was necessary to have a car spot put in to the houses.' [E7]

Thus in more recent times, the front garden was used to accommodate the garage or the carport. A carport or garage became a definite real estate asset. From the more discreet rear-of-house garage, the carport emerged to become an essential feature of the front of house. Sam [E42] comments on changes in design over the years 'Carports ... were built on the cheap, aluminium, compared to the structure of the house. Nowadays you

aren't allowed to put that [type of] carport in anymore. It has to be ... a nice, gable ceiling roof.'

Shelley [E58] recalls some real issues for the Eurimbla residents. 'One of the biggest issues we've had in the street is parking ... As every family's children got older they acquired cars and it was already under a lot of strain from the University and the Hospital. So parking was always a challenge here. I'd come home on a number of occasions and find an unknown car in my carport ... I parked behind them.'

Early flat top carports in Eurimbla Avenue





Early flat top carport, E22 Artist Monique Rüeger

Initially carports in the Precinct were simple flat top structures similar to Kotsornithis' family carport at 10 Eurimbla.

'We used to have university students parking everywhere, parking illegally and in particular driving up on to our nature strip and parking there. Over time that stopped, well before there was more controlled parking here. I actually think it stopped because the University made more parking available to students ... we had quite a few altercations with students ... the Virburnum we have out the front is designed to stop the students. Put there to stop cars coming up our driveway and parking on the nature strip.'<sup>[E47]</sup> Colleen <sup>[E64]</sup> recalls her battle with 'parkers' 'a real battle to get the carport because people used to know ... there was one lady in particular, and I knew her car because she knew every morning that I would go out at a certain time; so she would come and just hover there until I'd gone.'

Sarah Nan <sup>[E48]</sup> recalls their initial solution to the difficulties with parking. Andy and George<sup>[E56]</sup>, they hardly used their car so with their permission, we'd park in Andy's driveway on days they didn't need to use their car.'

Meeting local council regulations for the construction of carports created various hurdles for residents. 'Some carports are less aesthetically pleasing than others and as times have gone on, I think Council has wanted them to be more [aesthetically pleasing].'<sup>[E47]</sup>

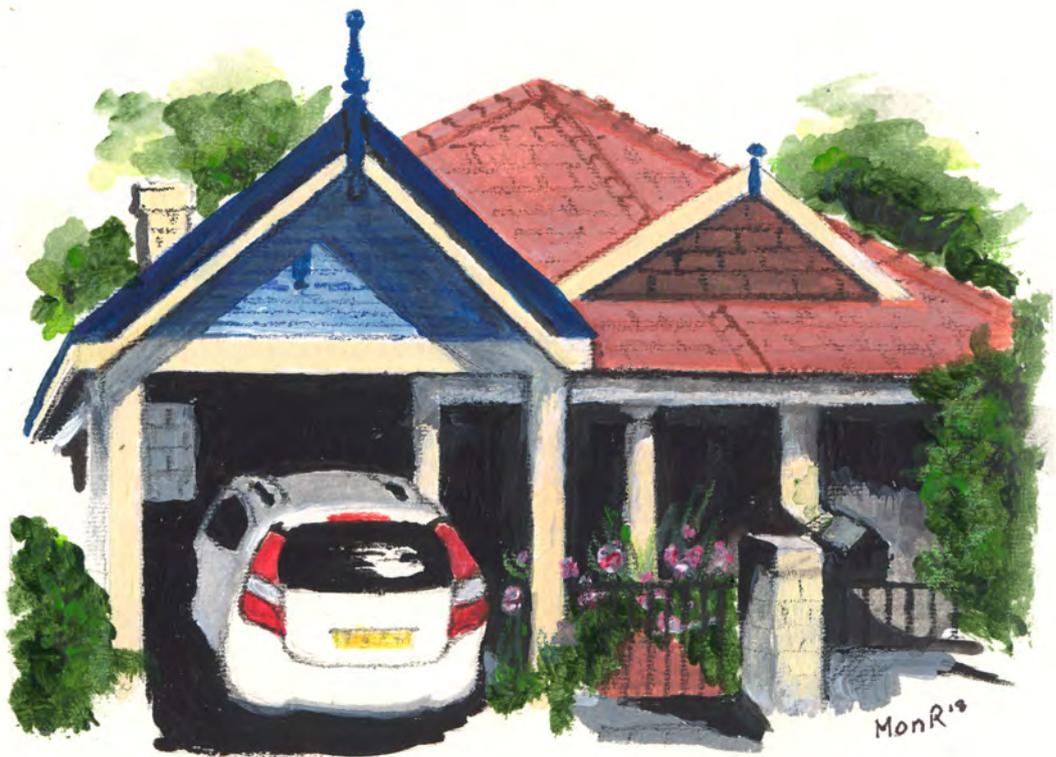
Carports 'had to be built to their standards ... we had to even tell them what colour we were painting it ... [parking] it's horrendous!'<sup>[E18]</sup>

Colleen <sup>[E64]</sup> recalls 'carport was a problem with the Council only in so far as they wouldn't let you get rid of the tree ... so the tree stayed ... and the carport went in and it's just probably the most valuable thing I've got.'

'The Council said you have to put one in to suit the house. I said 'Can I put one of those flat top ones?' and he said 'No, no, you have to put the same [style] as the house, Federation style ones'. Hercules <sup>[E10]</sup>, his father was the first one in the street to put in one of those flat-top ones ... Everybody else followed after that carport went up ... The one there now [at E10] is original ... I don't think we were the first to have that pointy [style] one.' Sarah Nan <sup>[E48]</sup>

So as time passed, the carport design took on the decorative features of the house itself in part due to pressure from Council regulations to blend in to the surrounding streetscape. Such decorative features initially included just the gables with their large triangular ends and additional timber battens, with plain wooden or metal posts.

As more carports were added, many of the terracotta tiled carport roof gables were topped with a filial, the verandah posts were linked with decorative wooden brackets, some plain and some with detailed floral



Carport roof gable topped with filial, E56  
Artist Monique Rüeger

motifs. To accommodate the carport however, many of the decorative features of the original houses were transformed or obscured.

'We had a lovely front garden until the carport came. We had a Frangipani tree, camellia, roses.' [E18]

In front of the later carports, decorative features such as frieze panels, incorporated simple vertical spindles intercepted by decorative panels often with the popular floral designs, inserted into the front barge board of the carport similar to decorative timberwork of the surrounding bungalows.

Many residences used the house frontage for their car rather than a separate carport.

Owners often went to extremes with their small frontage to enable their car to be parked completely in the driveway. Provision was made under the lounge room at 23 Eurimbla for the front of the car bonnet so the rear of the car would not protrude into the footpath area.

A more recent carport style at 62 Eurimbla Avenue depicts the trend for carports and garages to be integrated as part of the house.

- a) Carport decorative timberwork similar to surrounding bungalows.  
b) Many of decorative features of original houses were obscured by carport.  
c) Under the lounge room, E23. d) Recent carport style, E64.



# HOUSING STYLES IN THE PRECINCT

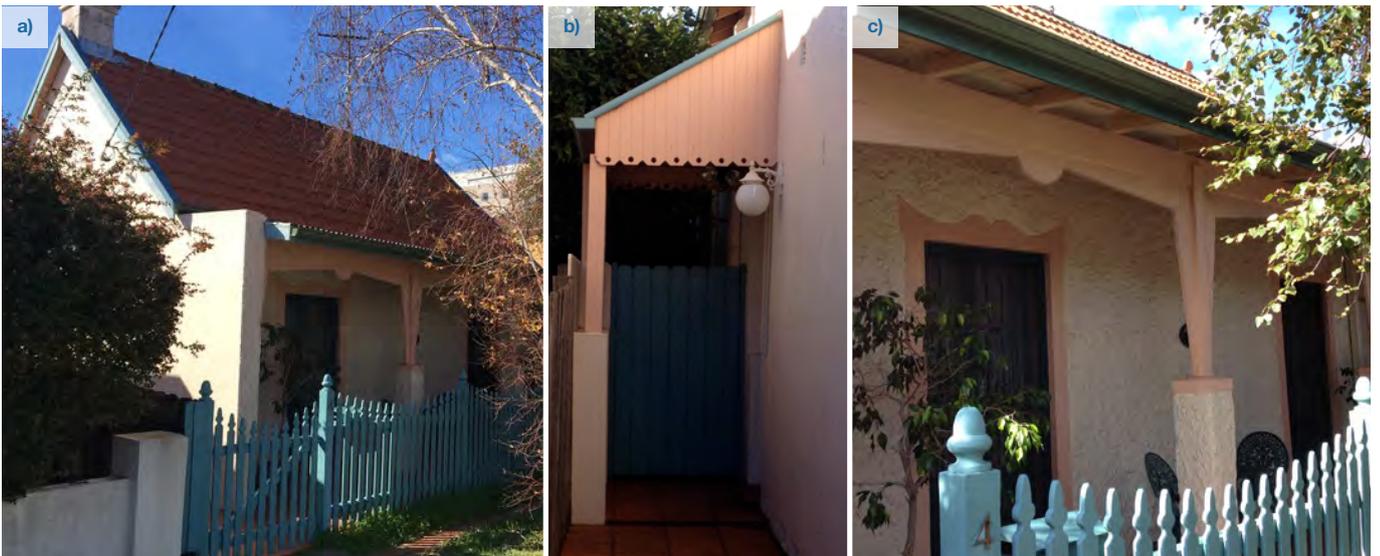
Most of the remaining houses in the Eurimbla Precinct were typical of the popular bungalow styles of the 1915-1930 period in Sydney. These single-storey brick dwellings or pairs of semi-detached homes were based on simple, compact rectangular designs with 2-3 bedrooms, prominent verandahs, and devoid of the earlier decorative metalwork in many Sydney houses. The Precinct houses were typical of the Edwardian and Californian bungalows popular at the time in suburban Sydney.

The oldest remaining house in the Precinct was the small cottage at 4 Magill Street, built in 1883. In its final days, little remained on the exterior of the original design. As with many of the houses in the area, various owners had made subsequent alterations, renovations and extensions. The exterior alterations of 4 Magill are reminiscent of 1920s. The front of the house was covered with rough cast or pebble dash render of the

1920s, a simple design with rendered columns topped with decorative timberwork.

The main access to the original cottage (c.1883) would have been south-facing to Magill Street until 1923 when Mrs Susannah Johnstone the new owner purchased a neighbouring narrow strip of land on the west side of the property. A side access was built enabling a new west-facing 'front' door to be fitted. This side extension featured a roofed porch gable typical of the time, with decorative timber slats to the side.

Some of the building materials of earlier days such as roof tiles, bricks and decorative interior tiles, still existed when the Shaws moved there in the 90s. Marseille terracotta roof tiles were *in situ* when Jane and David moved in; the original roofing would probably have been wooden shingles.



a) 4 Magill Street, 1883, oldest remaining house in Eurimbla Precinct. b) 1920s side extension. c) Exterior alterations reminiscent of 1920s.

The sides of the original fireplace were white marble with small red inlays. Some of the original blue and white fireplace tiles still remained on the old marble fireplace



Original blue and white fireplace tile [M4]

Jane and David also kept some of the original bricks. Some were stamped with diamonds and some with hearts, a practice from 1830s commonly used to identify the brickmaker but also to enable the mortar to bind more effectively onto the brick.



Original bricks with bricklayer stamps [M4]

# MARSEILLE PATTERN TILES

Marseille pattern tiles, popular in Sydney from the 1890s, were stamped with the symbol of a turtle used by the tile manufacturer 'Tuileries de la Méditerranée, Les Milles, Bouches du Rhone'.

First developed in Marseilles in the 1850s, these interlocking tiles were significant in the history of Australian architecture. Wunderlich were the sole agents for the importation of these tiles, red tiles for Australia and slate grey for Europe. Sydney began its love affair with red tiles. Marseilles red tiles, gradually superseding the old slate and iron roofs, becoming ubiquitous in Australian suburban housing in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Marseille pattern tile stamped with the symbol of a turtle



In Magill Street, apart from number 4, none of the early houses on the north side remained within recent times. Remaining housing styles ranged from a couple of early 20th century bungalows to later styles.

Following World War 1, housing construction began in earnest in the Eurimbla Avenue and Botany Street. Charlie Sarkis described the Randwick area in the 1950s as 'out in the sticks', isolated and 'the middle of nowhere' Sam [E42]. At this time, the majority of houses in the Eurimbla Avenue and Botany Street area of the Precinct were bungalows built in the 1920s. The Edwardian and Californian bungalow styles had distinctive features in the design with their terracotta tiled roofs, their characteristic windows, gables and filials, with the variety of distinctive verandah designs, decorative woodwork and the use of stained glass.

Exteriors were brick, often with rendered or rough cast finishes. Originally, darker brick colours were used on the front, and for economic reasons the lighter brown coloured 'commons' were used to the side and rear of the houses. Tuckpointed brickwork up to 1925 was generally restricted to the front of the house. Some houses used the local sandstone as base walls and verandah piers.

A feature of dwellings within the Precinct were low pitched gabled terracotta tiled roofs with large prominent triangular gable ends, some with pebble render finish and some with an additional ornamental plaster motif [E17].



Decorative gable plasterwork, E17

Other gable ends featured additional timber battens or timber shingled details, many of which were topped with filials.

As was generally the case with Californian bungalows, there were design variations on the columns supporting the verandahs. Some featured large thick columns, others with single or paired decorative timber posts. Turned decorative timber posts were occasionally used.

Similar variations were evident in the decorative timber brackets linking the posts and verandah beams. Some were plain curvilinear brackets, while others incorporated a variety of more decorative and detailed floral motifs.





Floral designs, particularly the tulip, were popular and inserted in barge boards, timber brackets and balustrades.

The 1960s photo of the Sarkis pair of semis, 42 and 44 Eurimbla, illustrate a popular combination of curvilinear and leaf designs inserted in timber brackets and balustrades.

Windows were distinctive features of precinct bungalow design. The front casement windows overlooking the front verandah were generally horizontal rectangles

divided into vertical rectangles by mullions. Side windows were generally smaller.

Many of the front windows, side windows and some glass door panels still had their original decorative stained-glass designs patterned with art nouveau-inspired motifs and leadlight stained-glass panels. Plain stained glass and leadlight with small rectangles or diamonds within the panes were particularly used on the front windows. Modern reproductions can be seen on the front door glass panels at 34 Eurimbla.



Previous page  
a) E9 and E11 in back ground 1970s. b) and c): An interesting juxtaposition of a variety of gable ends and filials in Eurimbla Avenue.

Top of page  
a) Decorative timber brackets, E38. b) and c) Popular tulip floral designs.  
d) Popular floral design, E48. e) Popular floral design. f) Timber brackets and balustrades, E42 and E44, 1960s.

Above  
g) and h) Distinctive front casement windows, E13 and E33. i) Recent stain glass door panel, E34



Decorative brackets and detailed motifs, E4 Artist Monique Rüeger

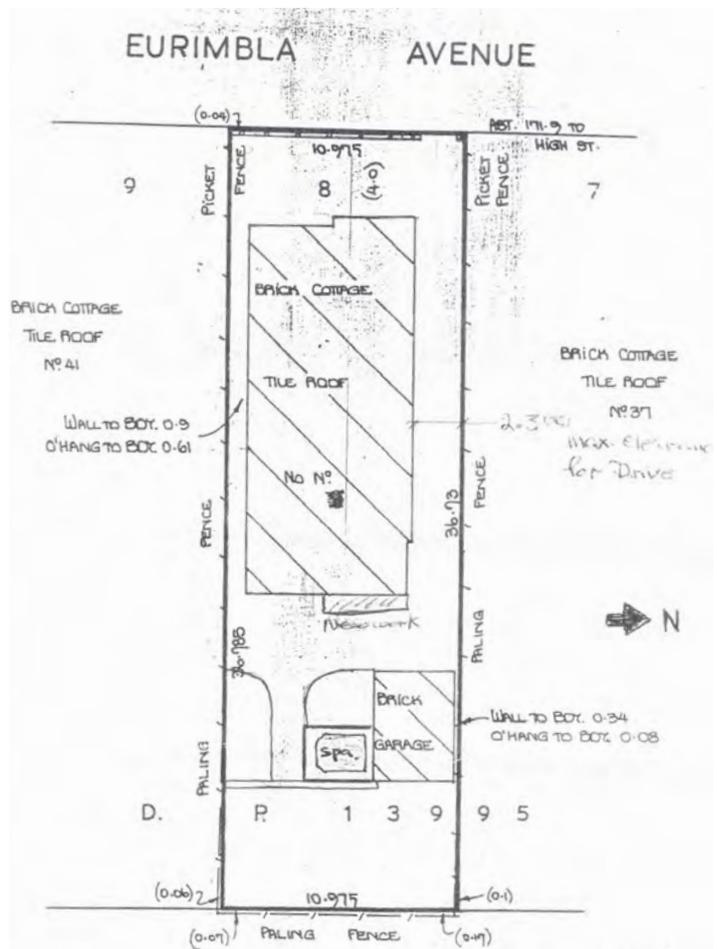


Distinctive front casement windows overlooking the verandah, E45 Artist *Monique Rüeger*

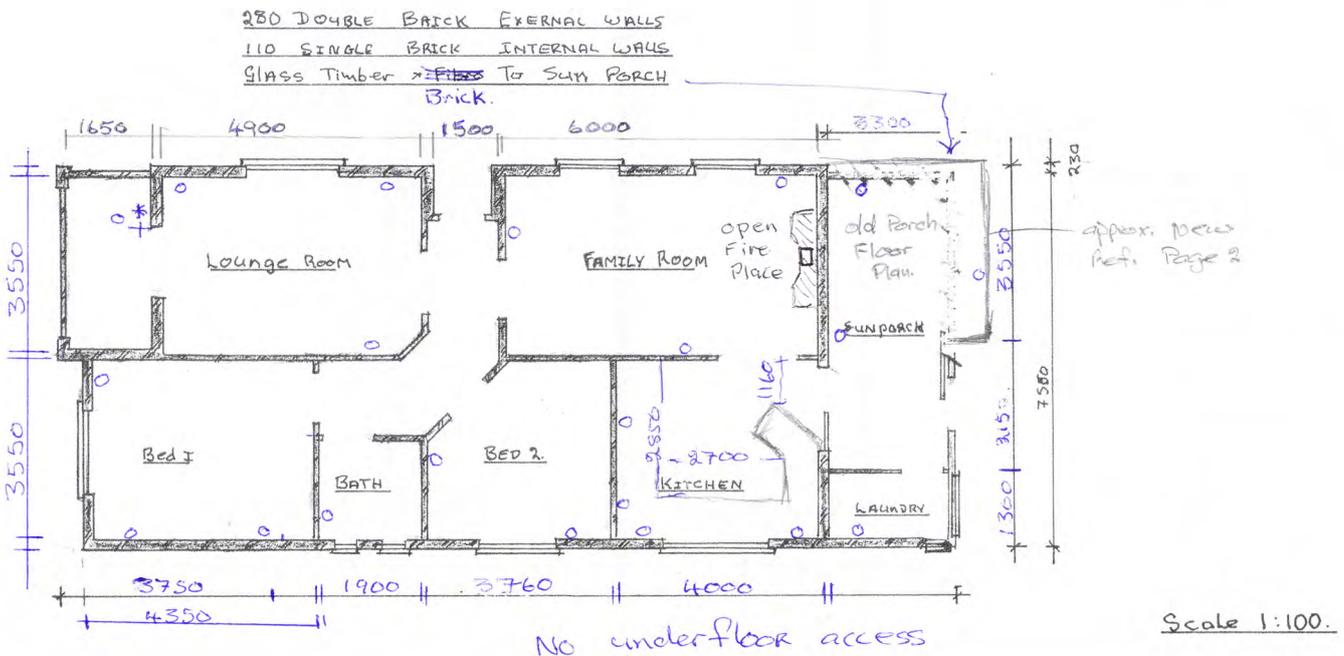
# INTERNAL FEATURES

The internal layout of many of the Precinct bungalow cottages consisted of a simple plan centred around the hallway. The original floor plan for 39 Eurimbla Avenue presents an excellent illustration of the typical layout of many of the cottages on eastern Eurimbla Avenue. Peter describes the house [E39] when he and Pamela moved in:

'... all lead paint ... 3 power points in the house ... fed by lead-sheathed wires running around the skirting ... other features were original ... All features were original Californian Bungalow, all the skirtings, doors, beautiful lead-light windows. All the houses, every house going up there from Jenny and Peter's [E47], right up, was the same floor plan ... dining room, fire place in the middle with little windows ... All the other houses have the two little windows on the side, ours had two big ones. Number 27 was similar, all of them [the houses] up the street were the same base plan. Then they've been altered and added on to, and everything.'

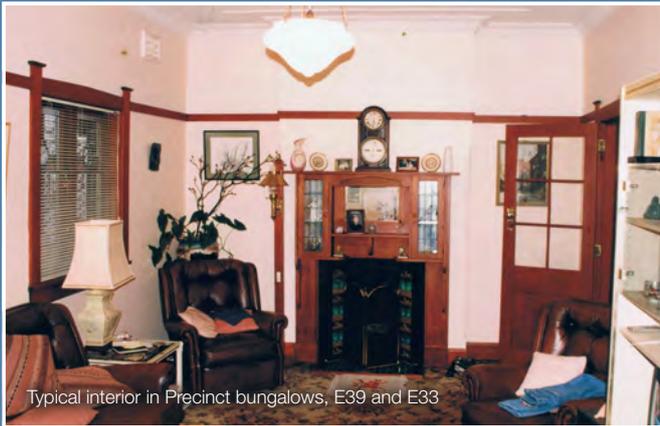


Block plan for E39



Floor plan for E39

The lounge room at 39 Eurimbla illustrates a typical interior of the Precinct bungalows. Although the original woodwork and walls have been painted in the bungalow at 33 Eurimbla, the interior reflects the period just before and after the war illustrating some of the more typical interior features of this time.



Typical interior in Precinct bungalows, E39 and E33



In central entrance halls, there were often decorative **timber archways** creating a boundary, underlining the transition between the hall and rooms beyond in the rest of the house. With the 1920's west extension of the 1883 house at 4 Magill Street, the hallway illustrated the typical 1920s decorative features, typical in the Eurimbla Avenue and Botany Street areas. Other prominent features were **decorative ventilation plates**, cornices and picture railings.

Timber work was a prominent feature of the interior of these houses, not only in hallway dividers but also in the **picture rails** and **decorative fireplace mantels**.

The white **decorative ceilings** of these cottages consisted of fibrous plaster sheets and small convex or concave cornices and centre roses.

Additional colour was used to enhance the ornamental moulding of the cornice as in 4 Magill Street.

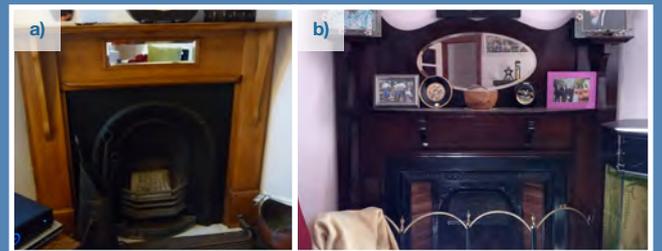
**Walls** were originally white-painted kalsomine plaster walls with decorative plaster ventilators.

**Stained glass** was a feature not only of the exterior windows but also popular within. There were glass panels with art nouveau patterns in some of the interior doors and windows as well as some decorative stained-glass cupboard doors.

A window latch patented in 1899 was still in use at 42 Eurimbla Avenue. Builders of the time undoubtedly made good use of second-hand items in this 1918 semi.



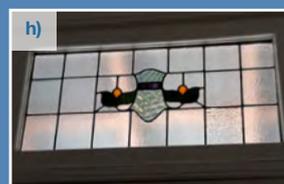
Typical federation and bungalow style dividers, E56 and M4



a) Kauri wood fireplace and mirror, B55. b) Decorative fireplace mantel, E42



a) and b) White decorative ceilings, E42. c) Detail of finger pattern cornice, M4  
d) Detail of rosebud pattern cornice, M4.  
e) and f) Typical plaster ventilator plates, E42 and M4



g) decorative stained-glass interior doors, E27  
h) A 1920's front door leadlight feature at 4 Magill Street



Bungalow cottage, E39 Artist Monique Rüeger

# RENOVATIONS AND EXTENSIONS

As Eurimbla Precinct residents transitioned from being largely homeowners to greater numbers of transitory residents who for various reasons rented properties, the character and appearance of the Precinct changed too. The expansion and building of the University of NSW, the Prince of Wales Hospital and the Randwick Racecourse were some of the catalysts for these changes. 'New' residents tended to be younger and less interested in the maintenance and restoration or renovation of their rented homes. There was unanimous agreement among residents that the Precinct had changed in recent decades for a variety of reasons.

In 1980 when Dennis and Frances [E27] came to the street 'on the other side where the semis are, the majority of them were leased or rented out and this [eastern] side seemed to be more permanent.'

'Looking back 30 years ago, there were a lot of renters, they weren't particular about looking after their places, they let them run down, they were only renting, then we got a phase thereafter, about 20 years ago, when people bought the places and all of a sudden they took a keen interest. They rejuvenated the place ... Then about over the last half dozen years in particular, well the University has been buying the place up wherever they can and that put renters back in'.

Society had also changed over the decades. Women in the early days were restricted largely to the role of homemakers, busy looking after house and family. In recent years with less gender-specific roles, with more opportunities and more financial pressures to work outside home 'more and more people were going out to work and things like that ... but we'd help each other out. Back then there was only a couple of rented homes in the street, there wasn't many rented homes and that makes a difference' Jenny [E18] recalls.

Sam [E42] describes this change in the character of the Precinct 'I think it was when the University was built ... the street started to get really crowded and then there were people who were just renting because they were going to University, lot of younger people who didn't really mix in with the family life ... and then over the years the University started buying up all the houses. As soon as they did that, they would just rent them to whoever. In the end nobody ever spoke to anyone and the street was always crowded.'

Dennis [E27] talks about house styles and renovations, then and now. About 20 years ago the residents '... rejuvenated the place, yes lots of renovations and what not, double stories and what not, and then that went on for 10 or 15 years ... Originally in the street, all the houses were similar ... Californian bungalows, yeah, so most ... a lot of them, have cement-rendered them, put extra stories on, additions at the back cement rendered ...'



Sam [E42] describes the hard work he put into his house. 'Over the past 20 plus years I created a family home out of a rundown rental property. Most recently I have just completed two years of total renovations. Everything from floor to ceiling, front to back, top to bottom, new bathroom and kitchen. I created a family home for myself and my new life partner, Heather.'



As the years went by, the distinctive dark brickwork and tuckpointing and decorative woodwork of many of the early 1920s bungalows was painted with lighter colours, to brighten up the exteriors.

Back in late '60s, a former resident Ms Cobb recalls 'E42 and E44 stood out from the others by their unique paint job, red and cream which were the colours of the Reschs Brewery where Uncle Charlie worked. Both houses had kegs cut in half which were used for plants and they were painted red and cream also.' [E42]



The earlier houses were very functional and lent themselves to rear additions, often fibro. Eventually these fibro extensions were replaced yet again by various new extensions. The fibro extension at 55 Botany Street later was transformed to an entrance and patio. The family wrote their initials in the cement when tiling the laundry and around 1992 the family placed a time capsule in the back wall.

a) E25 on left, originally looked like E27 on right Source: Google 2018  
b) 1920s bungalow, E45, in lighter colour  
c) E42 and E44, Reschs' red, cream and green

Betty's home at 43 Eurimbla Avenue: '... had been built as a 2 bedroom but my father had the back verandah which was quite a good room size and already fully enclosed with sliding glass windows, walled off to become a bedroom for my brother.'

At 48 Eurimbla Avenue, a pigeon loft was built on the rear section. At the rear of 56 Eurimbla Avenue, a bath house was built.

Other major renovations were undertaken by Dinah and Wendy [E56] at 56 Eurimbla.



a) and b) Transforming their fibro rear extension, B55  
 c) A fibro extension to become a family sunroom and laundry, E48  
 e) to h) Major renovations underway at E56

Next page:  
 a) Doreen [E33] with a couple of neighbourhood kids  
*Image courtesy of John Gumbley*  
 b) Open front verandahs became enclosed extra rooms at E27





a)



b)

Many of the original open front verandahs of the Californian bungalows were subsequently enclosed to provide an extra room. ‘.... our house, and all those houses at the front [originally] had verandahs. But if you look at them now, all the verandahs have been built in...’

John [E33]



1920s brick balustrade replaced, E26

There were however some proud landowners who wished to conserve many of the original features of their properties. Dennis and Frances [E27] kept their home in original form even retaining the built-in bread delivery box. Peter [E39] worked hard on renovating the old timberwork ‘all the timber work had the old shellac varnish on it and had gone bubbly, picture rails, skirting, doors, everything. All the skirtings and picture rails, I cleaned back to bare

wood *in situ*. Wood was oregon. Scaling the skirting back was a back breaking job.’

Peter [E39] describes the renovations to his verandah, kitchen, the old copper and building a cellar.

‘I took the back verandah off and put a new dining room on the back; I did that myself, being a builder. I re-wired the house myself being a builder, not an electrician! I did all the gas plumbing in there myself. The only thing I didn’t do was re-wire the switch board ... I rebuilt the kitchen ... the old copper was there, and the toilet in the back room.’

## LAUNDRIES, KITCHENS, BATHROOMS AND INSIDE TOILETS

Rear extensions and renovations generally involved a new laundry, improved kitchen, bathroom or inside toilet or all of these. 'In 1997 the rear section of the house was demolished and we extended by adding two bedrooms, family room plus a shower-toilet-laundry. In 1983 we built an inground swimming pool.' Marion [E31]

*'I remember we had an outside loo, outside toilet ... the laundry was inside. It was a big old copper.'* John [E33]. *The original owners of 47 Eurimbla, the D'Arcys, also had a big copper in the laundry. Rita [E47] adds 'I have to show you the tongs for [Mrs. 'D'Arcy's] copper which I still use to this day. Wooden, bleached, I've used them for 50 years!'*

For many years, Doreen [E33] cooked the Gumbley family Christmas pudding in their old copper.



A family gathering in a 1980s kitchen, E45

When the Blennerhassetts [E47] arrived in the late 1970s, 'There was a fibro lean-to with a laundry. ... They had replaced the old Kooka stove ... the bathroom was '50s, blue and pink bathroom! ... the toilet was blue ... when the renovation was done, 14 years ago, the toilet was put out on the nature strip and it went within a day! We



thought it was a ceramic ... but it was steel ... took it outside and someone else took it!'

## WINE CELLAR

Peter and Pamela at 39 Eurimbla Avenue: 'Under our bedroom, there was a manhole there and I took twenty tons of sand out of there, two buckets at a time and created a [wine] cellar that I could stand up in. Brick floor and everything down below.'



Creating a cellar under E39



Back hoe with rear end stuck in Peter's cellar

Peter and Pamela left the Precinct prior to the acquisition of their home. Later during the demolition of their old home, the bulldozer fell into Peter's cellar. It was there for a week! At this point Peter felt a sense of sweet revenge for his neighbours who had been ripped off by the acquisition!

Original fibro lean-to at the rear of E47  
Image courtesy of Rita Katz



Additional second storey and carport, E18 Artist Monique Rüeger

Over time many of the houses had been transformed, many unrecognisably. A second storey and a carport at 18 Eurimbla Avenue transformed the original.

The Californian bungalow at E25 had been replaced by a two storey Cape Cod style residence. A new brick residence replaced the original bungalow at E35. The original 1920s cottage at E62 is no longer visible from the street.

The variety of new building styles visible in the Precinct are captured in the following images:



The above photo shows the original 1927 Californian bungalow at 27 Eurimbla, the replacement of a similar cottage at 25 Eurimbla by a two storey Cape Cod style, and behind, the 1990s modern POW Hospital extension.



Original 1920s bungalows no longer visible at a) E25, b) E37 and c) E64



Above photo shows a brick replacement of the original bungalow at 35 Eurimbla, the original 1927 Californian bungalow 37 Eurimbla, and behind, the 1990s new POW Hospital extension.

## AIR RAID SHELTERS

Peter [E39] describes 'a coal bin at the back [of the house] ... and at the bottom, was where you could shovel the coal out.' Some of these 1920s coal bins at the back of the bungalows were later converted during the Second World War to air raid shelters as John [E33] describes. 'Harold [Gumbley] was saying that during the Second World War, that they built a bomb shelter in the garage. Because you know that big piece of wood, across the back there, there's like a railway sleeper sort of with big bolts into the wall and Harold said that during the war, that was a support for a roof thing that came out for a bomb shelter in there ... In fact inside the garage against the back wall there's still a beam that helped support the roof of the shelter.'

Betty [E43] recalls her family's experience during the war: 'During the 1939-1945 war years residents were advised to build air raid shelters or trenches in the back yard. My father dug a trench about 8 feet long about 4 feet deep and put a plank seat in it. My mother packed a suitcase with emergency necessities and left it near the back door ready to be grabbed in an emergency if we had to go to the shelter. In it she had things such as cardigans, a rug, first aid kit, a bottle of water. When the sirens sounded on the night of the Japanese submarines in Sydney harbour, we raced out of bed, grabbed the emergency suitcase and into the trench. When we opened the suitcase there was one roll of sticking plaster and one pocket handkerchief. Over time we had each been dipping into the suitcase.'

1920's coal bin was located at back of the garage at E33 and later housed a bomb shelter



Following the distribution of acquisition notices to Precinct residents in June 2017, there was a frenzy of home renovations and improvements. As Sam [E42] recalls

'... as the 'dark cloud' of a forced acquisition hit home. To then be told that 'market value' will be based on the current condition of your property ... I observed my community 'clean up' their properties because they knew that to buy back into the area (which you are supposed to be able to do) you would have to get as much as possible. Neighbours painted, cleaned, decluttered, renovated, made extra bedrooms, put in new kitchens, spent money they didn't have just to get a higher price and then to have them bulldozed down. Very depressing and the whole time knowing that the end was soon...'

# CHANGING SKYLINES – PERSPECTIVES FROM EURIMBLA PRECINCT

In the 1950s and 1960s there was a paddock to the immediate east of the Eurimbla Precinct. To the west was a golf course, playing fields and a racecourse. Residents who had lived in the Eurimbla Precinct for 50 or more years remember the development of the Prince of Wales Hospital on the east and the University of NSW on the west.

## UNIVERSITY OF NSW TO THE WEST

Doreen <sup>[E33]</sup> recalls “so we were there before the University was built. It was a 9-hole golf course ... and also a football field ... half way down High Street there used to be an oval with dressing sheds and a Sports Ground down there, and I thought further down was part of the old Racecourse.’



*Image courtesy of UNSW Archives: CN945-1-2*

Above, pre-1960s, a row of Botany Street houses in the foreground facing land later developed by the University of NSW. High Street is on the right and the Eurimbla Precinct Botany Street houses in foreground.



*Image courtesy of UNSW Archives: CN945-1-20*

The University of NSW embarked on a building program in the 1960s that has continued to the present day.

Below, a 1960s aerial view - in the middle is POWH with ‘the huts’, then the Eurimbla Precinct above followed by the UNSW at top left. The vacant space that later becomes Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM) is shown in the upper left of the photo. The Royal Randwick Racecourse is in the background.



*Image courtesy of  
UNSW Archives: S2257-21-02*



Wallace Wurth (Faculty of Medicine) in 1966 taken from High street. Note the Precinct houses along Botany Street to the left.  
*Image courtesy of UNSW Archives: CN100 No 14 1966 Photographer Max Dupain*

Along the Botany Street University of NSW boundary, from the corner of High Street, are the University of NSW Wallace Wurth and the School of Biological Sciences buildings which were opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth II in 1963. Over the past five years there has been a complete redevelopment, including the expansion and refurbishment of these buildings.



UNSW Biological Sciences buildings on Botany Street  
*Image source: <https://www.estate.unsw.edu.au/campus-developments>  
 After undertaking due diligence, the photographer could not be found*

Above, the Biological Sciences buildings on Botany Street around 2017-18 when renovations were almost complete. Note the Precinct houses in the bottom right hand corner on Botany Street, which were later to be demolished as part of the land acquisition in June 2017.



UNSW Wallace Wurth Building after redevelopment, February 2019 taken from the north-eastern corner of High and Botany streets.

The Wallace Wurth Building after redevelopment, February 2019, taken from the north-eastern corner of High and Botany Streets. Note the demolition of some Botany Street housing opposite (including a dental practice), in preparation for the Randwick Campus Redevelopment.

Further along the UNSW boundary with Botany Street, the AGSM was completed in 1980. Peter [E47] remembers when there was no building there and the space was used for archery practice.

Photos below, taken from Eurimbla Avenue looking towards Botany Street, illustrate the expansion of the UNSW building program and the close proximity and visual impact of the expanding UNSW upon the Eurimbla Precinct.



Views of UNSW's expanding building program and proximity to Eurimbla Precinct



Expanding POWH is in foreground, UNSW in background and the Eurimbla Precinct wedged between the two, mid 1960s  
*Image courtesy of UNSW Archives: S2257-79*

## PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL TO THE EAST

Sam [E42] remembers the POW Hospital being built 'there was nothing there. We had the paddock there, Pedro's paddock, and blackberry bushes ... The Ambulance Station was a buzz because there was this magnificent old concrete-made fountain out front, three tiered with the water rushing off ... it would have been built when the Ambulance Station was put up ... that driveway into Prince of Wales, they turn around, that was the turnaround ... it was just magnificent.'

In the photos below, aerial views looking east from Botany Street, show High Street to the left and Eurimbla Avenue and Botany Street houses in the foreground. In the centre of each photo, the encroaching construction of POWH towards the vacant block ('Pedro's paddock') and the Eurimbla Precinct can be seen. Backgrounds of the photos show *before* and *after* the construction of the POW Hospital Parkes Building in 1966.



Pedro's paddock', centre, **before** construction of POWH Parkes Building 1966  
*Image courtesy of UNSW Archives: S2257-1034-1966-  
 UNSW POW Aerial 1966*



Pedro's paddock', centre, **after** construction of POWH Parkes Building 1966  
*Image courtesy of UNSW Archives: S2257-1026-1966-  
 Aerial view construction of POW*

'I remember playing in the Hospital when it was being built. We used to get into the building site quite easily as there was no security or hoardings up.' [E42]

'There was even talk back then among the residents about the Hospital taking Eurimbla Ave, but why would they build the new fence down Hospital Road if they were going to do that! They just wouldn't would they! So that fence put an end to that thought.' [E42]

Marion [E31] 'We always thought the Hospital would purchase Eurimbla Avenue but not in our lifetime!'

Jenny [E18] 'The Hospital was nothing when we moved in ... the huts were down the back and the Nurses' Quarters was where the Hospital Road is now and they pulled them down and they were just sand dunes, then they built up near the ... bit up the top, and the Ambulance Station was about where the Children's Casualty is.'



Above: Construction of RHW 'over the fence' from Eurimbla Avenue, mid 1990s

Dennis and Francis [E27] 'all there was [at the Hospital], was the main 8 or 9 story building and there's a couple of little annexes at the back and further from there on down, not right down to Barker, there was all these little Soldier's Huts. Apparently, they'd used them in the war and ... so now they were using them as rehabilitation wards but they were run down and then sometime after we moved here, I'd say the '80s, they demolished them and started putting other buildings up and then the Hospital just kept progressing from that stage on.'

With the construction of the Royal Hospital for Women (RHW) in 1994 the Hospital 'huts' were demolished.



View from Eurimbla Avenue of hospital 'huts' **before** RHW was built

A photo from a similar aspect in June 1995 shows a very different view after the huts were demolished and construction of the RHW had commenced.



View from Eurimbla Avenue **after** construction of RHW had commenced, 1995

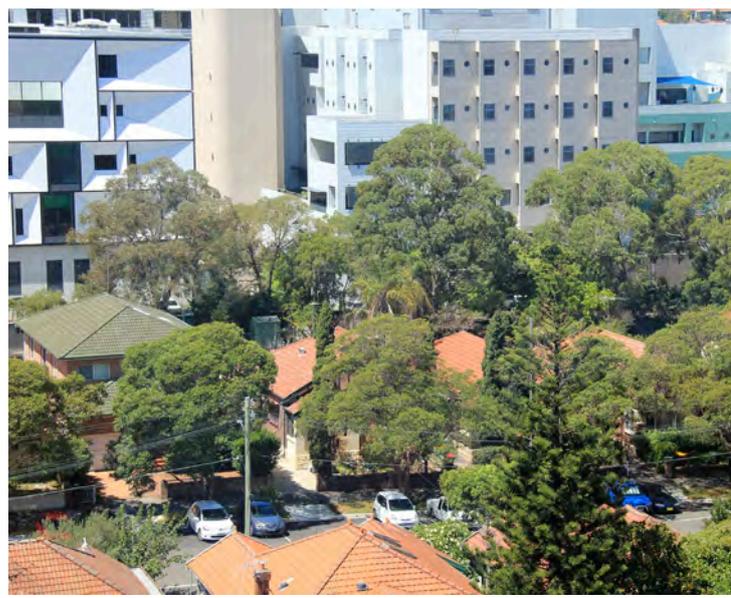


Sydney Children's Hospital, Ainsworth Building, overlooking backyard at E27

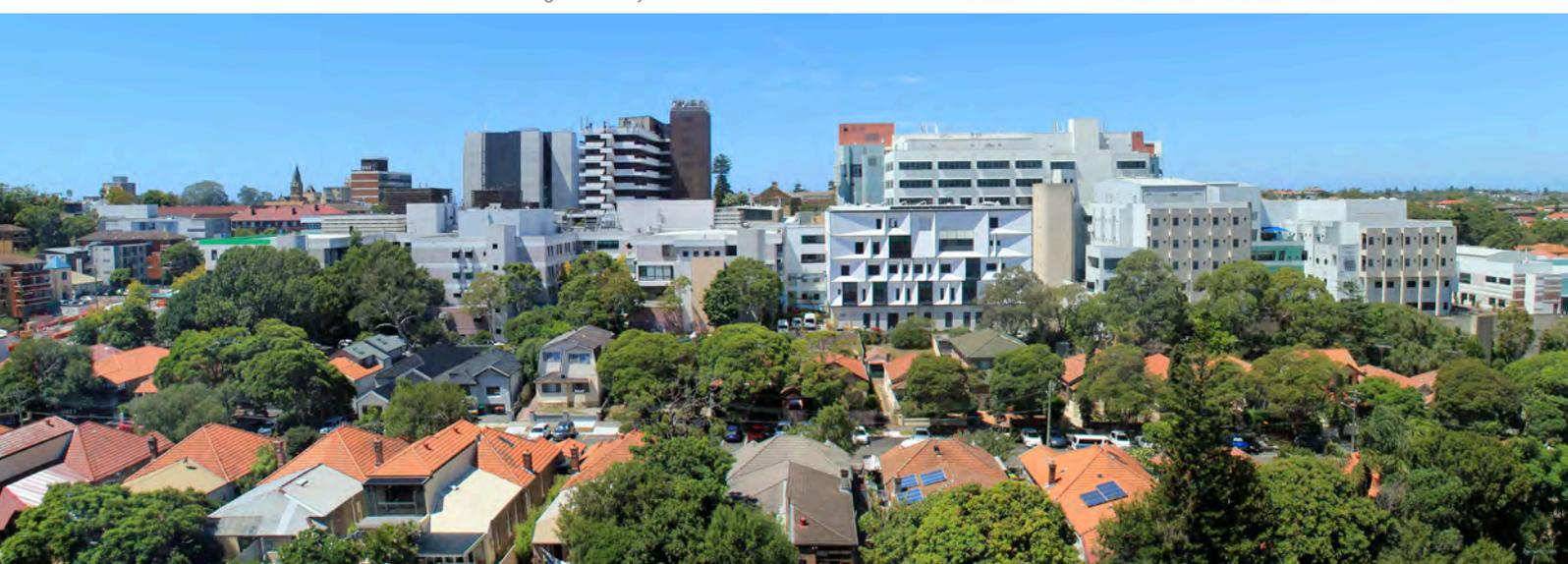
Clinical services building, the Ainsworth Building, at Sydney Children's Hospital overlooking the backyard of 27 Eurimbla Avenue. The Ainsworth Building was completed in 2013.

## ADVANTAGES OF LIVING CLOSE

Despite the skyline views from both sides of the Eurimbla Precinct to the ongoing and ever-expanding constructions at both UNSW and POWH, many residents within the Precinct found advantages in living so close. Apart from the expected advantages such as proximity to work, study, the city and the coastal areas, there was another not so obvious advantage in decades past. As Hercules [E10] recalls 'One advantage, living in Eurimbla Avenue, in early 70s, there were a lot of electricity blackouts. However, not in our street, as we were in the same group as the Hospital. So, we were fortunate.'



From UNSW looking towards the Eurimbla Precinct and the POWH Campus, just prior to the demolition of Precinct housing in 2018  
*Images courtesy of Peter Blennerhassett*





# LIVING IN EURIMBLA PRECINCT

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# GROWING UP IN THE PRECINCT

Eurimbla Avenue, especially as it was a cul-de-sac, was a safe place for children to play outdoors. Residents have recounted many stories of children's street games such as ball games, cricket, making billy carts, riding bikes, talent quests and more, especially in the early days.

'It was a really ... happy wonderful place to live ... we had fabulous neighbours, my kids grew up playing on the street, playing with all the other children, because it's a cul-de-sac and it's safe ... it was great.' Maria [E45]

'I can't tell you how unique of a setting it was that we children were surrounded and valued by not only our own families but our Eurimbla extended family too! I craved company and a chat from a young age and I'd go in search of it! How fortunate was I that Eurimbla families had an open-door policy which just fed my, dare I say 'addiction', to just seeing what was going on and could I get involved! My mum says I could have made mud pies with Rigby kids, danced to the latest top 40 with the Payne twins and had a 'thimble beer' and cheese with Billy and Ada Tulloch and that would happen all in one afternoon.' Lauren [E31]

Sam [E42] 'Growing up in this quiet and safe street for myself and family surrounded by caring, helpful and lovely neighbours made my childhood even better. Best street in the world to live in.'

'My backyard met up with the yard of 77 Botany Street and my friend Denise, we became best of friends and our families did also. We used to jump over the fence to each other's house when we couldn't be bothered walking through the lane between Botany and Eurimbla.' [E42]

'We were all born at RHW Randwick. Mum and Dad walked us home from hospital in a pram, that's how close we live! ... This house had many memories ... Our home has always been filled with family and friends. I will remember all the birthdays, Christmas, NYE parties we had. We have loved having all our friendly neighbours. We have grown up with many of the kids in our street and my dad was even babysat by a neighbour when he was a child!' Mia [E21]



Family fun at Mia's home, E21  
Image courtesy of Natasha and Peter Thlivitis

Hercules [E10] 'I remember the Odeon [picture theatre] very well at the corner of Belmore Road and High Street, going up there on a Saturday, watching the Saturday matinee, getting in there and ... if you sat in the first three rows you paid 10c, but if you sat further back it was 25c ... We always sat in the first three rows until Intermission, and then ... sit anywhere else. I remember the milk bars there ... the Milk Bar was part of it and so that was part of the activities we did ... we didn't go down to the Ritz that often. It was more the Odeon ... I remember the Spot being very quiet and now it's completely changed.'

Debbie [E37] 'At the top of High Street was the Odeon picture theatre where I remember seeing the Sound of Music five times, Love Story and The Great Gatsby.' Rita: 'that's where we'd go in the weekend always with the kids, to the Odeon.'



The Odeon offered children sessions which were very popular, c1960  
Source: Image Cinema Treasures <http://cinematreasures.org>

- a) Wheel barrow fun Image courtesy of Maria Bisogni
- b) Hercules on his bike outside E10 Image courtesy of Hercules Kotsornithis
- c) Children and their bikes Image courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett

Hercules [E10] remembers 'the little grocery shop [at end of street]. As kids, there was a **pinball machine** in there and the jockeys would [also] come up from High Street and go in there.'

A particular drawcard pre-1970s was '**Pedro's paddock**'. Hercules [E10], Sam [E42], John [E33] and Ms Cobb [E42] all remember playing as kids in a large paddock located where the Sydney Children's Hospital is now. Pedro was a large white and brown horse, a Palomino. Sam [E42] 'We used to go up there and play up there and pick blackberries.' John: 'we used to love it up there.' Hercules remembers having adventures in the paddock when the Sydney Children's Hospital was being built and recalls Prince Charles coming to open the hospital in the 1970s.



Pedro's Paddock behind Eurimbla Precinct house  
Image courtesy of UNSW Archives S2257-133

**Making billy-carts** and racing them was another favourite fun activity. Hercules [E10] and Sam [E42] 'used to get the ball bearings [locally] and then we'd get pieces of timber ... and little ones for the front wheels and big ones for the back wheels, string and anything just to make it ... then after the [Sydney Children's] Hospital was built we'd go down the back of Hospital Road and race them.'

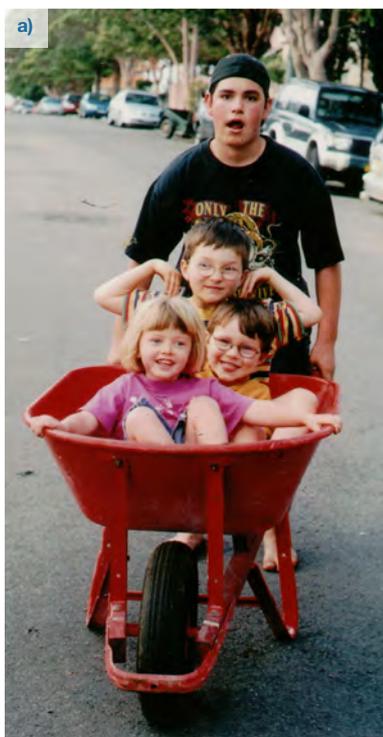
**Cricket** was popular in the street for decades. John [E33], Sam [E42], Hercules [E10], Ms Cobb [E42], Maria [E45] and Kim

[E31] all commented that there was lots and lots of cricket played in the street. Eileen [E7] 'They'd play their cricket in the middle of the street, and that was a normal thing and then later on when the grownups used to ... even the older boys used to get out and play cricket in the street also.' Kim [E31] noted that 'residents happily slowed down if driving and waved to us all as we'd let them pass. They were quieter and much safer times.'

'Bill and Ada [Tulloch], they were the street grandparents, they were collective street grandparents ... four houses up ... the Tullochs ... they were amazing ... just amazing ... their boys [in the past] had been playing cricket here and then their grandsons had been playing cricket here. Cricket in the street is very much a characteristic of this street and seemed to be before even we got here.'

Maria [E45]: 'We played lots and lots and lots of cricket on the street, and **ball games**, and we didn't have a swimming pool, it was just the kids with hoses, hosing them down in summer as they ran around in the street. ... older kids taking the younger kids in wheelbarrows, up and down the street. It was really innocent great fun. Really good.'

And the **dress-ups!** Here are James and Aidan Barnett and the Booths on their way to Randwick Public School for the Children's Book Parade, 2001.





a)



b)



c)



d)



e)



f)

Learning to ride a bike was so easy in Eurimbla Avenue! Hercules [E10]: '[we] just played in the street ... there were not many bikes but there was one or two ... we'd have time trials ...'

Later years 'They were marvellous days because the children had lots of outdoor playing, bikes, lots of bikes' Jenny [E47]. Danny [E47] and Mia [E21] both recall learning to ride their first bike in Eurimbla Avenue.

In the early 1990s, Peter [E39] wanted to teach his son Michael to ride a bike: 'Michael might have been around seven when he got his first push bike. I said to Pam 'I'll take him for a ride' and she said 'Don't do that, it's too dangerous' ... We were going up the road and back; we got halfway up Eurimbla Avenue when a fellow came running round the corner from High Street into the street, followed by the Police who then shot him in the back. He was an escaped prisoner from the Hospital. Corrective Services had taken him to the hospital complaining of stomach pains and he went back with severe back pain! They chased him right around through Clara Street and all around those streets and he finally came out around down Eurimbla Avenue (from High Street). He was about 150m into the road. He had a foot on his head and a gun pointed at him. Pam said 'I told you it was dangerous out there!'

Clubs, talent quests and more ... Doreen [E33]: 'the kids used to have Clubs ... and they used to meet in the back gardens up on the lawn.'

Hercules [E10]: 'We used to have our 'mini Athletics', 'mini Olympics', as we used to call it.'

Kim [E31] and Doreen [E33] 'children were given free rein to play between houses and form 'clubs' ... we'd head out on adventures to the surrounding streets.'

Jenny [E47]: 'the games were led by the oldest girl [in the street] at our end, Kathryn. A hidey game, a chasing game, that sort of thing. Certainly, our backyard was used a lot, especially the trees. There were tree houses ... games established around teams.'

Debbie [E37]: 'We were number 37, next to us heading north were the Carrolls, Gumbleys, Russells and south were the Tullochs and then the Katz at 47. Kerry Barnard lived across the road and she was the local babysitter. We used to hold talent quests often in our backyard and charge all the parents to attend.'



Making music in the Katz's lounge room  
Image courtesy of Michael and Rita Katz

Betty [E43] 'across to the other side of Botany was a sand hill with swings which we used to play on. For *Empire Night* the local boys would build a bonfire on these sandhills and have fireworks.'

Sam [E42]: 'The bonfire [a cracker night bonfire] we had, a couple of doors down from Mrs G's ... one year they just built it in the street [Eurimbla Avenue], this thing just kept getting bigger and bigger, like 3-4 metres high and a couple of metres wide. It was amazing! You could do that sort of thing in those days.'

Doreen and John [E33] recall. Doreen: 'we used to go to one another's homes ... next door they had a video ... and they'd take it in turns to have a little party. It was nice.' John continues: 'most weekends. I can remember the Carrolls used to come into our place on a Friday or Saturday night and the kids would all have hamburgers and watch TV together and then you guys [adults] would sit out the back having a drink. We were all at the Catholic church up the road so ... a kind of community thing, at school and all that.'

John Gumbley as a cadet in 1968 in Eurimbla Avenue.  
Note the old gramophone and the old TV on which John and Aunt Ethel watched the moon landing!  
Image courtesy of John Gumbley



- a) Maureen Carroll in front of E35 Image courtesy of Maureen Finnane
- b) Fun with water Image courtesy of Sarah Nan and Graham Booth
- c) Children and their bikes
- d) Fun with water Image courtesy of Hercules Kotsomithis
- e) Playing in the backyard, E47 Image courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett
- f) Playing in the driveway between E47 and E45 Image courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett

And then there were the [school formal dances](#)...



Off to the school formal, John Gumbley with Julie Tulloch  
*Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

**Children's games are different nowadays!** Sam <sup>[E42]</sup>, Sarah <sup>[E48]</sup> and Graham <sup>[E34]</sup> all comment on children's games in decades past compared to children's games nowadays.

Sarah: 'They used to play hopscotch ... pick up a stick and you know, play handball.'

Sam: 'Kids don't play in the street anymore ... kids are inside nowadays with electronic games ... not out in the street like we were. The [lack of] traffic allowed us to be in the street, whereas it [traffic] doesn't now.'

Graham: 'Cricket in the street with a tennis ball like my children did, they don't do it now, whether that's because it's probably more responsible not to do that or that they're inside playing their own games.'

## THE LANEWAY

The narrow laneway at the south end of Eurimbla Avenue which ran through to Botany Street, was originally designed to channel the stormwaters from underground in Eurimbla Avenue. Over time, this drainage reserve became a convenient walkway and favourite place for many activities.



Looking east from Botany Street towards Eurimbla Avenue

Across generations, the laneway became a shortcut to schools, to university, to shops in nearby Barker Street, a place to ride bikes or just a place to play.

### **Danny Katz <sup>[E47]</sup> remembers Eurimbla Avenue**

Down the end of Eurimbla Avenue, just behind the Prince of Wales Hospital, directly across the street from my house, there was a creepy, dark, cobwebby, laneway that my parents used to let me play in (different times back then, parents were way more relaxed, they expected to lose one or two kids along the way, no big deal).

I loved that laneway: I called it 'The Prince of Wales Insect Hospital'. I was about eight years old and I'd go in there to save all the flies and bugs that were caught in cobwebs, then I'd put them on little leaf-beds and give them water through a dropper - I think I drowned more than I saved. Anyway, I'd spend hours in my 'operating theatre', treating the bugs, caring for the bugs, feeding the bugs by chewing on leaves and regurgitating it into their little bug mouths (it was an accepted medical technique back then, different times). And if any insect managed to survive, I'd release it back into the bushes, tell it to get plenty of rest, and come back to see me Tuesday.



Jenny's granddaughters having fun in the laneway, 2018  
*Image courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett*

Debbie [E37]: 'We'd often have street parties and would play on the street or walk around the lane (with no shoes on) to get some lollies or whatever Mum ran out of at the local shop (it is now the Blind Shop [Blind Awnings and Shutters Shop] in Botany St).'

Kim [E31] "The laneway was our shortcut through to the other shops once the Eurimbla shops closed down. I hid my roller skates there for half an hour and they were stolen. I was mortified. It was very overgrown indeed!"

Rita [E47] recalls the laneway in the late '70s: 'There was a very narrow lane across from our house that led out to Botany Street and the University. The university students could often be seen tending a few plants that lived happily in that little lane. I was so naive that I didn't know what they were growing there, but they did have pretty leaves.'

## SCHOOL

### WHAT SCHOOL DID YOU GO TO?

Most children within the Precinct went to the local public primary schools or to the Catholic schools. The primary school choice tended to be Rainbow Street Public School, Randwick Public School or the local Catholic schools. Secondary school choice tended to be Randwick Girls High, Randwick Boys High or Sydney Boys High or local Catholic schools such as St. Clare's College, Brigidine College Randwick, Waverley College or Marcellin College Randwick.

Margaret Scott [E22] comments on Marcellin College – 'previously Marist Brothers, Randwick .... My father was one of the first to enrol - number 6 on the roll - at the School so that would have been in 1923.'

Marion [E31] 'Our next door neighbours were the Gumbleys, Harold and Doreen and their two sons Paul and John. The neighbours in 29 were Noeleen and Brian Fredericks who had three sons Peter, John and David. The children from 29 to 41 Eurimbla Avenue all attended the Catholic schools in Randwick (20 children).'

## POCKET MONEY

Hercules [E10] recalls, 'as kids for pocket money we used to collect bottles, 5c each, get a bit of pocket money and you buy yo-yos and chocolates and all those other things.'

Kim and Lesley [E31] 'Our neighbours, the Gumbleys, became our surrogate grandparents and played an important role in our family's lives. Doreen was one of the kindest women we knew. She taught us how to give to people and gain happiness in the deed. As children we'd polish Dor's silver and her antique furniture as a job and were very pleased with the 50 cents we'd earn.'



## GETTING TO SCHOOL ON TIME

Most children used to walk to school as the schools were not far away. Hercules [E10] 'I went to Randwick Boys and Victor Issa [E17] also went to Randwick Boys and I went to Rainbow Street Public School 1966-1972.'

Hercules, 'going to school we would go down the lane there [Eurimbla Avenue to Botany Street] or cut through the houses in Magill Street.'

However for those on the eastern side of the Precinct and attending the local Catholic schools, going to school often involved cutting through the Hospital grounds. The Payne children would 'cut through the POW Hospital to get to and from school and climb the fence or go through someone's backyard,' as Debbie [E37] recalls.

Kim and Leslie [E31] 'Our Dad [Frank Russell] built a gate in the back fence so we could run to Brigidine College faster through the Hospital. Without this we would have been late on many a day!'

Peter Payne [E37] was the Randwick Council Dog Catcher, as both Debbie [E37] and neighbour Kim [E31] recall 'We'd often get lifts to high school with him ... getting in the back of the van and sitting on our school bags. No seat belts but, as dogs didn't need them ... Such fun times!'

And coming home...'He'd circle around the streets to see if anyone needed a lift home, with Kelly the dog sitting in the front seat.' Debbie [E37].



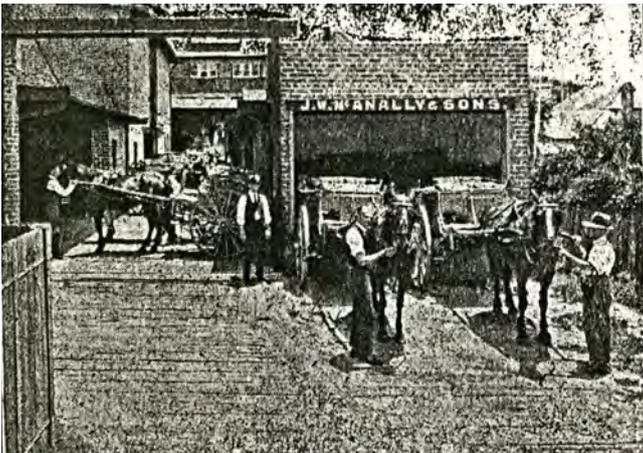
Hercules's first day at school  
Image courtesy of  
Hercules Kotsomithis

# ON THE HOME FRONT

## HOME DELIVERIES

Pre 1970s there was the convenience of two shops at the end of Eurimbla Avenue. Betty [E43] recalls both the butcher, Mr Gibson, at 1 Eurimbla Avenue and the grocery store at number 3. Bulk goods such as sugar and flour were stored in large hessian sacks on the floor behind the counter.

Following World War II, there were wartime shortages leading to strict regulation of deliveries of food due largely to petrol rationing. Deliveries of milk and bread were regulated and daily deliveries could only be carried out with a horse and cart. There was strict regulation on the quality and weight of loaves of bread sold. Consumers had no choice of bread other than white or brown. It wasn't until 1950 that competition between bakers was permitted again and not until 1958 that different types of bread were permitted by law<sup>1</sup>.



McAnnally milk vendors, McAnnally & Sons Milk Depot, Randwick  
Source Randwick Coogee Weekly 1930-1931

Betty [E43] 'Milk was delivered each morning from the horse drawn milkman's cart. His cart had a large tank of milk and from this he turned a tap to fill his jug, would bring this to our front verandah where my mother's jug was filled with our required quantity of milk. He would collect the payment money which was left next to our jug.'

'Similarly, bread was delivered daily and wrapped into a tea-towel which my mother left overnight on the verandah ledge along with the bread payment money.'

'The ice man came during the day, coming down our side driveway carrying a block of ice on his shoulder which was covered with a hessian bag. He would come into our back verandah where the ice chest was, put the block of ice in and collect the payment which my mother had placed on top of the ice-chest.' Betty [E43]

Doreen [E33] 'A man who came with a horse and cart bringing the fruit and vegetables and when he was

leaving he'd give the kids a ride up to the corner on the cart and then we had an egg man who used to come and bring the eggs.'

Despite the shops at the end of Eurimbla Avenue closing in the mid 1970s and the wartime shortages and regulations, various tradesmen still made home deliveries until the 1980s.



Eileen [E7] recalls the friendly postman 'I had Dad here and I'd brought him from the bush and he'd sit on the verandah out there and the postman would always bring the letters up to him, because we were working, on the verandah and hand them to him.'

Hercules [E10] remembers the milkman and in particular, the garbage collection at Christmas. 'The only thing I remember as a kid was the garbos in their open trucks go down ringing their bells, asking for Christmas presents ... I remember Mum and Dad used to leave the empty bottles of milk out there and then the milkman would come in and drop the bottles ... daily or every second day perhaps.'



Bread was delivered to this box at the back of E27

However as Dennis and Frances [E27] relate, it all changed in the 1980's. 'We've still got the bread box out the back [in the back wall]. They'd come along while the person was at work, leave the bread. There was still the milkman. He'd got rid of the horse and cart by that time ... it was all motorised.'

## FOOD AND RECIPES

Street get-togethers couldn't happen without the sharing of food and recipes among neighbours. Baking and sharing was common amongst neighbours in years gone by. 'Always had good neighbours ... if your neighbour made a cake you would get a slice' Eileen [E7]

Popular recipes have become part of the Precinct folklore handed down through generations. Marion [E31]: 'Doreen Gumbley, our next-door neighbour, was the best neighbour you could ever have. We built a side gate between our houses. Doreen always made a sponge cake for every member of our family, sausage rolls to die for. As a matter of fact, my four daughters now make them, and two grand-daughters and my daughter-in-law share Doreen's recipe. And birthday celebrations often included one of Doreen's sponges!'

### ***Doreen's Sausage Rolls***

*1kg best quality sausage mince*

*Roll out mince to length of puff pastry sheets*

*Cut sheets into 3, roll mince and seal with milkwash*

*Cut each roll into 8 bite size pieces*

*Bake at 200° for 15 minutes or until brown*

Recipe courtesy of the Russell family

Big laundry coppers were also, in their later years, used for cooking, particularly the traditional Christmas puddings. Note the big old Christmas pudding that Doreen cooked in their old copper at 33 Eurimbla!



The Eurimbla Precinct was a microcosm of the world's diversity, and the culinary benefits especially, were appreciated.

Kim [E31] and Hercules [E10] noted too, that ... 'We all mixed socially. Eurimbla was very multicultural way before this term for new immigrants became common. We had families of Greek, Italian, Lebanese, Russian and Canadian origins as well as others.'

Shelley [E58] 'Indele's mum [E60] was renowned for her Indian samosas' and Mia [E21] recalls 'we all lived happily together with my grandfather (Papou), he used to cook great Greek food.'

There was great variety in the food from different cultural backgrounds.

## SUNDAY ROAST DINNER FOR LUNCH!

'Tomorrow we're having roast dinner for lunch!' Rita [E47] who was Jewish Canadian, recalls the neighbouring children's enthusiasm ... roast dinner for Sunday, and that was their [the Payne children's] big thing and I never knew what roast dinner was! [laughs]. It was for lunch but they called it 'roast dinner'. It was lamb, roast lamb. So they'd look forward to this, 'tomorrow we're having...' They were very bubbly children. A gorgeous family.'

There was no fast food in the '70s, Rita recalls 'no restaurants at that time, nothing other than getting 'fish and chips' maybe and I remember you go down right near the Odeon, there was a takeaway place where they had Chiko rolls ... I didn't know what these Chiko rolls were ... must have been 1970s ... they thought that was really exotic ... very exotic food, these Chiko rolls.'

In those days most of the cooking was done in the home kitchen or someone else's home kitchen. Sam [E42] fondly recalled his mother's Lebanese cooking and the impact of sharing her cooking with neighbours.

'The food was and is so central to the Lebanese community, food and drink ... Mum was very much the food, so when Mum would have huge amounts of food, with lots of leftover, she would take a bowl across the road ... Australians very much enjoyed it because it was so different and flavours were so different and the herbs that Mum used were so different. Everything was so different to the traditional English/Australian type meals. Mum was almost at the point of disgust when she would talk about Australian cooking as meat and three vegs ... it was such a sad, boring meal. Mum was used to putting on a spread ... She made tabouli, there was hummus ... it just went on with plates and plates of all this different food and that was the style and Mum was even more so than that. Things like tabouli was unknown and garlic was an unknown thing, and olive oil.' Sam [E42]

John [E33] 'I think we started using garlic because of you!'

Sam 'We had the paddock there, Pedro's paddock, and blackberry bushes ... Mum would make a blackberry pie with the berries.'

Sam's father was famous for his vegetable garden. 'My father ... He grew his own vegetables especially the Lebanese ones like garlic, parsley, eggplant, marrows and many more regular vegetables like tomato, cucumber, radishes, corn, olives, grapes and many, many more. He utilised every square inch of soil including the footpath verge where olive trees grew and numerous vegetables flourished. He saved money and provided food for the table. The old man made his own Uzo. He had a still and was self-sufficient in that respect to the nth degree.'

Sausage rolls and cupcakes were favourites at community get-togethers.

Cupcakes at the Eurimbla Precinct final community farewell, September 2018.



## **Wendy's delicious vegetarian sausage rolls at the farewell gathering**

2 carrots, chopped

2 zucchini, chopped

1 red capsicum, chopped

2 cloves of garlic, crushed

100g chopped hazelnuts

½ cup breadcrumbs

75g cheddar, grated

Large handful of basil leaves

1 egg, lightly beaten plus 1 extra for pastry

½ teaspoon dried crushed chilli

2 sheets ready rolled puff pastry

Process all ingredients, except pastry and extra egg, adding them one by one in a food processor until combined. (Note if you don't have a food processor, you can grate the carrots and zucchini, and finely chop the capsicum. To crush hazelnuts, place in a lock seal bag and smash with a meat tenderiser). Season well.

Halve each sheet of pastry. Divide the filling into 4 sausages the length of the pastry placing them slightly off centre of the pastry on each strip.

Brush one edge of pastry strip with beaten egg and fold over to enclose.

Press down to seal with the back of a fork. Brush top with beaten egg.

Cut rolls into sausage rolls to the length you want. Repeat with rest of pastry until all filling used.

Chill in fridge for 30 mins (optional). Bake in preheated oven (220° C) for 25 minutes or until golden.

Serve warm with sweet chilli sauce. Wendy's suggestion: roast the hazelnuts first and take skins off.

Recipe courtesy of Wendy Gillett

## **Trudy's Sausage Rolls**

Beef Angus sausages (Coles) – cook first take skin off

Put into puff pastry

Brush egg on outside

Bake approx. 10 mins at 200c

Recipe courtesy of Trudy Miller

# OUT IN THE GARDEN

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Over recent decades, there had been a dramatic increase in street trees and streetscaping within the Eurimbla Precinct. The stark treeless early street views made a sharp contrast to those decades later with the addition of numerous trees and greenery.

## Early street views ...



Tom Kotsornithis's 1973 Ford Escort in front of E12  
*Image courtesy of Hercules Kotsornithis*



Outside E10 looking south  
*Image courtesy of Hercules Kotsornithis*

## Recent street views within the Precinct ...



Rooftop view of the Precinct in 2018  
*Image courtesy of Peter Blennerhassett*



Eurimbla Avenue, 2018, looking south

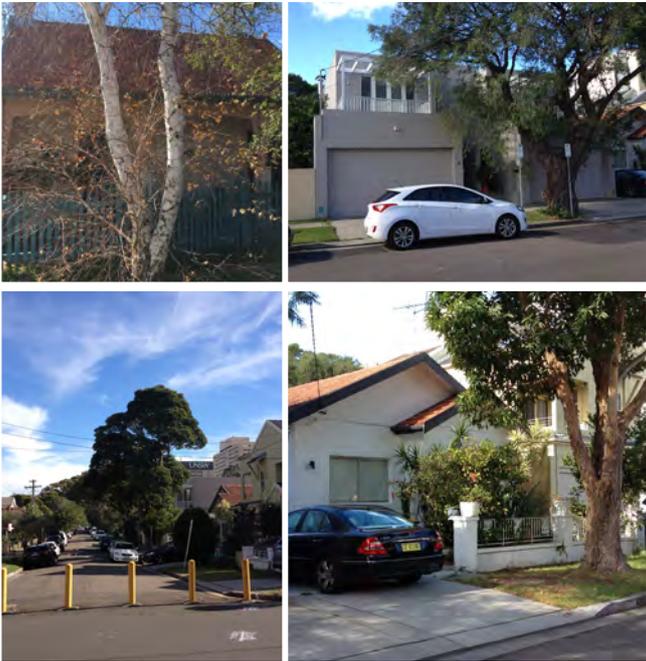
*Eurimbla Avenue, western side looking south*



*Eurimbla Avenue, eastern side looking north*



*Magill Street trees on the north side*



*The cul-de-sac at the end of Eurimbla Avenue*



A mix of planted native and exotic urban trees, groundcover species and exotic grasses were noted in the preparations for the POW Hospital redevelopment<sup>2</sup>. Within the private gardens of the Precinct, the native trees and eucalypts identified included:

- Corymbia maculata (Spotted Gum),
- Eucalyptus punctata (Grey Gum),
- Eucalyptus crebra (Narrow-leaved Ironbark),
- Agonis flexuosa (Western Australian Peppermint),
- Eucalyptus botryoides (Bangalay),

In addition, a variety of exotic species both in private gardens and the wider Precinct were also noted. Exotic species included:

Nerium oleander (Oleander), Liquidambar styraciflua (Liquidambar), Jacaranda mimosifolia (Jacaranda) and Callitris (Cypress pines).

A variety of commonly occurring groundcover species were also noted. Along adjoining streets, the native Lophostemon confertus (Brush Box) was a dominant species.

One threatened species of flora was observed within a private property bordering Hospital Road in the vicinity of 5 Eurimbla Avenue. The narrow-leaved Black Peppermint, Eucalyptus nicholii, is listed as vulnerable under the BC Act and the EPBC Act<sup>3</sup>.



Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint at the rear of E5/E7

## STREET GARDENS

There were street gardens too on the front 'nature strips' or verges of houses within the Precinct. These were popular with both the gardeners as well as their fellow Precinct residents who appreciated the produce and associated social contact.

### CHARLIE'S STREET GARDEN

Charlie's street garden at 42/44 Eurimbla Avenue was iconic – known and admired not only by Precinct residents but by people who parked in the street and nearby residents and passers-by. Charlie [E42] loved his gardening. Not only did Charlie utilise 'the footpath verge where olive trees grew and numerous vegetables flourished' but he also had his amazing veggie garden at the back of his home.

Charlie's son Sam [E42]: 'Dad's philosophy was 'if you can't eat it there's no point in growing it.' It was an L-shaped backyard and that became his garden area and he built the shed in the back corner and he put the extensions on, that are now the laundry. Charlie's large vegetable garden, made 50% larger by halving his next-door rental property [at 42], grew all sorts of vegetables 'especially the Lebanese ones like garlic, parsley, eggplant, marrows.'



E42-44 street garden better known as Charlie's garden

'My Dad and I too, stand out there watering the garden, and someone would walk by and you say 'hi' ... there was this minor relationship that would develop, it was just lovely ... he [Dad] grew in abundance and he would share it. We had corn, tomato, mint, parsley, all sorts of things growing out on that front median strip there and he was pleased, enjoy. Aussies don't do that ... you don't pick it off the street! That kind of attitude ... [laugh]. Council would come down and say 'you can't do this' ... and he did. He planted the olive trees in the front, and then he picked the olives and made olives [sic]' [E42].

Other residents recall Charlie's street garden:

'Sam's father Charlie used to be out the front doing his wonderful garden. He had a wonderful garden there and anyone could go. He used to grow herbs and anyone could go and pick them.' [E7]

There were many benefits of a Precinct street garden. Apart from the produce, the gardens provided opportunities to meet people and to chat with people, not only people who lived in the Precinct but also hospital staff and patients and others looking for a car park.

'Sam's and Charlie's [street] vegetable patch [E44], a landmark ... for example, patients from the hospital, when people take them for a walk around the block, they'd go around that little gully at the bottom and they'd always stop and were fascinated by it. Everything from basil, strawberries, it's all for consumption. It's for everybody to use, tomatoes ... Charlie's vegetable patch.' [E34]

### EILEEN'S STREET GARDEN

Eileen [E7] 'I asked permission to do a [street] garden in the street. Half of it's gone now because I've let people come and take the plants ... but they let me make a garden in the street and I'd have all these flowers and that there and, doing that garden, everybody used to come up and talk. Not only the people who lived in the street, all the hospital people up here or parking their cars and that, that was a way to meet the people. I used to ring them [Randwick Council] up and they'd bring me all the little flowers down here, mulch and this and that and everything, and bring it to me to put it in my street garden.'



Eileen standing outside E5 and her street garden  
Image courtesy of Eileen Collins

'I remember once, years and years ago, I grew in my little front there, I thought I'll put two lettuces in and grow them for Christmas and they were absolutely lovely, just ready to pick before Christmas. I went out in the morning and the two were gone. And that was in later years, that's a change too I've seen, because once those lettuces would have still have been there. That was another change.' [E7]

### DINAH AND WENDY'S STREET GARDEN

Dinah and Wendy [E56] also planted a street garden. 'Sometimes if we were working on the verge garden, that's when you get to chat with people in the street. Wendy made a beautiful vegetable garden 7 or 8 years ago ... a self-sown fruit tree on the verge, a nectarine.' [E56]



Sam's Sanctuary



Sam Sarkis at home, E42  
Image courtesy of SMH 24 October 2018. Photo: Louise Kennerley

## HOME GARDENS

### SAM'S RAINFOREST GARDEN AT 42 EURIMBLA

'I have spent the last 20 plus years developing my gardens. My father never could appreciate my gardens because if you couldn't eat it, it wasn't worth growing. I love flowers as did my mother who only had a few in the gardens - that's all she was allowed. I still have two of the allowed four plants with me. I created a rainforest garden experience with a huge 80 year old Kentia palm that I have owned for 45 years ... palms, large tree ferns, huge staghorns and elk ferns, a three metre koi pond and eight other ponds scattered around the yard and property, a paradise in the city. My goal was to see out my life here with my partner in this paradise that I had created. [It] has been forcibly taken from me.'

### EILEENS GARDEN AT 7 EURIMBLA

Apart from her street garden, Eileen [E7] also had wonderful front and side gardens in addition to a magnificent courtyard at the back.

Eileen [E7] 'In the early days I had grass in the courtyard. I put pavers ... and a lemon tree, a grapefruit tree in that little yard. I had grapes growing right across that thing there. I had bananas, I had grapefruit, everything ... in the yard out there ... even the grape vine my father used to have grapevines in Tea Gardens and used to strike them for everybody and everybody had a grape vine ... so I bought my grapevine for here in Eurimbla Avenue.'



Images courtesy of Eileen Collins

### PETER AND PAMELA'S [E39] MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPED GARDEN

**Before** landscaping



and **after** landscaping.



Images courtesy of Peter McCarthy

### TATE'S MAGNOLIA TREE – A LANDMARK AT 26 EURIMBLA. A beautiful tree when it flowers ... big white flowers.

Tate and his mother planted the Magnolia tree on the day they moved into 26 Eurimbla Avenue.



**Wendy and Dinah** planted a spectacular Moon Flower, *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, ‘Dutchman’s pipe’ cactus or ‘Queen of the Night’ cactus in a corner of their backyard. These amazing cacti only open at night and for one night only.



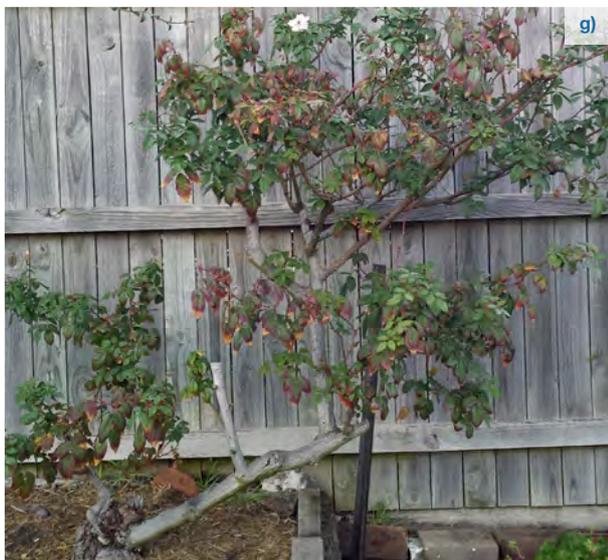
Images courtesy of Dinah Cohen

**DENNIS AND FRANCES’ GARDEN**

Roses have been popular in Eurimbla Precinct too, at least since the days of Pearce Brothers’ Nursery and Flower Farm, 1889<sup>4</sup>. Rose plants were still in the garden when Dennis and Frances moved to 27 Eurimbla Avenue in 1980. Dennis believes the roses there could have been 70-80 years old or even older. It is more than likely that some of the roses growing at 27 Eurimbla dated from the time of the Pearce Brothers’ Nursery and Flower Farm. The original Pearce Brothers’ Nursery greenhouses were adjacent to Dennis and Frances’ garden. Dennis [E27]:

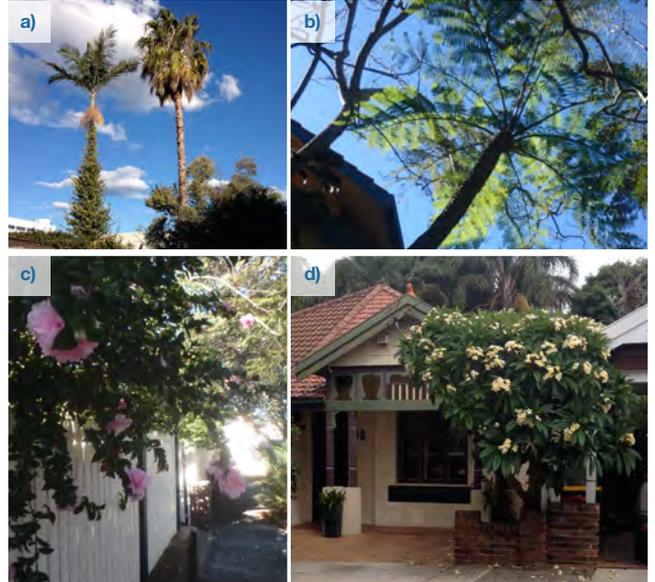
‘We’ve got about 80 roses, 60 out the back ... over the years I’ve probably unloaded 50 ton of manure into it!’

e) Backyard at E27 Eurimbla with the original Hills Hoist. Dennis and Frances’ cultivated a large rose garden. f) Rose Cecile Brunner *Image courtesy of Wagner Rose Nursery*. g) Dennis’ roses at E27. h) Rose Queen Elizabeth *Image courtesy of Sam Sarkis*



Dennis’ special Cecil Brunner rose<sup>5</sup> was listed as growing in the Pearce Brothers’ Nursery and Flower Farm in 1889. Dennis’ Queen Elizabeth Rose, was a more recent variety.

Apart from the roses, a variety of other plant species which had been listed as growing within the Pearce Brothers’ Nursery and Flower Farm in 1889, continued to be popular within the Precinct in recent times. These included palms, ferns, camellias and frangipani.



a) Palm trees in the Precinct b) Ferns in Eurimbla Avenue c) Camellia at the front of E45 d) Frangipani at E50. *Images courtesy of Marian McIntosh*

# GARDENS ARE NOT ALWAYS JUST ABOUT PLANTS

## **INSTALLING THE SPA AT 58 EURIMBLA AVENUE**

'When we were renovating, we put an inground spa at the back. But we couldn't get it on our property because there just wasn't the space down the side passages and the only house that could was this one here before it was renovated. It had an open access. And so, it went in there, over that fence to there, and then over the next fence, so we had all of these guys, bless them, and somebody [who had suggested this] ... short of craning the thing in ... it just kept going over the neighbours, 'spa coming'... 'keep it going' [laughs] ... That sort of thing they would do, they took a part of their fence down, so ... [laughs].'



Bath house in the back garden at E56 Artist Monique Rüeger

# ANIMALS

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Animals, birds, frogs, snakes, fish, dogs and more ... Many residents in the Precinct kept pets, but a variety of wild animals found their way into people's homes too.

## BIRDS

Eurimbla resident, Val Hoggett <sup>[E50]</sup>, hand-fed native kookaburras and lorikeets which frequently visited her garden in the quiet, tree-lined street where she had lived for eight years.

'Since they lopped the trees for the Light Rail all the kookaburras have moved in here and Randwick Girls High has got lots ... and the bats fly over which they didn't used to do.' Sarah <sup>[E48]</sup>

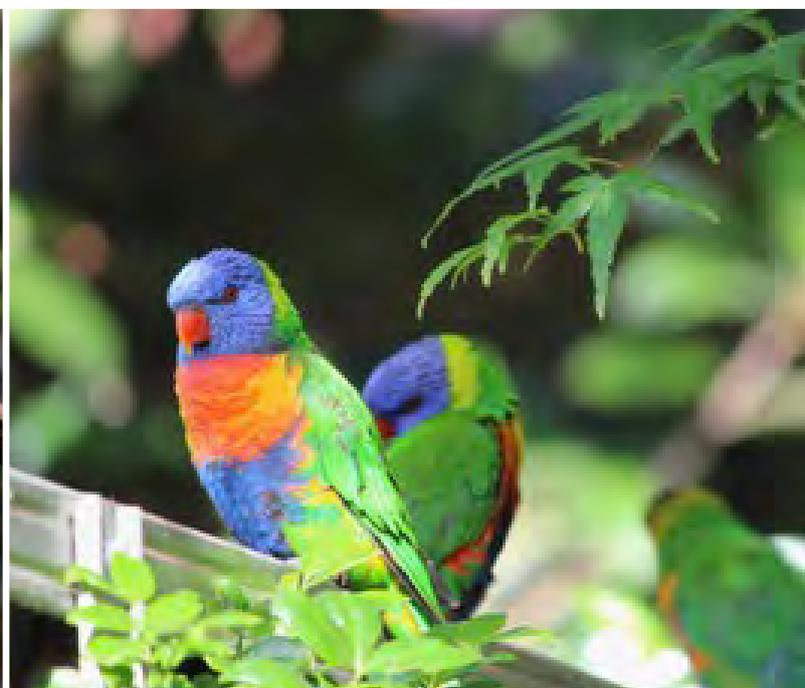
Jenny <sup>[E47]</sup> recalls 'Pam <sup>[E39]</sup> cared for many stray animals and birds ... I'd go up there and she'd have a bird that somehow just fell out of the sky, or the young had ... so she'd be nurturing it ... so she cared for a lot of stray birds.'

Peter <sup>[E39]</sup>: 'We had a kangaroo, used to come into the bedroom and sit on Pam's chest waiting for breakfast ... Michael and I would go hunting and he picked up a little joey and two goats ... and he'd hop in for breakfast.'

'Two goats ... they'd just been born but we kept them alive with rubber gloves and milk and water. Michael picked up a turtle neck dove egg from a nest. He raised that bird ... we had it for about three years. The bird owned the back yard with Scruffy [the dog]. The bird and the dog would be at the back door waiting to come in. The kangaroo was called 'oozat' and the dove was called 'wesma', where's my dove!'

'We get lorikeets and kookaburras, possums, seen plenty. When the sun goes down you'll hear frogs, lots of frogs here.' <sup>[E48]</sup>

*Images courtesy of Sarah Nan and Graham Booth*



## SNAKES

'Someone in the street used to go pig shooting out in the country and one day returned with a red-bellied black snake, it dropped off the car as an extra passenger!' [E47]



Jeff, E58, with snake Image courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett

## DUCKS

'We had a family of ducks across the road ... that's recently ... The swimming pool house [E31] across the way, they used to go there to nest every year ... nine ducklings, they would come down the street and into my garden. I caught them and looked after them in the shed for a couple of weeks - until the little ones got older. Then I took them to Centennial Park and released them.' [E48]



'Mavis, Tate's mum, used to walk Teddy his dog. If there were any injured birds she [Mavis] would bring them to Graham, and Graham used to stitch them up.' Sarah [E48]

## FISH

Sam [E42] 'The Ambulance Station was a buzz because there was this magnificent old concrete-made fountain out front, three tiered with the water rushing off ... it would have been built when the Ambulance Station was put up ... that driveway into the Prince of Wales Hospital, they turn around, that was the turnaround ... it was just magnificent ... They had all these goldfish in it which I

really love. When they built the Hospital, the Ambulance Station went but the fountain didn't in the initial days, so that's where I got my first goldfish from ... I took them all because they seemed to be left and forgotten. I would have loved that fountain, gorgeous. And so I started my love of fish back then ... I was allowed to have fish ... you didn't really have pets ... but we had a pet rabbit once but that became a meal.'



The ambulance station in the 1960's with the fountain in the middle where Sam did some fishing!  
Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance Station, Randwick, c.1960.  
Image courtesy of C. Menger, son of Superintendent William (Bill) Menger



Sam's prized Koi carps.

## DOGS

Peter [E39] 'We had a dog, Scruffy ... Graham and Sarah [E48] used to look after him for us. They had a Scottish Terrier [Maggie].'



Maggie, E48. Lucky, E48. Scruffy E39 visiting the Booths across the road at E48.  
Images courtesy of Sarah Nan and Graham Booth

Lucky, a Fox Terrier, lived at 48 Eurimbla with his younger sister Maggie, an Aberdonian Scottish Terrier. Lucky was indeed lucky, found abandoned and wandering the streets, he was rescued at the last minute from the dog pound by Graham Booth and named by Graham's young son. Lucky's favourite walks were a loop around the Royal Randwick Racecourse and the nearby tree lined corridor near Mackay Pavilion, Centennial Parklands. Lucky was buried in the front garden under the crepe myrtle tree.

'According to Pam [E39], there were two lightning strikes in Eurimbla Precinct. Pam and Peter had a stink pipe in the front of their house [E39M]. A dog was finishing a pee, against the pole, and it [the dog] caught on fire ... about 1999.' [E47]



The sewer vent, turned humourously into a flagpole, was the last remnant of the Precinct to go

Eileen [E7] 'When we got our Chihuahuas ... [There was] Lou, then she had six pups, we kept one Cindy Lou. Everything [all the pups] had to be Lou.'

George and Andy's dog had the title of 'the fattest dog in the world.'

'George and Andy [E56], they had a blue cattle dog, they overfed it and killed it! ... When that dog died, they went out and bought another one and did exactly the same thing to it ... just overfed with no exercise.' Peter [E39]

Eileen [E7] describes the drama of buying George and Andy's new dog and bringing it back to Eurimbla 'they bought this cattle dog and I went with them to get it ... went up to Penrith to buy the dog ... [Eileen describes the drama as the car breaks down and one of them goes for help] he comes back with a truck, a van ... then we took a cab back here ... from the mountains!... [they hid the dog in a box in the taxi but the dog was revealed on the way!!].'

Then there was Tullulah, the Russell's dog.



Image courtesy of Kim Russell

And of course there were the **chickens and the rabbits**.



a)



b)



c)



d)

a) and b) Chickens were kept at E64. c) Peter with Richard, Michael (E47), Mitchell (E58) and pet rabbit in the backyard. d) Richard with Michael (E39) and black rabbit. Images courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett

# EURIMBLA ‘THE PLACE OF MANY HORSES’

Horses and activities related to the racing industry, played an important part in the life of residents in the Eurimbla Precinct. Situated between the Newmarket Stables and the racecourse, the street saw many horses transiting through.

‘They’d ride them up the street, down the laneway into Botany Street’ recalled Eileen [E7].

Some of them got away. Dennis [E27]: ‘One morning there a horse comes flying down the street, and all of a sudden he sees the dead end. I called him over, gave him a pat. Ten minutes later, the stable hand arrives ‘Oh that’s where he got to...Thanks!’

Jenny and Peter [E47] fondly recall the clip-clop of horses early in the morning, before the days when they were taken in horse floats. They also remember hearing the auction calls at the Newmarket Easter sales. One year the phone number that people were given to call for the auction was mistakenly theirs!

By all accounts, SP bookmaking was a thriving industry in the street. ‘Six pence on a bet’ remembers Doreen [E33]. Even the priest of the local church used to ring up and ask to ‘put 2s 6d on.’ One couple found evidence of betting and gambling in their newly acquired house. ‘Writings on the wall and all sort of stuff under the wallpaper’ Peter [E39] recalls. The police raided at least one of the Precinct businesses and closed it down.

Many residents, however, were legally involved in the horse racing industry. Some made a name for themselves, none more so than Betty Lane Holland, nee Coates [E43]. Her family moved into Eurimbla Avenue in 1927 when she was a baby. Her mother, Irene Coates, was an outstanding horsewoman who ‘used to ride her horse up Eurimbla Avenue’, according to Doreen. Betty recalls that she and her brother had ponies in the backyard. Betty later became a journalist for an equine magazine and published two books before changing career and deciding to become a horse trainer. Betty was the first woman to be granted a number 1 Trainers’ Licence in NSW, succeeding after many obstacles. [See memoirs of Betty Lane Holland]

Children growing up in the Precinct in the 1960s remember playing in the paddock, east of Eurimbla Avenue where the Sydney Children’s Hospital now stands.

‘It was a great big paddock full of blackberry bushes and it had a horse in it. It was a Palomino, white and brown. His name was Pedro and we called the paddock where we liked to go and play ‘Pedro’s paddock’,’ remember Sam [E42] and John [E33].



An impression of what Pedro could have looked like among the blackberries  
Artist Monique Rüeger

Maureen [E35] also likes to reminisce about Pedro. ‘How could I forget that beautiful horse! I used to go up to the High Street fence with pieces of apple and carrot after school, and ‘whinny’ until he trotted over. Pedro was a mystery to us. We had no idea how he got there or who looked after or owned him. I can’t remember ever seeing anyone with Pedro. I remember someone told me to hold the palm of my hand flat with the apple or carrot so he could eat the food without nibbling my fingers. I am not sure if that was Dad or Betty who would have shown me how to hold my hand out, but he was certainly appreciated as a local and was a special feature of my teenage years.’

Maureen also remembers going regularly after school to help groom Betty’s horse Gilette that was stabled in Eurimbla Avenue, and they would go to Centennial Park together.

Randwick’s Eurimbla Precinct was certainly a neighbourhood close in so many ways to horses and the racing industry.

# PASSING THE TIME

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## SP BOOKIES IN THE PRECINCT

Horse racing and activities associated with horses and horse racing had long been popular pastimes for many early residents in the Precinct.

'A day at the races' (see image below) ... it must be just after the war and they are all playing up as bookies and punters. Harold [Gumbley] is the bookie and Charlie Harrison the punter. Charlie Harrison used to take out Connie Doyle from across the road and Dad knew him from the church and during the war. You'll see Charlie as the guy with the binoculars' John [E33].

Many recent residents have commented on the number of SP bookies living and/or operating in the Precinct. Betty [E43] recalls that 'every second house had SP bookies living in them!.'

Peter [E39]: 'There were SP Bookies in the street and we found substantial evidence to confirm that with our place ... [There were] all sorts of writings on the wall.'

Debbie: [E37] 'My Mum's Dad and her sister were bookmakers and of course my Dad loved horse-racing and gambling.'

Rita [E47]: 'I remember Judy Payne [E37] once saying to me that there were bookmakers. Judy told me that there were a number of people who were involved either with horses, either as bookmakers or in some other capacity with ... Newmarket [Stables]. That was interesting and before us [before our time in Eurimbla].'

Doreen and John [E33] recall the SP bookies in the street. 'Mrs Doyle's mother used to live there ... you wouldn't step out of line with her! She used to run an SP bookie... Mrs Alexander used to run an SP bookie from there.' John: 'and Eric Carroll used to run an SP Bookie as well ... I remember Father Bourke from the church used to ring up and put a bet on. He'd ring up and say 'it's FB here ... put 2/6 on ... ! She [Mrs Alexander] lived next door to your [Sam's] original house. Sam: 'Didn't it get raided once? Didn't the cops come down and raid her SP Bookie one day?' Doreen: 'I think they did. They closed down her little business.'



A day at the 'races' in the late 1940's, E33  
*Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

## CARS AND CAR ENTHUSIASTS

Marion [E31]: 'Our first car was a paprika VW which served us well until our family expanded and a station-wagon was needed. In those days (before seat-belts) it was nothing to fit a whole netball team in and sometimes half a rugby team.'

Sam [E42]: '1963 ... [Kahlil/Charlie Sarkis] had saved up to buy his first car, a brand spanking new Holden ... He used to pull it apart every weekend. Pull the wheels off to clean, adjust the brakes.'

'We had a lot of car enthusiasts so Gay [E50] [and] her son used to have a beautiful blue old-fashioned car and he used to spend hours and hours shining it up. So did Michael, Pam's son, he was very good with cars. When he got his car, he used to spend hours again making it look beautiful.' [E48]



a)

## RELAXING IN THE SUN, CARD GAMES, CATCHING UP WITH FRIENDS, GATHERING AROUND A BBQ

Marion [E31] recalls 'weekly card games that took place at the home of Mr Coates at number 43.'

Frances [E27] recalls that apart from gardening, leisure time activities in the early days included 'a walk, go to the beach, picnics ... having Centennial and Queens Park pretty close ... there was quite a few people when we came here, the younger ones, they used to ride bikes ... used to ride their bikes to and from work.'



b)



George Maher relaxing in the sun at the back of E56



c)

a) Kim Russell and her new car, 1983 Image courtesy of Kim Russell

b) The iconic 1950's Holden Special at E8

c) Tom Kotsornithis's 1973 Ford Escort at E10 Image courtesy of Hercules Kotsornithis

# A POOR MAN'S RACEHORSE

There were 'millions of them', flying in formation, going back home to Graham's backyard [E48]. The racing pigeons were a really nice feature of the street.

Graham, a work supervisor at the University of NSW, had brought home a rescued racing pigeon as a pet for his son (or rather for himself, he admits willingly). Graham as a youngster had raced pigeons in Stonehaven, Kincardineshire.

Bruce Fleming (from Willis St, Kingsford) gave Graham a mate from his flock and their offspring won Graham's first race. 'Then I built a nice little loft for the pigeons in the corner of the yard. We had 40 pigeons at one time. It's a poor man's racehorse.'



Bath time at the Eurimbla pigeon loft  
Image courtesy of Sarah Nan and Graham Booth

Bruce Kenny-Royal [E32], nicknamed 'Feathers' for obvious reasons, knew everybody in Eurimbla Avenue. Bruce was invited by Graham to watch him 'clock in' his birds as they arrived home on race day. This reminded Bruce of the joys of breeding the birds and racing them. It reinvigorated his passion for his own pigeon-racing hobby when he worked at the railways.

Unfortunately, after years of racing, Graham caught 'pigeon fancier's disease' and had to give up his fascinating hobby.

As for Bruce Kenny-Royal, 'the lovely gentleman with the hat', he was a coachbuilder at the railways. Graham remembers once meeting one of Bruce's work supervisors. 'Bruce was always late for work, he was always waiting for his pigeons to come home!' Bruce's passion for his birds followed him to the grave. He was buried with a framed picture of his favourite champion pigeon, nestled into his open coffin alongside a photograph of his mother. A true pigeon fancier to the end.

Below: Members' pigeons from the Mascot Racing Pigeon Club, including Graham and Bruce's, waiting at Palm Beach to be released on a training 'toss' to fly home to the Eurimbla Precinct.

Image courtesy of Sarah Nan and Graham Booth



# CELEBRATIONS - BIRTHDAYS, CHRISTMAS, EASTER, HALLOWEEN, NEW YEAR

## BIRTHDAY CAKES AND PARTIES

'Frank Russell's birthday [E33] and his daughter Lauren is on the extreme right. They are all his grandchildren.'



Frank Russell's birthday with Lesley's children Vanessa, Nicole and Dominic. Stephen's wife Kate with their son James and twin daughters Emily and Sophie. Lauren Russell with one of Doreen's sponges  
*Image courtesy of Marion Russell*



Left: Birthday with the Thivitis family, E21.  
*Image courtesy of Natasha and Peter Thivitis*  
Right: Irene Kotsornithis with sons Hercules and Nick, Aunt Katina, cousins Arthur and baby Helen and family friends at 10 Eurimbla  
*Image courtesy of Hercules Kotsornithis*

'We had great birthday parties for the kids. You could hide Easter eggs too. It was great. Great house. Lots of great memories there.' [E45]

## CELEBRATING ST. PATRICKS DAY AT 38 EURIMBLA



## AND CHRISTENINGS TOO!



James Barnett's baptism day 1996 with cousin James and Nonna. Michael Barnett with James on day of his Christening at Catholic Church, 1996  
*Image courtesy of Maria Bisogni*

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

'We used to have street parties, New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve ... just close the street off and run power out into the middle of the street. Have BBQs, music, everything. It was a very social street. ... a quiet street.'  
Peter [E39]

'Christmas time...down the end of the street, always down the street, and mainly because of traffic, this way then ... all the Otto bins were put [to close the street]'

'At Christmas, New Year, there were always little parties down the end of the street there with the neighbours, and they'd all go. New Year, you always had a little party at home for neighbours or people who had nowhere to go and then you'd go into the middle of the road at midnight and sing Auld Lang Sine.'  
Eileen [E7]

Sam [E42] recalls Christmas day with community: 'Christmas in my youth, coming out on Christmas day ... gifts were token gifts but the other families, the Catholic, Australians ... they got new bikes, new footballs, new cricket bats, so it was going out in the street and seeing all these kids with all these nice new toys and you got to share them. It was that nice era when you played together. So Christmas Day, to go out there, the excitement, the feel of it, the joy of it, there was a real communal joy ... the parents might be on the front footpath just chatting with each other ... Nowadays you rarely see them outside talking.'



Christmas lights hanging for the last time at E10, December 2017.  
*Image courtesy of Monique Rueger*

The family at 10 Eurimbla invited the Avenue as well as their Botany neighbours to the last Eurimbla Avenue

Christmas gathering. Every year the family put up Christmas lights and invited neighbours to celebrate. In fact, reassuringly, the reindeer went up in Christmas 2018 in their new house at the Spot. Sarah [E48]



a) Santa at E45 in the 1980s Image courtesy of Sebria Lawrence  
 b) Christmas at the Gumbley's, E33 Image courtesy of John Gumbley  
 c) Christmas with the Thlivitits family, E21 Image courtesy of Natasha and Peter Thlivitits

'Gil [E10], Halloween and Christmas ... little disco lights and then invite people around for drinks; Santa and Reindeer lights ... every Christmas they would have decorations that got bigger and better... also 'trick and treat' night and everything like that. Tate and his mother did Christmas things as well.' Graham [E34]

### **HALLOWEEN 'TRICK OR TREAT'**

Rita and her family moved to Eurimbla Avenue from Canada in the 1970s. Rita recalls her son Joel got dressed up for his first Australian Halloween and went trick or treating across the road. The neighbour looked flustered, stammering 'I'm supposed to give you something aren't I?' She ran in and got him a Legacy badge! He was looking for lollies... Halloween was big in Canada then, but not so in Australia. The Legacy badge was our best achievement ever!



Halloween at E47 Image courtesy of Michael and Rita Katz

How things have changed. Nowadays everybody knows what Halloween stands for! Including these children in the Avenue. Joel was a true pioneer!



Halloween with Thlivitits children E21 Image courtesy of Natasha and Peter Thlivitits

## CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA DAY

Celebrating a fun Australia Day around 1998 with the Gumbleys, the Russells, the Paynes and the Tullochs. Frank Russell raises the flag and Marion Russell bestows a 'Ladyship' on Doreen Gumbley with a Japanese Naval sword husband Harold 'collected' while in New Guinea.



a) Front row: Billy Tulloch and Marion Russell LHS, Ada Tulloch on extreme right.  
 b) Marion Russell bestowing a 'Ladyship' on Doreen Gumbley. c) Frank Russell about to raise the flag. d) L-R: Eric Carroll (all in white), Doreen Gumbley and Judy Payne. Images courtesy of Marion Russell

## BACKYARD PARTIES AND GET-TOGETHERS

'We have loved having all our friendly neighbours.' Mia [E21]

Doreen [E33]: 'Everyone was so friendly. Everyone knew one another. Had get-togethers ... it was a great life.'

John [E33] describes the photo below (b) 'At the Gumbleys' below: Harold and Doreen are seated. Left to right is Eric Carroll [E35] Frank and Maureen Callen (not Eurimbla). Frank was the Chief Building Inspector on the Council in the 1960's when the crooked councillors destroyed Randwick, particularly High, Blenheim, Arthur etc. I think it nearly broke him as well. On the far right is Noel Doyle [E46] who lived across the road ... two down from Sam Sarkis.

'Our neighbours the Gumbleys became our surrogate grandparents and played an important role in our family's lives. ... As we got older we'd join them for drinks and cheese and we were always so very welcome at any time day or night.' [Kim E31]

'Dad [Frank Russell] built a gate in the side fence so Doreen had easy access. She visited a couple of times a day. She had happy hour each night. She had her wine and hubby Harold his Scotch. She invited anyone to join them. Doreen was one of the kindest women we knew. She taught us how to give to people and gain happiness in the deed.' [Lesley E31]

a) and c) A community BBQ in Eurimbla Avenue Image courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett

b) At the Gumbleys in the late 80s Image courtesy of John Gumbley d) At the Gumbleys early 90s Image courtesy of John Gumbley



Rita <sup>[E47]</sup> describes the street parties at the Paynes: 'Number 37 was the Paynes. Peter and Judy Payne ... They seemed to be the social centre of that side of the street. They would have street parties in their backyard ... there would be a fair bit of beer drinking. When they'd had enough to drink they would take the lids off the garbage cans; they had the metal garbage cans in those days, and they would 'go for it!' And they were all neighbours, there was nobody behind us so they could make as much noise as they wanted. ... they'd use them as drums and they'd be drumming with those metal garbage cans and they had a most wonderful time ... and we were always included because we were friends because of the children ... So we were always included for their street parties.'

## BBQS WITH NEIGHBOURS

'I remember when Eric Carroll built a BBQ in his backyard and we all thought ... how would you do that?' John <sup>[E33]</sup>

A lovely street and you felt that you were part of a community...

Kim <sup>[E31]</sup>: 'Mum [Marion Russell] would often make piles of sandwiches during school holidays to feed all the kids congregating at our home.'

'We shared such a closeness [with the Payne family] growing up that it was like reuniting with family members [at Judy Payne's funeral].' Kim <sup>[E31]</sup>

Peter and Jenny <sup>[E47]</sup> 'Ada and Bill [Tulloch] <sup>[E41]</sup> were like grandparents of the street. Around Christmas time we would often have parties out in the street and Bill would always measure the heights of the kids against the pole in Jeff's house <sup>[E58]</sup> so he had a record of their heights. Bill was a wonderful chap. The other thing we did have was, when we did our extension, we had a party and the neighbours came ... just the neighbours. Ada and Bill came and Bill was a great raconteur so he was the Balmain Tigers Rugby League player, he was retired and had moved out of Balmain to here but they had done lots and lots of travelling and had stories about that. We got to know their children and their grandchildren. It was lovely, it was really nice, a lovely street and you felt that you were part of a community, definitely.'

'We have loved having all our friendly neighbours. We have grown up with many of the kids in our street and my dad was even babysat by a neighbour when he was a child!' Mia <sup>[E21]</sup>

# LOST AND FOUND TREASURES

## MONEY BEHIND THE WARDROBE

'Ada and Bill Tulloch [E41], they sold to the Hospital [Prince of Wales] ... they moved out ... a month after they sold and people were renovating, Bill came back full of panic, 'I left \$3-4000 in a bag behind the wardrobe, did you find it?' Nobody had seen it ... he left the money behind there and forgot about it. Well, when the cleaners came in, they cleaned it out, didn't they!!' [E39]

## A LITTLE OLD TOY CAR

When Dinah and Wendy [E58] were excavating under their house, amongst the old beer bottles stuck in the concrete, they found a little old toy car in poor condition.



Lehmann car Model E686

Image courtesy of Bill Pepper, <https://lehmanntoycollection.com>

It did have the wheels on it when first found. The toy car was made by Ernest Paul Lehmann Patenwerk, Brandenburg, Germany. The 'e' surrounded by a bell on the back of the car indicated it was a genuine Lehmann toy, a Lehmann 'Berolina' convertible car (EPL686 model, 1914-1935).

## BURIED TREASURE



During recent excavations, a cache of coins was found at 44 Eurimbla Avenue<sup>6</sup>. It is highly likely the coins came from beneath the floorboards in the second bedroom at 44 Eurimbla Avenue<sup>7</sup>. The coins were Australian coins, minted between 1911 and 1944, a large proportion having dates between 1942 and 1944. Total value was £6 6s 31/2d, a reasonably large sum of money at the time. According to the Reserve Bank of Australia this would have been worth \$453.99 in 2018<sup>8</sup>.

### WHO WAS LIVING AT NUMBER 44 DURING THAT TIME?

In 1934, Timothy and Hannah Faherty (changed later to O'Flaherty<sup>9</sup>) moved to number 44 with their son, Patrick Joseph, aged 2<sup>10</sup>. Daughter Judith Anne was born the same year. In April 1948 the O'Flaherty family sailed to Eire for a holiday. While staying at Killarney, County Kerry, 16 year old Patrick was killed on Christmas Day by a faulty rifle exploding<sup>11</sup>. His parents and sister returned to Australia in February 1949 on the SS Stratheden. Patrick was buried at the Eastern Suburbs' Botany Cemetery on 14 March 1949<sup>12</sup>.

LONDON, December 28 (A.A.P.).—A Sydney man, Timothy O'Flaherty, described at an inquest at Killarney, Eire, yesterday how he accidentally shot his son dead on Christmas Day.  
O'Flaherty is spending a holiday there. His wife and daughter are with him.  
His son, Patrick, was 16.  
O'Flaherty said his double-barrelled gun came apart when he was loading it for a target shoot with his son.  
It went off when he was trying to fit the parts together. The boy died within an hour.  
The coroner, returning a verdict of accidental death, ordered the gun to be destroyed.  
The O'Flaherty family will bring the body back to Australia when they return in February.

O'FLAHERTY, Patrick Joseph.—December 25, 1948, at Killarney, Eire, dearly loved son of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy O'Flaherty, of 44 Eurimbla Avenue, Randwick, and loving brother of Judy, aged 16 years. Requiescat in pace. —Walter Southard, Mourner. (Polar)

Death notice for Patrick O'Flaherty SMH, Family notices, March 1949

The O'Flaherty family remained at number 44 until 1956 when Charlie Sarkis moved in with his wife Asma and two pre-school age sons.

### WHOSE COINS WERE THEY?

The hoard could have been a little boy's secret stash. As it was quite considerable, perhaps he didn't tell anyone for fear of any consequences! This might all explain why the hoard was never retrieved. However, this does not explain why there were no coins post 1944. The mystery remains ...

## OLD BOTTLES

Between 1911-1914, a portion of the land in the northwest corner of the Precinct was used as a rubbish tip, most likely as part of Longworth's preparation for building and subdivision. In the 1990s, close to where The Willows had stood and adjacent to the rear of 55 Botany Street, a number of old bottles were unearthed during excavations for the construction of a patio. Some bottles were kept and the remaining bottles were placed back into their original place in the ground.

The bottles may have been deposits following demolition of The Willows in 1911. They may also have been rubbish deposits during Longworth's building preparation. Sadly, the bottles were not retrieved during the recent excavations.



# POLICEMEN AND PROSTITUTES

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Among the Eurimbla residents were Police Inspector Michael Thomas, his policeman son Allen Henry Thomas and Policemen Rogers.

## POLICEMAN THOMAS AND THE LAVERS-MCDERMOTT 'MURDER' CASE

Police Sergeant Michael Christopher Thomas and his wife Beatrice May were the first owners of 'Roma' 25 Eurimbla in 1927. By 1943 Michael Thomas had been promoted to Inspector, and he and his wife moved to Goulburn. Their son, Allen Henry Thomas, also a policeman, lived there from 1927 about age 11, after his parents had bought the property. Later, with his wife Marie, he lived at 23 Eurimbla Avenue from at least 1943 until 1954. By 1958 they had moved back into his childhood home at number 25. This house was still owned by the Thomas family in November 1983<sup>13</sup>.

In 1945, Inspector Michael Thomas, then in charge of the police in the Moree district, became involved in the case of Frederick Lincoln McDermott, the only man in Australia's Commonwealth history to be sentenced to death for the murder of a man whose body was never found.

At 6am on the morning of 5 September 1936, storekeeper William Henry Lavers went out in his slippers, shirt and trousers to check on his petrol pumps, outside his roadside store about 12 miles from Grenfell, in the south west of NSW. He was 'allegedly' never seen again, and the police decided he had been murdered.

Nine years later, a priest at Moree advised Inspector Thomas that a man he thought looked like Lavers newspaper pictures had come to ask him for work, and was camping by the river. When Thomas went to investigate, all that was found were a camp fire and a suitcase with a railway label stuck to it with the name 'W Lavers'. A full report was sent to the CIB (Criminal Investigation Branch) in Sydney, but this was dismissed as unlikely evidence.

Two years later, in October 1946, after a 'tip off', the police arrested 39-year-old shearer Frederick Lincoln McDermott at Dubbo, and charged him with the murder of William Lavers. Despite his vehement protestations that he had been working as a shearer at Forbes at the time of the 'murder', he was tried at Bathurst, and after nine days of jury deliberations, in February 1947 he was found guilty, and sentenced to death.

Fortunately, McDermott's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, as at that time a Labor Government was in power, and did not agree with the death penalty. In 1951 retired Inspector Thomas reported a sighting of

a still-living Lavers, and a Royal Commission of Inquiry ensued<sup>14</sup>.

It transpired that, among many other irregularities, evidence about McDermott's pay records at Forbes had been ignored and that witnesses had been bribed (one bribed woman attempted suicide after the verdict was handed down). In January 1952 McDermott was freed from Long Bay prison and that year was given just £500 compensation by the NSW Government, who stated that his release was a triumph for NSW justice.

In July 1977, a Melbourne newspaper published an anonymous letter they had received from 'Henry's friend', saying that William Lavers had died earlier that year and had been living under an assumed name in Melbourne. The police refused to re-open the case, and Frederick McDermott aged 71 died the next month in August 1977 in Sydney. Inspector Michael Thomas had died in 1975.

In 1966, author Jon Cleary, a one-time resident of Eurimbla Avenue who would have known of the Thomas family, began writing a series of books about an incorruptible Police Inspector called Scobie Malone. One can only wonder whether he had Inspector Thomas in mind!

Sam <sup>[E42]</sup> has recollections of another Eurimbla policeman, Policeman Rogers:

'He was a couple of doors up from [the Gumbleys] 'cos he busted me one night. I was 18 or 19 ... we went down to Maroubra Beach in the Holden and we were kissing at the north end in the carpark there and it was raining, I turned my parkers on, not the headlights ... I get pulled over by this police car ... they tried to blame me for an accident down the road ... and then the sergeant comes around and it was Mr Rogers ... I said 'Hi Mr Rogers you know me' ... he growled at me ... told me off ... he lived at number 27 or number 28 Eurimbla Avenue.'

Policemen Rogers later retired and became a taxi driver. John <sup>[E33]</sup> recalls 'sometimes when I went to work really early in the morning, when I had to go out to the airport, he used to pick me up and take me.'

Among the diversity of residents in Eurimbla there were not only policemen but prostitutes too who worked up at Kings Cross and, according to some residents, there was some antagonism in Eurimbla Avenue between the two.

One resident recalls 'One neighbour who lived next door to us was a prostitute up the Cross, she had a husband [and] a couple of kids. I remember Mum saying she told her that her husband had 'champagne taste on a beer wage.' They were a nice family, I was 12 and played with

the kids, I remember going to the races with them and other places.'

Doreen and John <sup>[E33]</sup> also recall a famous brothel keeper living a few doors away in the other direction. 'I think she'd moved out by the time of WW2 had happened.'  
John <sup>[E33]</sup>

In another of his books, Jon Cleary<sup>15</sup> introduces a character called Tilly Mosman, a 'madame'! Could this 'madame' have been one of the Eurimbla prostitutes?

There was indeed great diversity both in people and occupations in Eurimbla Precinct!!

# INCIDENTS

ALARMING, CURIOUS, QUESTIONABLE, MALICIOUS, MYSTERIOUS, HISTORIC

'Many years ago, I was conducting a Study Skills tutorial at the Aboriginal Centre situated on the corner of High Street and Botany Street. During the session, we heard a series of loud popping sounds and several of the Aboriginal group members immediately called out 'gun shots!' We looked up the street from the rear verandah and there was a Corrective Services van parked at the mouth of Eurimbla Avenue and a Corrective Services officer racing down the street, gun drawn. No one at the Aboriginal Centre wanted to go out and get involved, but about an hour later with half the local police milling about searching shrubbery and behind fences, they found the prisoner who had broken free after having attended a medical appointment at POWH. Evidently, the escape was well planned with a pick-up person waiting nearby, but the plan failed and the prisoner was caught and taken back to Long Bay.' [Dr Fred Orr, February 2018]



View of Eurimbla Avenue from High Street

## HIGH NOON AT EURIMBLA AVENUE<sup>16</sup>

[Dedicated to the Aboriginal students at the University of NSW. Much to be learned from Their Time, Their Place, Their Community](#)

1

High noon study skills class at The Aboriginal Centre  
Just a hearty 'G'Day!' from Eurimbla way  
Half a world away one would say  
from Hollywood's OK Corral.  
Or, so we thought.

2

Small circle of students each slumped in a chair  
Some eyelids too heavy, a sign of despair?  
Three sharp, loud, piercing blasts  
Students jolted, some aghast  
'Gun shots!' one yelled, eyes fearful, wide  
Out to the back deck, all at full stride  
Looking uphill not too far away  
'He's gotta gun!' one student did say  
Pointing to the blue blur up High Street way.  
Soon, sirens blaring, blue lights flashing  
Glut of cop cars, blue guys dashing,  
Blood splodges here, more over there  
Within the hour, I do declare  
Escapee found, bound, and taken away  
Back to Long Bay on this Eurimbla noon day.

3

A clever plan, it seemed very sound  
Illness in morn, then hospital bound  
With accomplice awaiting, hopefully found.  
On exiting his clinic, prisoner bolted  
Hurled guard aside and fully jolted  
Second guard took aim, three shots fired  
A short volley was all that was really required  
Escapee now hobbling, limping quite badly  
His plan now aborted, it seemed, sadly  
He disappeared down Eurimbla Street  
Hearing the gunshots, his friend was fleet  
In driving away, so so discreet.

Students riveted to the ensuing action  
 Study skills topics no longer in traction  
 Tensions, and fears, many cultural rifts,  
 Us against them, that was clearly their drift  
 Long debrief sessions now clearly required  
 Society, culture and such topics inspired  
 'What if he was one of us?' a blurted ask  
 Dark sad eyes behind a black-skinned mask  
 Angst, anxiety, depression, despair  
 Deep feelings in there, all needing repair.  
 'Our Land justice' vs white men's law  
 A cultural gap they all too frequently saw.

Eurimbla Avenue, a serendipitous stage  
 High Noon Hollywood was all the rage  
 Gun shots heard, no race was starting  
 But 'Race', so strong, not quickly departing  
 Talking, telling, testing, trialling,  
 Community, History, Place, all requiring  
 Lessons of culture, our First Nation People  
 Topics so high they could suit a steeple  
 One way or the other we need to see  
 How do we live as one, and all feeling free?

Fred Orr, February 2018

## CHARLIE BOURKE SHOT DEAD

'I've got a cracker for you ... if you look up, you know, Lenny McPherson the gangster. So, he is supposed to have murdered Charlie Bourke in 1964. Do you remember Chris Bourke who used to live in Norton Street? We used to play with him ... so Charlie Bourke was shot dead. I remember the night it happened, shot dead around in Norton Street, and ... up the lane and across ... down the road from us was Billy Tulloch. He grew up in Balmain, a great bloke, he used to play Rugby League for Balmain. At one time he was the oldest still living player. He grew up in Balmain in the '30s which is where Lenny McPherson came from and he was in all these rough and tumble gangs and he knew Lenny McPherson. So he told me this story a couple of times ... He was coming home that night and as he came around the corner there was this flash car was parked up at the corner, near the corner of Eurimbla Avenue, so Billy slowed down as he went around the corner, and just saw these two blokes sitting in the front seat. Lenny McPherson leaned across and went like that [hand signal] and Billy went like that [hand signal] and then went home. Wakes up the next morning and [finds] this guy has been shot dead around the corner. Billy goes 'It was Lenny.' It was in Wikipedia. It says everybody suspects it was Lenny but the cop who was investigating it ... didn't push the investigation. So, Billy just kept his mouth shut ... that was 1964 ... that story is in Wikipedia but not the bit about Billy Tulloch seeing him.' John <sup>[E33]</sup>

Adapted from Wikipedia Murder of 'Greyhound' Charlie Bourke, 1964<sup>17</sup>

Lenny McPherson, born in Balmain in 1921, was one of the most notorious and powerful Australian criminals of the late 20th century. McPherson had reportedly clashed with greyhound trainer Charles Bourke. Bourke was gunned down on the front lawn of his Randwick home in the early hours of the morning in 1964. Forensic investigations determined that the killer had hidden in nearby bushes and had fired 10 rifle shots into Bourke from a distance, reloaded, then approached the dying man and fired a further 10 shots into him at close range. No-one was ever charged over the killing, but Tony Reeves in his book on McPherson, asserts there was no doubt that McPherson was the killer and that police had ensured that he would not fall under suspicion.

## A SUSPICIOUS DEATH

'29 Eurimbla I thought was a questionable death ... tied himself to the chair and the gas turned on ... it was 'open' for a long time; before they closed the books on that one ... I've always thought it was a suspicious death ... so he was a Russian man who worked for an American company ... often was up at night ... all very odd.' Jenny <sup>[E47]</sup>

'[Pam] said it 'ended up' as the Coroner stating it was suicide. Pam said they [police] came back 18 months later to ask if she knew anything. She [Pam E39] said his hands were tied through his underpants.' Jenny <sup>[E47]</sup>

## PROWLERS

Jenny [E47]: 'the other thing I recall, an injured person walked down Eurimbla Avenue dripping blood... Peter decided to investigate and follow the trail of blood ... the person came up into our garage, (garage and car were not locked). He'd opened the car and looked in the coin box in the car ... he [the man] went into different properties and you could tell where he stood for a long time because of the bigger pool of blood. We didn't solve that one!'

Marion [E31]: 'During the early construction of Prince of Wales Hospital, a prowler was sighted in our backyard and Frank took chase and caught him in the hospital grounds. The prowler had a police record and was fined. Frank ended up with an injured elbow and his suit trousers torn.'

## FIRE AT 45 EURIMBLA

'The really dreadful event was, nearly 10 years ago to the day 'You'd better come home your house is on fire!' So fortunately the Fire Brigade came in sufficient time to stop the fire which was mainly ... in that front room but the smoke had ruined the whole house, the whole thing, and the smell. Lucky it didn't all burn to the ground ... we were lucky ... the structure was fine ... all the street were out[side] and they were great. I remember ... Tate's mum came and gave me a bottle of perfume. Street were great, absolutely fabulous.' [E45]

## HAIL STORM<sup>18</sup>

April 1999, a torrential hailstorm hit Sydney's inner and eastern suburbs and caused extensive damage along the east coast of NSW. The storm was classified as a supercell. Massive hailstones the size of cricket balls hit the city at more than 200 kilometres per hour. Some of the largest hailstones ever to be recorded in the Sydney region fell on the Eastern Suburbs during this storm. Randwick was among the worst-affected areas and Eurimbla Precinct received a share of the damage. Maria [E45] recalls: 'Oh there was the terrible hail storm ... 1999. In the morning I found shards of glass in the little cot.'



## WIG LIBRARY

Jenny [E47] 'One thing I recall was the Wig Library in one of those little [hospital] huts and every Tuesday seemed to be wig cleaning day and they'd all be hung on a clothes line. If I was doing my washing I'd look over and see all these wigs on the line. You don't see that any more. It was quite a memorable thing.'

## AN OUTING TO COOGEE BEACH

Doreen [E33]: 'And I remember the people, before the Carroll's, [who] lived ... next door to us and their daughter had Down's Syndrome and she used to spend most of the day on the balcony, and it was an open balcony in those days. Except one day I had Paul in the pram, on the front lawn of my house, and the girl next door pushed him all the way down to Coogee Beach. I came out of the house and he was gone!'

John: 'what happened Dor? When did you realise he was missing?'

Doreen: 'I don't know who found him. I can't remember her name.'

## A BUS WITH NOWHERE TO GO

The day the bus came down the street ... a single bus. We're standing around here watching the kids ... We looked up ... [laughs] 'OK he's turning into the street guys!' and it wasn't until he was about the fifth house ... we were looking up at him and suddenly he's ... just realised he's in a dead-end street now ... after many 3 point turns and 2 point turns and 10 point turns ... he actually got the bus out. It was really funny, a bus that size had never come down the street before.' Shelley [E58]

## TAXI CHASE DOWN THE STREET

'According to the taxi driver the guy had done something nasty to him in the street, cut him off, bumped him or whatever. The taxi driver wanted to have a word with him ... the car driver raced down Eurimbla Avenue only to come to the kerb [at the end of the cul-de-sac] and bounced up the kerb onto the footpath ... and the taxi was coming screaming down the street as well and he just pulled into the driveway of number 62 and then there was a real hubbub and at that time there was a policewoman, Georgina, living in one of the semis ... about number 50, and she said ... 'you're staying here until we get the breathalyser unit to come.' The breathalyser unit didn't come and the taxi driver lost interest. The driver walked himself away and collected the car the next day.' [E47]

After the hailstorm [E45]  
Image courtesy of Maria Bisogni

## GHOSTS AT 4 MAGILL

Jane (last owner 4 Magill Street): 'There is something in that room ... that's one of the reasons we don't actually use that room.'

Jane thinks it's Mr Joyce from the 1850s.

Dave (last owner 4 Magill Street): He was a stern type of man.

Jane: More like a Victorian gentleman, didn't like women coming into his territory ... my daughter thought it was a woman.

Dave: She was on the end of the bed and somebody was doing her hair.

Jane: I got up to the bathroom ... and I saw ... a shadow of white lightness ... when we first moved in we felt them quite a bit more. It was more like, they were just checking us out really, to see what sort of people we are.

*Where will the ghosts go to when the house is demolished?:*

Jane and Dave's daughter who was staying there when Dave and Jane were away said: 'You have to tell them to go. Tell them we're really sorry, but unfortunately.'

Jane: 'It's really weird that front room.'

## APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

'The moon landing was happening during school time and although Marcellin College said they would put up a few TVs I thought it would be pretty lame so I pretended to be sick and stayed home to watch it there. Our 90 year old maiden aunt Ethel Sherrick was staying with us (we'd taken her in when she became frail) and we watched it together. Now remember Ethel was born in 1879! She sat close-up to the screen hardly speaking and when it was all over got up, grabbed her stick and ambled off saying: 'Well who would have thought I would live to see that.' The extraordinary things that had happened in her lifetime.'



AINSWORTH  
BUILDING

Good Friends and Neighbors

That is one thing money can't buy  
You can hold your head up high

If you've got no money and your house  
may be tumbling down

Good Friends and Neighbors your the richest  
man in town

Love from Ada & Bill  
June 1996

# A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

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# COMMUNITY ACTION

Residents living in the Eurimbla Precinct area of Randwick have always needed to be vigilant and active in improving areas close to their homes. Community action in earlier times began with the Randwick West Ward Progress Association. One of their concerns was the nearby Randwick Tip.

## RANDWICK TIP

The Randwick district was fortunate to have several areas that contained sandstone suitable for building. By the mid-1850s several quarries had been opened, and one of these was in the vicinity of the present day junction of High Street and Wansey Road, close to the Eurimbla Precinct area<sup>1</sup>.



The location of the High Street quarry within Randwick Park (green), Eurimbla Precinct (blue), and Blenheim House (red).

Source: Parish map of Alexandria, May 1900, SANSW, AO 24497. Online at LRS

As the roads to the district improved over the years, the builders were able to bring in bricks for their house-building, and gradually the quarries were worked out or closed. The High Street quarry however, began to be used for a different purpose, one that would cause a great deal of discomfort and concern for the nearby residents, including those of the Eurimbla Precinct. The High Street quarry and the adjacent reserve became Randwick's local rubbish dump!

By the 1880s, Randwick Council was spending what it could afford on paying for carters to collect waste items from households, but the constant demands by the ratepayers for better roads took precedence. Nor did the state of the roads make the carters' work easy. In any case they simply relocated the contents of their carts to the open rubbish dump, which did nothing to alleviate the problem<sup>2</sup>. Protests commenced in ever increasing numbers. From the 1890s, letters to the local and then national newspapers described the situation in graphic terms.

As well as the ill-effects on the local inhabitants, the amount of wind-blown rubbish descending on the nearby Randwick Racecourse caused disbelief to interstate visitors. Melbourne's 'Sportsman' newspaper commented in September 1895:

'Racing at Randwick; Tuesday opened beautifully fine, but before the work [racing] was quite completed a terrific dust storm arose and blew things about in a most startling manner. The filth and rubbish that lie in the vicinity of the racecourse are a disgrace to the council, who should consider the poor horses, even if they do neglect mankind<sup>3</sup>.'

At a meeting of the Sydney City Council in October 1897, Alderman Henry Chapman referred to the immense amount of rubbish he had encountered when out walking on the Randwick Road (now the western end of Alison Road, beside Randwick Racecourse). 'The loose paper caught on the fences presented the appearance of clothes lines. The rubbish was blown from the rubbish tip.' He said also that 'it was evidence of the necessity for the immediate acquirement of a rubbish destructor by the council.' This sensible suggestion would not be fulfilled for 35 years!<sup>4</sup>

### TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—I think attention should be drawn to the ridiculous way in which the disposal of the rubbish of the city is conducted. The rubbish is collected, and when being carted to the tips at Randwick is covered over to prevent the wind blowing it off the carts into the streets. This is as it should be; but on arrival at its destination there is no protection to its being blown about the district near where it is deposited, carrying filth and disease in its train. A quantity of paper is always flying about the roads, frequently causing horses to take fright, to say nothing of the unsightliness of it. Surely some means could be found to prevent this disgusting state of things.

I am, &c.,  
M. PHILLIPS.  
December 10.

One of many letters published in the newspapers from the 1890s complaining about the Randwick rubbish tip.  
Source: SMH, 15 December 1898, p 3

In 1901 at the height of the Sydney epidemics of plague and typhoid, after visiting over 100 houses, the Randwick Health Inspector did point out that 'proper receptacles for household refuse' were required, and recommended that 'a substitute for the uncovered wooden boxes with a properly closed in metal concern' should be considered<sup>5</sup>.

By the mid-1920s the state of the Randwick rubbish tip was making its presence felt in a very unsociable manner, with the nearby residents to the north and east bearing the brunt.

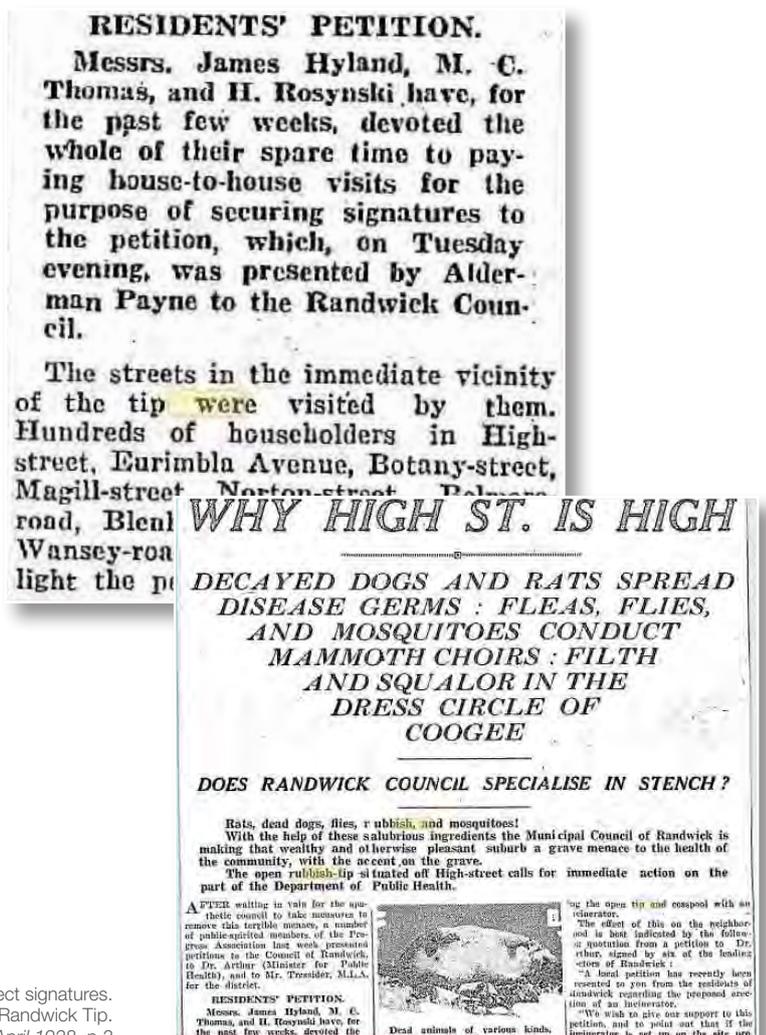
# RANDWICK WEST WARD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AND THE EURIMBLA PRECINCT ORGANISERS

More than twenty years rolled by. Randwick Mayors and Councils came and went, but unbelievably Randwick's quarry tip remained *in situ*. The 'Health Week' held in 1925 came in for some acid comments from local residents and newspapers alike. 'Parks for People is not the slogan for the Randwick Aldermen, as may be demonstrated by a visit to Randwick Park', wrote the Health Editor of the Evening News on 26 November 1925, 'The site was dedicated to the people thirty years ago. Today all the rubbish of Randwick is dumped there... all within 100 yards of people's homes. The state of affairs carried out by the municipal authorities makes the covering of garbage tins and other advice so freely given to us during 'Health Week' a complete farce<sup>6</sup>.'

Finally, it was up to the citizens of the local area to take united action. A Randwick West Ward Progress Association was in place by 1925. The next year, the Council agreed to provide an incinerator to replace the tip. Delight later turned to dismay when the proposed site was finally announced in January 1928 - it was to be built in Randwick Park ... After succeeding in overturning that brilliant idea, it was back to square one for the beleaguered local residents<sup>7</sup>.

By 1928, the Randwick West Progress Association had over 800 members. The former Randwick Park at the south-west corner of High and Botany Streets, had assumed such a toxic state as a Council rubbish tip that it was attracting national media attention! The Randwick West Ward Progress Association began a media campaign and organised petitions. Led by Eurimbla Avenue organisers James Hyland [E19], Michael C Thomas [E23] and Arthur Rozynski [E34] hundreds of local names were collected for a petition which was presented to the NSW Minister for Public Health, the local MLA and the Randwick Council. This was duly reported in the newspapers, including a lengthy article in the Sydney Sunday Times, complete with lurid accounts of the state of the tip, weeping mothers' fears for their children's health, and the negative effect on local house values in such an otherwise prestigious suburb<sup>8</sup>. The caption to a photo of the tip reads 'All the filthy refuse of the district is dumped on this rubbish tip at Randwick. It is an evil smelling disease-breeding eyesore that should be immediately obliterated.'

Publicity like this for the local Progress Association and the numerous letters, petitions and meetings with NSW Government Ministers, finally began to have an effect, although not exactly overnight!



Top: Eurimbla Precinct residents collect signatures.  
Bottom: The headlines of a lengthy article concerning the Randwick Tip.  
Source: Sydney Sunday Times, 29 April 1928, p.3



Open Day at Randwick incinerator, Matraville South. February 1932. Demolished late 1960s  
*Image courtesy of Randwick City Council Photo Library*

## RANDWICK'S FIRST INCINERATOR, FEBRUARY 1932

Regardless of all the efforts of the Randwick West Progress Association, it took another three years before a new Incinerator (designed by Walter Burley Griffin, of Canberra fame) was built among the sand hills near Matraville. It was officially opened by the Mayor of Randwick, Alderman A H Moverley, on 3 February 1932. Dignitaries, aldermen and other official persons from as far afield as Newcastle were in attendance to enjoy a hearty lunch and an afternoon of speeches. Whether any members of the Randwick West Ward Progress Association were invited is not recorded<sup>9</sup>. By 1939, Randwick Council was tendering for repairs to the Incinerator's buildings, and by the 1950s it was disused and derelict becoming a dangerous playground for the local children until it was demolished in the late 1960s<sup>10</sup>.

## FINAL DECADES OF RANDWICK PARK

For almost the next three decades from 1931, the local residents of the Eurimbla Precinct and other citizens were at last able to enjoy the use of Randwick Park as a large area of open (and cleaner) recreation space. This all came to an end in 1960, for by November 1959 both Randwick Park and the former Kensington racecourse to the west had been resumed for the expanding campus of the University of NSW<sup>11</sup>.

Community action, however, continued to be a part of life in the Eurimbla Precinct. The Randwick Environmental Group and the Randwick Council Precinct group formed in later years provided a means whereby Precinct residents could address issues affecting them and their surrounding community. Issues included pollution from the POW Hospital incinerator, environmental issues, adequate bus shelters, the close proximity of the RHW and Sydney Children's Hospital redevelopment (1994-1995) to the Precinct, as well as issues relating to the Ladies Baths at Coogee, a place popular with some residents from the Eurimbla Precinct.



Aerial view of Randwick Park,  
Eurimbla Precinct and the  
surrounding area in 1943.  
Image courtesy of NSW  
Government Spatial Services,  
SIX maps

Behind 47 Eurimbla Avenue where the Hospital is, there were 'the old post WW1 huts ... That was where they used to burn dirty surgical linen/waste. There was an incinerator ... Rita and an Action Group managed to get [the incinerator] shut down and eventually demolished. The hospital also had their boiler house for steam and hot water. It was over near where Black Dog [Institute] is ... the oxygen system used to be right behind our garage ... but then they moved it down to where Black Dog is ... the hospital expanded and did things without any consultation ... and it's still happening.' [E47]

Rita, a previous owner of 47 Eurimbla Avenue, recalls 'The only problem with the house, was that it was directly under the fallout zone from the POW Hospital incinerator. They would burn the bandages and other things that I would rather not remember.'

The incinerator 'used to spew absolute foul stuff and we never knew exactly what it was. And eventually I was told at the very end that they were actually burning radioactive bandages and stuff that they were using when they gave therapies for things. And that used to fall in our backyard because we were right next to it.'

'I was constantly on the phone to the Hospital saying 'Please don't burn, I have a baby' (that was Joel) in a cot ... sitting in the backyard and he's coming in covered in ash.'



The POW Hospital incinerator behind the garden of 47 Eurimbla Avenue  
Image courtesy of Rita Katz

## RANDWICK ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

'There was a fellow by the name of George Paxinos, George and Eli, lived on Norton Street. George [in the '70s] wanted the light rail ... He used to ride his bicycle, and the Council used to put the gratings like this and his bicycle used to get stuck in the gratings. So he would turn the gratings and put them crossways and then the Randwick Council would come and turn them back again. He was really angry about this ... He came over and said 'Maybe we should start a [Randwick Environmental Group](#), so we started the Randwick Environmental

Group. It was George Paxinos, us and Fred Orr and Rachel, and there was somebody across the road and his family owned the chicken farm; they owned a major chicken grower ... the four of us. And we went to the hospital and complained about the incinerator finally, as a group, as the Randwick Environmental Group. They had no idea there were only four of us. Eventually they closed that incinerator and they moved it.' [E47]

## RANDWICK COUNCIL PRECINCT GROUP

'Tony [Spurgeon E18] and Bernie's aunt Shelagh, Shelagh McCarthy [E38], we used to go to Randwick Council Precinct meetings together. We joined the local Precinct and so I'd walk up and pick up Shelagh and Tony and we'd go off to the meeting at the Randwick Labor Club. So we'd go to that and discuss all the things around the local area. We had some fairly hairy times with people and issues – interesting. But one thing I remember was Tony agitating to get shelters over the bus stops around Prince of Wales Hospital. That's what he fought for and it was achieved. He was the main instigator and had our support.' [E47]

## RHW AND SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT 1994-1995

'When it came to the Hospital redevelopment 25 years ago, we had action then, and ourselves and the Brown's in 43 and the McCarthy's in 39, we were the core group to lobby Randwick Council to get the design changed of the proposed Hospital ... it was way too close ... we looked into everything ... [describes the action taken] ... the Mayor was very good, Chris Bastik, who appointed a Town Planner to look at the plans on our behalf, very good. The Town Planner was good and everything she recommended got through. It was a good process.' [E47]

## McIVER'S LADIES BATHS, COOGEE

'Shelagh [McCarthy] was also very involved with the Ladies Baths in Coogee. There were constantly threats of them not being Ladies Baths. She was on the Committee and was very active in protecting them. Then we'd get involved with that ... we'd be writing letters or whatever. So there was the Residents' Action Group, there was the Precinct Group.' [E47]

Through these various community action groups, the Eurimbla Precinct residents came together to act on behalf of the wider community and its welfare, to address environmental issues, transport and other related issues.

# BELONGING AND CONNECTION

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From so many perspectives, whether young children growing up in the area, or adults raising children, or recent arrivals, the sense of community in the Precinct, including Eurimbla Avenue, Magill and Botany Streets, ran deep. Friendly, generous, welcoming were attributes mentioned frequently in interviews. Neighbours had frequent get-togethers, celebrated special occasions and helped each other out.

'The street community around here is the very best you can find. The people care about each other here in Eurimbla Avenue. If you went down that way ... and cut down the laneway you always had someone to talk to, to stop for, to talk to you which was really lovely.' Eileen [E7]. Graham [E34] added 'a community of lovely people. We don't live out of each other's pockets but everyone looks after each other.'

Doreen[E33] and Marion[E31] commented 'The Avenue was a perfect street for all our children to grow up in, mixing with the rest of the families. When all the kids were little, it was lovely. They were all friends.'

Kim and Lauren [E31] were 'Eurimbla Avenue children'. 'We had an idyllic childhood, of course as a result of our parents loving care but also as a result of the endearing community of Eurimbla residents. I hold such warm memories from our time in Eurimbla.' Kim [E31]

'I can't tell you how unique of a setting it was that we children were surrounded and valued by not only our own families but our Eurimbla extended family too! My Eurimbla Enclave! I never had a moment of self-doubt about being welcome in anyone's home, wherever and whenever I felt the urge to visit child or adult alike, I'd be greeted with 'Hey Poppy, come on in!' When I think about it now, it was like a community in a street. Most knew everyone on first name basis, a very open house type place. Neighbours were firm friends. When someone moved out, the new people moving in just seem to fit right in.' Lauren [E31]

Shelley[E58], Maria[E45] and Eileen[E7] described the attributes of Eurimbla Avenue and the generosity of neighbours 'It was a really happy wonderful place to live. We had fabulous neighbours, my kids grew up playing on the street, playing with all the other children, because it's a cul-de-sac and it's safe ... it was great.' Maria [E45]

'We had the world's best neighbours, absolutely blessed by neighbours. Children were a big thing. Everybody had their own lives but it was a very generous street in nature. It was a generous street. People were generous with their time, with just who they were.' Shelley [E58]

Many people interviewed made special mention of the warm welcome they received after moving in.

Dinah and Wendy recall their welcome by the community 'By Day 1, Eileen actually brought champagne and left the champagne and a card at the front door ... Sam came down (we didn't know any of these people) and said 'Hi I'm Sam, and I'm the local handy person if you need anything, come and knock on my door. Oh, don't knock, the door's always open. Just come in.' So that was pretty amazing. And then there was a game of cricket out the front, and they said 'Come and play if you want to' ... it was really nice!'

Graham [E34] 'as you walk down the street people would say hello to you ... especially over the road, Dennis and Francis. They were very nice and would put the local Courier in front of there, let us know when the rubbish bin collection was, and then, I've done that for other people. It grew over time really ... respecting privacy but also being in touch to help you ... happens over time really.'

Eileen said that when help was needed there was always someone to call on. 'Always had good neighbours and there to help out. We used to have a party at the end of the street at Christmas time and there was always someone in the Avenue to fix a tap or whatever in those days, even to cut and trim your trees in the yard etc. If your neighbour made a cake you would get a slice. It used to be really good. They'd make a cake and come and give it to you or if you were sick ... would come before work and bring me a little breakfast and come back at lunch ... the little girl lived next door there and they were a beautiful family and the little girl ... She'd come in here ... dance for me ... and then she would come out and weed the front and even Dad in his 90s used to be out there weeding the front.'

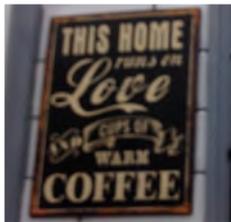
'Bruce [E22] used to come and sit with him [Eileen's Dad in his 90s] in the morning because we were working to pay off this house and I used to get Bruce to come here and sit with Dad 'til I got home ... So, Dad had his own clippers in the country and he used to get someone to cut his hair which he brought here so I said to Bruce to trim Dad's hair, so Dad gives him \$1, so I said 'Dad that's not enough' and my father says 'why? he's using my clippers isn't he?' Eileen [E7]

Eileen recalled how in the old days, the neighbours looked after one another, when her father sat out on the front porch all day. Old Mr G would tease him on his way to church. 'I'll say a prayer for you Murphy,' Mr G would say. Eileen's father, not a religious man, would shoot back: 'You save your prayer for yourself, don't bother saying one for me.' It was one of the last happy times in the street.'

Another resident recalls: 'We rented from Charlie Sarkis who owned 42 and 44 Eurimbla. Straight away he was Uncle Charlie and his wife my Aunty Asma.' I was 8 when we moved there and my older sister married the next year. Uncle Charlie drove my sister to the church in his black Holden which he used to clean religiously every Sunday morning, followed by mowing, it seemed, everybody's front lawn. [E42]

Sam [E42] 'Dad (Charlie Sarkis) was very handy. He had every tool under the sun and he liked to help people. John [E33] 'I remember he used to help in Mr Carroll's.' Sam [E42] 'if you needed help with something, there'd be two or three people who'd give you a hand. It was that sort of a community. Like it is now, we don't live in each other's pocket but if you need help, you can ask and you'll know you will get it. So this acquisition has really brought that out. People have been supportive of each other and caring about each other even more, which I enjoy a great deal. So that's how they contributed, through food and through maintenance.'

## SAM'S SANCTUARY



'My home was always referred to as [Sam's Sanctuary](#), that is, a safe place for friends or family to come and stay - my door is always 'open', everyone knows where the spare key is. My home has always been open to all. My home was a safe and warm place where people

who had family or friends in hospital could retreat to, stay and get support. This blessing will now be lost.' Sam [E42]

Sam 'My thing was that 'I'm at number 42, my door is always open. My mum taught people so many things, raising children, great feeding, cooking, how to cook, clean, mending; all skills she had acquired in her upbringing. My Mum had over 200 God children! It was a great era ... the freedom.'

'When my parents [Charlie and Asma Sarkis] arrived and moved into Eurimbla Avenue, they couldn't speak English that well and people like Mrs G and the neighbour next-door, the Doyles, were really supportive.' Sam [E42]

'I helped them by running errands, driving them to places, share a cup of tea with them. I love helping people especially the elderly. I treated them like family and they treated me as a son. Best street in the world to live in. All to be lost soon.' Sam [E42]

Doreen said 'When Mrs Sarkis moved in, she couldn't speak a word of English, and next door was Connie Doyle, and she was wonderful, wasn't she Sam? She helped Sam's mother to learn English. She was great!'

## ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS

'My backyard met up with the yard of 77 Botany Street and my friend Denise, we became best of friends and our families did also. We used to jump over the fence to each

other's house when we couldn't be bothered walking through the lane between Botany and Eurimbla.' [E42]

Rita [E47] 'The centre of the Eurimbla social scene was the Payne house at E37. Judy and Peter had 4 children, Debbie, Wendy and Jennifer [the twins] and Peter John. Our daughter quickly became friends with the twins and we became part of the Eurimbla Avenue get-togethers (although we were Jewish).'

The area became more ethnically diverse over the years, but there was also an interesting mix of ages, family groups and employment backgrounds.

Hercules [E10] 'Mum and Dad were one of the first, if not the first, as part of the Greek community ... probably half a dozen Greeks in the street.'

Being in the Greek community, Hercules comments: 'We were [all] part of the same community ... the Greeks happen to interact a little more but our neighbours were our neighbours. There was an ethnic mix in the street.'

'What we liked when we first moved in was that there was a mix of ethnicities but also ages. Anglo, Lebanese, Russian guy, Greek, Italian. Magill Street is strongly Greek; every Easter there'd be the outdoor ovens, Easter treat cookies, very friendly, Mary and Theo.' Jenny and Peter [E47]

Maria[E45] comments on the street community '[it was] a mixed group, mixed group from different backgrounds, like ... working people to academics. Like an interesting mix of people. Probably the way all streets should be. We've got probably all the same drives, desires and ambitions and problems. There was a core group down this end and we'd see the older people like Eileen, George and Andy, Dennis, Sam, Sam's father. Sam's father was a great guy ... He virtually had an orchard in his backyard and the front. He was very happy for anyone to go and pick their parsley there. He was a lovely guy.'

'The street was very friendly. It was the Catholic community over there. We were Lebanese, down the road was Henry and his family was Polish, up the road was Greek, more Orthodox style.' Sam [E42]

'There were a lot of Greek people in the street at the time, and the rest were Catholic except one lady who was a Protestant ... and Sunday morning [laughs] ... [there was a migration to Church] yes [laughs] and there are still a lot of Catholics in the street.' Jenny[E18]

Rita describes her experience as a Jewish person in the largely Catholic street: 'it was very much a Catholic street and the side we lived on were the bigger houses, across were more terraces, and it seemed that the people in the bigger houses had a little social life going. We're Jewish so we lived [laughs] in exile in the very last house in the street and strangely enough another person moved in next to us and they were also Jewish, so there were the two houses at the end of the street that were Jewish.'

'One time specifically for me, [they] had a street mass ... the priest came, wearing a black T-shirt, and he put on all his gear, his priestly vestments, for my benefit ... because I was the Jewish person who didn't know anything about the Catholics. So he put on his robes and his scarf and things, it was an education thing. He put on all those things underneath, all those vestments things ... it was deliberately for me because we were the outsiders and they were showing us. Then they had a street mass a few times ... probably mid '70s.' Rita [E47]

Hercules [E10] comments on the differing socio-economic backgrounds of the 1960s compared to today: 'I would say the street in the 60's was the home predominately for blue collar workers such as my parents. By the time I left the street in 1987 it began to change where the newcomers were leaning towards being white collar workers, that is, professionals.'

## A SURPRISE COMMUNITY BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR EILEEN'S 88TH

Eileen [E7] 'I must say that people in the street have been absolutely wonderful to me, absolutely wonderful when I had my 88th birthday. I thought it was a street meeting about losing our home, you know what I mean. and I wasn't going to go to that one. So they said 'You've got to go because you never know what's going to happen!' So anyway, I went and was waiting for the meeting and there was a surprise party for me in the street over here which was really lovely, yes, and I said it's the first time in my life I've been lost for words!'

## COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING FOR THE EURIMBLA PRECINCT HISTORY ASSOCIATION

In 2018 residents and others in the local community united to establish the Eurimbla Precinct History Association to gather a collection of records on the history of the streets in the Precinct. Initially there were no funds, so to raise funds for this project Graham Walsh-Green [E34] initiated a Eurimbla Precinct community fundraising/garage sale and BBQ with all proceeds to go towards the project. Instead of putting the house contents in council clean-ups or donating to charities, the community donated many of their belongings to fund raise for the Eurimbla Project. Sam and Heather and other residents co-ordinated the collection of many pieces of donated furniture, toys, clothes and bric-a-brac.

For the community fundraising/garage sales, Sam would set up his BBQ outside 64 Eurimbla. Residents contributed sausages, sausage rolls, cakes, biscuits and drinks.

Eileen Collins [E7], Mary Gillies [B93], Maria Frangakis [E8] at Eileen's surprise birthday party, 8 October 2018





Right: Sam (E42) in charge of the sausage sizzle at a Precinct fundraising sale  
Below: Residents and visitors at the Precinct fundraising sale,  
Eurimbla Avenue, February 2018



**So after more than 100 years of people living in Eurimbla Precinct came the final gathering of residents and friends.**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**



**Farewell photo, September 2018**

Back, L to R: Kristian Kauter; Rosalie Robinson; Jenny Blennerhassett; Bernadette Griffin; Nigel Wooden; Margaret Scott; Mary Gillies; Dinah Cohen; Sam Sarkis, Heather Buxton; Frances Lawrence; Lisa Watson; Peter Blennerhassett; Wendy Gillett; Brendan Harrison; Amy and Lisa Vun; Dimitrios and Diane Hatzitoulous; Front: Zara Kauter; Olivia Wooden; Eileen Collins; Sarah-Nan Booth and 3 Hatzitoulous children

**FOLLOWED BY A REUNION AT NEARBY KENSINGTON IN NOVEMBER 2019**

‘They have taken our homes, but they can never have our memories.’ Peter [E39]

‘I was at UNSW yesterday and took the opportunity to wander along Eurimbla Avenue. I was deeply saddened to see all those lovely, once-lively homes now silenced behind cyclone fencing. I feel for the people who have been forcibly separated from their homes. Eurimbla Avenue has become a very meaningful touchstone for me: it was only in the last few years that I discovered that Pop [grandfather] had lived there.’ Carmel Finnegan granddaughter of John Pender Finnegan [E7]

‘It’s kind of sad to hear my childhood street is about to disappear because so many memories are tied up there.’ Danny [E47]

‘This [acquisition] has brought us all together again.’ [E27]

‘It’s hard to say goodbye to Eurimbla. Our home has many special memories which we will cherish forever.’ Mia [E21]

**Reunion photo, November 2019**

Back row L-R: Philippa Veitch, Dennis Lawrence, Graham Walsh-Green, Peter Blennerhassett, Adam, Dimitrios Hatzitoulous. 3rd row L-R Trudy Miller, Margaret Scott, Jenny Spurgeon, Bernadette Griffin, Jenny Blennerhassett, Sarah Nan Booth. 2nd row seated L-R: Frances Lawrence, Eileen Collins, Georgina Walsh-Green, Graham Booth (with Maggie) Front row L-R: Dinah Cohen, Heather Buxton, Sam Sarkis





MonRis

DOWN  
MEMORY LANE

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## EURIMBLA PRECINCT

These are our stories  
Histories captured in time  
Memories worth sharing

Haiku verse, Graham Walsh-Green

Many residents, both recent residents as well as those who were not living in the Eurimbla Precinct at the time of acquisition, were contacted to request contributions for this book. Both oral and/or written details of their memories, as well as photographs, were kindly provided by many. In some cases extended family members were involved in assisting with a 'delve into the past'. For some families, their association with the Eurimbla Precinct extended over multiple generations and so their memories of life there are included here too. Some residents spoke about people who had lived in the Eurimbla Precinct but are now deceased.

Sections of some contributions here have been used in the earlier text within this book. The authors have decided where possible to leave the following memory contributions in their original form despite some duplication within earlier sections of the book.

As the acquisition of the Eurimbla Precinct became more widely known, some in the general community with past family associations there contributed. One such person was Carmel Finegan, granddaughter of John Pender Finegan who lived at 7 Eurimbla Avenue in the early twentieth century.

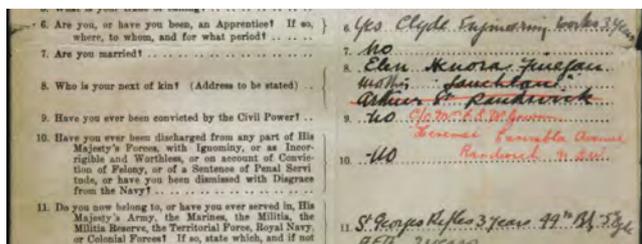
## JOHN PENDER FINEGAN



Left: John Pender Finegan. Right: John Pender Finegan in WW1 uniform.  
Images courtesy of Carmel Finegan

John Pender Finegan enlisted for WW1 in 1915. His enlistment address was 'Heremai', Eurimbla Avenue, originally number 5. In 1924 this house became 7 Eurimbla Avenue. His granddaughter, Carmel Finegan writes 'My grandfather, John Pender Finegan, passed away in 1960 (in Redfern), when I was only 4 years old. So unfortunately, I barely knew him, and became unintentionally detached from the history of the paternal side of the family, when my parents separated later in my childhood ...Pop Finegan served in WW1, leaving from 'Heremai' (he was formerly of 'Lachlan', Arthur Street). He was quite the 'war hero', being presented with a high honour medal for bravery by the President of France. He was awarded other medals, as well.'

'He served during the unimaginable horrors of trench warfare on the western front of France, and lived very quietly following his return to civilian life. I know so little, but imagine so much of his life. Eurimbla Avenue has become a very meaningful touchstone for me: it was only in the last few years that I discovered that Pop had lived there - on the street that I know so well (having been a regular visitor to UNSW for the last 20 years!) I am - as you no doubt are - devastated by the news of the 'involuntary acquisition'<sup>2</sup>.



Details from John Pender Finegan's 1915 enlistment papers.  
Image courtesy of NAA, Canberra



John Pender Finegan post WW2  
Image courtesy of Carmel Finegan



John Pender Finegan's WW1 medals, including the French bronze 'Médaille d'Honneur avec Glaives' (Medal of Honour with Swords).  
Image courtesy of Carmel Finegan

## MONTAGUE 'MONTY' ARCHIBALD WEDD



Monty Wedd

Image courtesy of Wedd-Watt Family tree, Ancestry.com

Monty with his parents Archibald and Minnie, lived at 58 Eurimbla Avenue from 1922 to at least 1937, covering Monty's childhood years from age one to sixteen years. Monty's elder brother Douglas was 7 years older.

Monty was a talented illustrator who introduced newspaper readers to Captain Justice, The Scorpion, a cartoon series starring bushrangers Ned Kelly and Ben Hall and the historical cartoon strip The Birth of a Nation. His work appeared in a range of Australian newspapers, including the Sydney Daily Mirror, Sunday Telegraph, The Sunday Territorian, Sunday Mail and the Newcastle Herald. Amongst his books, comic books and strips was a biography of Ben Hall the Australian bushranger. *Bold Ben Hall: an authentic biography*, an Australian newspaper adventure strip detailing the bushranger Ben Hall's life, narrated and illustrated by Monty. Monty and his wife established an Australian military museum, the Monarch Historical Museum next to the air force base at Williamstown. He also wrote a book on Australian military uniforms, 1800-1982.

In the lead-up to the change to decimal currency in Australia in 1966, Monty created the Dollar Bill character as part of the government campaign. Dollar Bill proved to be a very popular and helpful character, appealing to young and old alike with clear explanations of the new currency.

In 1993, Monty Wedd was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his services as author, illustrator and historian. In 2004, he was honoured with a lifetime achievement award by the Australian Cartoonists Association. He died at Williamstown in 2012, aged 90<sup>3</sup>.

# BETTY DENICE LANE HOLLAND, nee COATES



Betty Denice Lane Holland  
Image Courtesy of Australian Turf Club

## THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE GRANTED A NUMBER 1 HORSE TRAINER'S LICENSE IN NSW

Soon after she was born, Betty Lane Holland's family moved to Eurimbla Avenue. Her parents Keith and Irene Coates bought number 43 in 1927, the year the house was built. Betty's maternal grandparents, James and Alice Mutton, lived not far away in William Street, Randwick and were both deeply involved with the racing industry. James as a horse trainer. Their Eurimbla house remained as the family home for over four decades until the deaths of Keith and Irene in the early 1970s, after which Betty and her brother Errol inherited it. Betty had moved from Eurimbla Avenue after her marriage in 1946, but continued to visit and also lived there again briefly in the late 1970s.

Betty remembers her childhood days in Eurimbla Avenue:

'My parents, Irene and Keith Vyner Coates bought 43 Eurimbla Avenue, Randwick when the street was first developed. They chose this to be the family home as being a dead-end street it would be safe for my brother Errol, born 6 October 1922 and me, Betty Denice born 24 January 1926, to play safely in the street. In those days there were very few vehicles.

Meat was bought from Mr Gibson, butcher at 1 Eurimbla Avenue, and groceries from the grocery shop at 3 Eurimbla Avenue. Large hessian sacks of sugar, flour sat on the floor behind the counter.

There was a laneway at the bottom of the street, which led through to Botany Street and across to the other side was a sand hill with swings, which we used to play on. For Empire Night the local boys would build a bonfire on these sandhills and have fireworks<sup>4</sup>.

Our hot water service was to boil the kettle. We had a gas heater for the bath (and shower which was over the bath). The house had been built as a 2 bedroom. My father had the back verandah, which was quite a good roomed size and already fully enclosed with sliding glass windows, walled off to become a bedroom for my brother.

My brother and I each had a horse but they were kept at my grandfather's home in William Street, Randwick. Later, I had married and was living in Balgowlah. As my grandfather had died, we built a stable and yard at 43 Eurimbla and I kept a horse there for about two years. He was a grey named Gillette. Our backyard had a garage at

the end of the driveway and behind this we built a stable and fenced off the width of the backyard as a yard for the horse.

From memory he was there for about two years in the late 1950's. I was not living there but my parents looked after him for me and I came each day to ride him. Sometimes I took him to Centennial Park, sometimes to the Inglis' bullring. There was no problem riding on the roads, motorists respected horses.'

Betty describes her neighbours:

'The first Eurimbla Avenue resident I remember with a motor car was Mrs Ellis of 39 Eurimbla Avenue. She only had it a short time, had an accident on a Christmas Eve and was killed. I think I was about 12 years old (I am not sure). Her husband was a commercial traveller and they had a son Haigh, and a daughter Jill.

The Allan family lived in 45 Eurimbla Avenue. He worked for ETA Peanut Butter, had a motor car and two sons. A Mary Ireland lived nearer the top of the street on the eastern side; Mr Thomas, a policeman, lived about halfway up. As did the Gumbley family who had a butcher shop in Avoca Street, Randwick. Directly opposite our home was horse trainer Vic Gabriel. Some doors up were the Alexander family. About halfway up on that side was the Edgar family. Up towards the top of the street, the King family.

'There was another person of note, Monty Wedd, who lived nearly opposite me [at number 58] on the western side of Eurimbla who for many years drew and wrote a comic style strip in the newspapers on historical military themes.'

Betty also recalls a Mr Abrahams across the road who was a horse trainer and Betty reckons that every second house had SP bookies living in them!

'My brother Errol Coates served in the army in New Guinea in World War 2 and on return became an interior decorator, and later was Head of the Interior Decorating Department of what was then Sydney Technical College at Ultimo.'



Betty Lane Holland on her pony Ickle  
*Image courtesy of Betty Lane Holland*

## THE SARKIS FAMILY



Khalil (Charlie) and Asma Sarkis  
*Image courtesy of Sam Sarkis*

'My name is Sam Sarkis. My family has an over 60 year connection to Eurimbla Avenue and Randwick. My father, Mr Khalil (Charlie) Sarkis came to Australia from Lebanon around 1952. He left behind in a small country town (Bterram) his wife (Asma) and his newborn son (Mechel - French for Michael) of only a few days in age.

Khalil (Charlie) lived in Waterloo for two years until in 1954 he was able to bring his wife and son to Australia. In 1956, Charlie and Asma and their two sons, Mechal (Michael) and Saleem (Sam) moved to Eurimbla Avenue when Charlie was able to buy the two semis, 42 and 44.



Asma Sarkis and son, Sam, in front of E44, c1960  
*Image courtesy of Sam Sarkis*

Sam describes his father's time in Eurimbla Avenue.

He built a life for his family in Eurimbla Avenue. He repaired, renovated, did extensions, built sheds and generally turned number 44 into The Family Home where countless celebrations, coffees, meals and memories were made.

My father was uneducated, not attending school - he truanted, and could not read or write his own language, but he was clever and resourceful, always able to achieve

his wants and needs when others couldn't. He began working at Resch's Waverley Brewery in Waterloo upon arrival and remained there until it closed and that's when he retired.

For the first two years of working in Australia, my father sent money back to my mother until they had enough money to bring my mother and brother out. I was born about nine months after their arrival. My father lived at Waterloo in a small room with 3-4 other men, at the home of a relative who assisted the family by renting out a bed not a room. My parents lived in that room for about two years until they saved enough to buy a home. With the support of a growing Lebanese community, my parents, both speaking very little English, were able to buy number 42 and number 44 Eurimbla Avenue. They didn't want two properties, but they were both on one Title Deed and so my mum told my dad that it was good because that it meant that each son would have a home and that they could rent one to help pay the mortgage. It was affordable because my father told how this was the outskirts of town and that there were only a few houses and most of the area was sand hills. My mother told why they rented number 42 and lived in number 44. She told me that number 42 was in better condition i.e. liveable. She told how she sat in the middle of the lounge room of number 44 on a timber fruit box and looked up at the stars. I was confused, asked 'What do mean - looking at the stars?' She spoke with tears in her eyes of how there was a hole a metre wide in the ceiling and roof - she could see the stars. A dilapidated dwelling at the edge of society - that's why they could afford it.

My father worked hard, savagely saved every 'penny', fixed everything, wasted nothing, did everything himself and provided for us. He halved the rental property back yard and made his yard 50% bigger - he could grow more food. He grew his own vegetables especially the Lebanese ones like garlic, parsley, egg plant, marrows and many more regular vegetables like tomato, cucumber, radishes, corn, olives, grapes and many, many more. He utilised every square inch of soil including the footpath verge where olive trees grew and numerous vegetables flourished. He saved money and provided food for the table.

He rode an old pushbike the 5K to the brewery. In the 1960s he had saved enough money and with the

assistance of a neighbour he purchased a brand new Holden EJ sedan. My father never believed in borrowing money, you had to save it up and buy it outright and that's what he did. He was a proud man and he built a life for his family in Eurimbla Avenue. On his death bed he asked that the Family Home stay in the family. After his death my brother immediately sold to the University of NSW because, as he stated 'I was going to rent it and I jokingly said to the real estate agent that if you get me \$1.35m I will sell' - it was worth around \$1.1m - \$1.15m - \$1.35m - no problem. The University of NSW were very keen to buy and had a history of buying every place that came up for sale and paying \$100,000 - \$200,000 more than market value and adding legal and moving costs and so he sold.

I was determined never to sell and to keep this property number 42 as a family base for any and all of my family - now that's not going to happen. I am glad they are both deceased and will never know the pain that this

forced acquisition has created to Eurimbla Avenue and adjacent streets.

I was about two years of age when my parents moved to Eurimbla Avenue. I moved out when I was about 19 years old and lived in a few places until I married at 25 years of age and moved into my marital home in Maroubra. I separated from my wife about 20 years later and, suicidally depressed, I returned to my family home to recover my loss. My parents evicted the tenants of number 42 and I moved in.

Over the past 20 plus years I created a family home out of a run-down rental property. Most recently I have just completed two years of total renovations. Everything from floor to ceiling, front to back, top to bottom, new bathroom and kitchen. I created a family home for myself and my new life partner, Heather. My home was always referred to as [Sam's Sanctuary](#) i.e. a safe place for friends or family to come and stay - my door is always 'open',

Sam's mother, Asma (left), with members of extended family E42, 1960s  
*Image courtesy of Sam Sarkis*



everyone knows where the spare key is. My home has always been open to all. My home was a safe and warm place when people who had family or friends in hospital could retreat to, stay and get support. This blessing will now be lost. I have spent the last 20 plus years developing my gardens. My father never could appreciate my gardens because if you couldn't eat it, it wasn't worth growing. I love flowers, as did my mother, who only had a few in the gardens - that's all she was allowed. I still have two of the allowed four plants with me. I created a rain forest garden experience with a huge 80-year-old Kentia palm that I have owned for 45 years. Palms, large tree ferns, huge staghorns and elk ferns, a 3-metre koi pond and eight other ponds scattered around the yard and property, a paradise in the city. My goal to see out my life here with my partner in this paradise that I had created has been forcibly taken from me.

My home that meets every need we had is to be forcibly taken from me. The security of having the hospital so close as I grow older has been lost because there is no way that there is a place that provides all that this home does and if there was it would be well above what I am being offered. Growing up in this quiet and safe street for myself and family surrounded by caring, helpful and lovely neighbours made my childhood even better. When I returned I was able to re connect with my neighbours like Mrs Gumbley, Mrs Eileen Collins and many more. I was able to use my fatherly taught skills to help fix any household problems that I or my neighbours had. I helped them by running errands, driving them to places, share a cup of tea with them. I love helping people especially the elderly. I treated them like family and they treated me as a son. Best street in the world to live in. All to be lost soon.'



Sam and Heather in their backyard, 2018

## C.D. COBB

'I lived in 42 Eurimbla Avenue with my parents Jim [James Russell George Cobb] and Gloria [Gloria Frances Cobb nee Turner] from 1967 until 1980. We rented from Charlie Sarkis who owned 42 and 44. Straight away he was Uncle Charlie and his wife my Auntie Asma. I was 8 when we moved there and my older sister married the next year. Uncle Charlie drove my sister to the church in his black Holden which he used to clean religiously every Sunday morning, followed by mowing it seemed everybody's front lawn. I remember playing in the hospital when it was being built. We used to get into the building site quite easily as there was no security or hoardings up. There was even talk back then among the residents about the hospital taking Eurimbla Avenue, but why would they build the new fence down Hospital Road if they were going to do that! They just wouldn't would they! So that fence put an end to that thought. 42 and 44 stood out from the others by their unique paint job, red and cream which were the colours of the Resch's Brewery where Uncle Charlie worked. Both houses had kegs cut in half which were used for plants and they were

painted red and cream also. As it was a dead-end street we all played cricket on the road, moving out of the way when the odd car drove down. It seemed to be only cars of people who lived here or their visitors who ever drove down this street. When I think about it now, it was like a community in a street. Most knew everyone on first name basis, a very open house type place. Neighbours were firm friends. When someone moved out, the new people moving in just seem to fit right in. One neighbour who lived next door to us was a prostitute up the Cross, she had a husband a couple of kids. I remember mum saying she told her that her husband had 'champagne taste on a beer wage.' They were a nice family, I was 12, played with the kids, I remember going to the races with them and other places. So many other people I remember during my 13 years there. My childhood was in Eurimbla Avenue. Riding a scooter down High Street turning into Eurimbla and stacking it big time near the shops on the corner. My backyard met up with the yard of 77 Botany Street and my friend Denise, we became best of friends and our families did also. We used to jump over the fence to each other's house when we couldn't be bothered walking through the lane between Botany and Eurimbla.'

# THE GUMBLEYS



Left: Doreen and Harold. *Image courtesy of Doreen Gumbley*  
 Right: Harold's father, Frank Gumbley. *Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

Doreen and Harold Gumbley lived most of their time in Eurimbla Avenue in a freestanding house half way down the street on the eastern side. Doreen Gumbley first moved to Eurimbla Avenue in 1948 when she married Harold. They lived at number 11 with Harold's family and subsequently moved to 33 Eurimbla when the bigger house was built in 1926 in the sandhills towards the bottom of the street.



Harold's mother Margaret Gumbley (left) outside their Belmore Road Randwick cake shop *Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

Grandma Gumbley, on the left, also lived at number 33 when it was first built, until her death in 1960. Grandma Gum was Margaret 'Maggie' Strusz. Doreen relates that during WW1 they changed the spelling to Struce because they didn't want to sound German as they thought no one would visit their Belmore Road cake shop! Doreen recalls: 'The Gumbleys always lived there [E33] from the time of the first house.'



Harold (left) next to his brother Barry *Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

Harold's grandfather built the butcher's shop up in Avoca Street, on the corner opposite the Coach and Horses Hotel. John Gumbley recalls 'One of the newspapers was doing a story about people who could listen to the test match in England during the night. So Dad and the others started early and could listen to the last couple of hours play.'

'Grandma Gumbley died in the winter of 1960 in the street she'd lived in for more than 30 years. In the week

leading up to her death - as she lay semi-conscious in her bedroom - aunts and uncles, cousins and neighbours crammed into number 33. For the children my age - I was barely 7 - this was great fun! A half dozen of us sleeping on the floor then being sent outside to play so we'd not make any noise - a grand adventure. We youngest children just didn't understand at first. We hadn't known death and loss but as the week wore on we saw the older children grow sadder and some of the adults in tears. Once I awoke in the middle of the night and was surprised to find two women neighbours sitting by the gas fire in the dining room. They were taking turns to check on Grandma. One of them took me on her knee until I fell back asleep. On the day she died, the children were taken in to kiss Grandma goodbye. I can still remember her eyes open and unseeing. That was a very sad day, but look at the photos of Grandma and the other folk from Eurimbla Avenue. Can you spot a glum face? Huddled round tables in the sunshine or sharing Christmas together. Those happy faces looking out at you. But gone now like the homes they once loved.' John [E33]

When Harold's mum died, he bought the house from his two brothers and the family moved from Wentworth Street back to Eurimbla Avenue.

Aunt Ethel lived at number 33 for the last five years of her life. John can recall watching the Apollo 11 moon landing with Aunt Ethel on the TV in the front room.



Harold and Doreen at the back of 33 *Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

As John says 'I guess you had to have known them but [the photo above] captures their personalities and relationship. Harold the joker. Mum kindly and attentive. They loved each other very much.'





Previous page: a) Jack Gumbley, who also grew up at E33, with his daughter Carol and wife Flo, 1950. b) Harold with his newborn son Paul, 1950. c) Auntie Ethel Sherrick in the back garden of 33 Eurimbla, circa 1969. d) Doreen and Harold together in Martin Place during the war. e) Side driveway on moving day, E33, 1959. f) Doreen (right) and her sisters. Images courtesy of John Gumbley

Top of page: g) and i) Convivial times in the backyard, late 1980s. h) Harold and Doreen at Christmas time. j) Doreen on her 100th birthday. k) Doreen and son John, 2018. l) Doreen Gumbley dolled up to go out, 1960's. Images courtesy of John Gumbley

# THE RUSSELL FAMILY



In front of E31, Marion and Kim Russell, 1985  
Image courtesy of Kim Russell

Frank and Marion Russell with their children, moved into 31 Eurimbla Avenue, Randwick in 1964, living there until 1994, when they re-located to the Northern Beaches in Sydney.

Marion Russell wrote:

Frank & Marion Russell moved into 31 Eurimbla Ave. in 1964. The house was purchased for six thousand pounds. It was a three bed room, double brick, single bath-room and had a detached brick garage. The family consisted of Stephen 8, Lesley 6, Kim 3 and Lauren 14 mths, our fourth daughter Bronwyn was born in 1967. We were able to purchase the house through Judy Payne who lived in 37 Eurimbla, she worked at Juttles Real Estate in Belmore Rd. Randwick. Our next door neighbours were the Gumbleys, Harold & Warren and their two sons Paul & John, the neighbours in 29 were Noden & Brian Fredericks who had three sons Peter, John & David. The children from 29 to 41 attended the Catholic schools in Randwick. (20 children). The older girls would organize concerts, good times were had by all. The boys played cricket in the street. We were reliably informed a weekly card game took place at the home of Mr Coats at No. 43. The Ave. was a perfect street for all our children to grow up in.

Frank was able to travel by bus into the city, where he worked at the Electricity Commission. Our first car was a paperback V.W. which served us well until our family expanded and a station-wagon was needed. In those days (before seat-belts) it was nothing to fit a whole net-ball team in, and sometimes half a rugby team. During the early construction of Prince of Wales Hosp a prowler was set in our backyard and Frank took chase and caught him in the hospital grounds. The prowler had a police record and was fine. Frank ended up with an injured elbow and his suit trousers torn. In 1997 the rear section of the house was demolished and we extended by adding two bed rooms, family room

+ a shower - toilet - laundry. In 1983 we built an  
 in ground swimming pool. Woreen  
 Woreen being our next door neighbour was the best  
 neighbour you could ever have. We built a side gate  
 between our houses. Woreen always made a sponge cake  
 for every member of our family, sausage rolls to die for.  
 As a matter of fact my four daughters now make them,  
 and two grand daughters and my daughter in law  
 share Woreen's recipe. Before the post was built Frank  
 made a gate at the top of our back yard, he had to  
 because our daughters and their friends were climbing  
 over in their school uniforms because it was a short  
 cut to get to Bregidina High School.  
 Our daughter Kim was badly injured in a car accident  
 she moved back home for four years before buying a  
 house at Glasville. Bronwyn + Kim moved there.  
 Kim to practice Speech Pathology + Bron in public force.  
 Frank retired in May 1988 and while we loved our  
 time in Eumbla we decided to move closer to  
 Kim which we did in 1994. We sold 31 for  
 \$405,000 and to day it ~~is~~ would be close to \$2 million.  
 We always thought the hospital would purchase  
 Eumbla Ave but not in our life-time.

Marion Russell.

The Russell family in 1978.  
 L-R: Kim, Lauren, father Frank, Bronwyn, mother Marion, Lesley and Stephen. Image courtesy of Marion Russell



'The house was purchased for six thousand pounds. It was a three bedroom, double brick, single bathroom and had a detached brick garage. The family consisted of Stephen 8, Lesley 6, Kim 3 and Lauren 14 mths. Our fourth daughter Bronwyn was born in 1967.

We were able to purchase the house through Judy Payne who lived in 37 Eurimbla Avenue. She worked at Turtles Real Estate in Belmore Rd Randwick. Our next door neighbours were the Gumbleys, Harold and Doreen and their two sons Paul and John. The neighbours in 29 were Noeleen and Brian Fredericks who had three sons Peter, John and David.

The children from 29 to 41 attended the Catholic schools in Randwick. (20 children). The older girls would organize concerts; good times were had by all. The boys played cricket in the street. We were reliably informed a weekly card game took place at the home of Mr Coates at 43 Eurimbla Avenue.

The Avenue was a perfect street for all our children to grow up in.

Frank was able to travel by bus into the city, where he worked at the Electricity Commission. Our first car was a paprika V.W., which served us well until our family expanded and a station-wagon was needed. In those days (before seat-belts) it was nothing to fit a whole netball team in and sometimes half a rugby team.

During the early construction of Prince of Wales Hospital, a prowler was sited in our backyard and Frank took chase and caught him in the hospital grounds. The prowler had a police record and was fined. Frank ended up with an injured elbow and his suit trousers torn.

In 1977 the rear section of the house was demolished and we extended by adding two bedrooms, family room and a shower-toilet-laundry. In 1983 we built an inground swimming pool.

Doreen Gumbley, our next door neighbour, was the best neighbour you could ever have. We built a side gate between our houses.



Marion and Frank Russell and neighbour Doreen Gumbley  
Image courtesy of John Gumbley

Doreen always made a sponge cake for every member of our family and made sausage rolls to die for. As a matter of fact, my four daughters now make them, and two grand-daughters and my daughter-in-law share Doreen's recipe.



Frank Russell's birthday with Lesley's children Vanessa, Nicole and Dominic. Stephen's wife Kate with their son James and twin daughters Emily and Sophie. Lauren Russell with one of Doreen's sponges  
Image courtesy of Marion Russell

Before the pool was built, Frank made a gate at the top of our backyard. He had to because our daughters and their friends were climbing over in their school uniforms, because it was a short cut to Brigidine High School.

Our daughter Kim was badly injured in a car accident. She moved back home for four years before buying a house at Clareville. Bronwyn and Kim moved there, Kim to practice speech pathology and Bron in the Police Force. Frank retired in May 1988 and while we loved our time in Eurimbla, we decided to move closer to Kim, which we did in 1994. We sold 31 for \$405,000 and today it would be close to \$2 million. We always thought the Hospital would purchase Eurimbla Avenue, but not in our lifetime.' Marion, [E31]



L-R: Front- Lauren, Lesley and cousin Vivian  
Back- Stephen Russell and Tommy Carroll, 1967  
Image courtesy of Kim Russell



Bronwyn Russell, 'Miss Sporty Girl' Competition  
Image courtesy of Marion Russell

## LESLEY RUSSELL LOVELL

'My memories of Eurimbla Avenue is that Judy Payne liked to be the main organiser. She organised fashion hair and suggested what we all should be wearing. The Paynes moved away in my early teens. Dad built a

gate in the side fence so Doreen had easy access. She visited a couple of times a day. She had happy hour each night. She has her wine and hubby Harold his scotch. She invited anyone to join them. Doreen was one of the kindest women we knew. She taught us how to give to people and gain happiness in the deed. I also recall she paid me 50 cents each Friday to dust her house. The street was like a happy caring family. With each birth of my 4 children, Ada Tulloch came to St Margaret's Hospital with the paper printed on that day. Dad also built a gate in the back fence, so we could run to Brigidine College faster through the hospital. Without this we would have been late on many a day!

## LAUREN 'POPPY' RUSSELL MCGEE

'I was a Eurimbla kid! Why nobody ever thought to get us T-shirts emblazoned with our amazing street or should I say avenue, I don't know! We all loved our little dead-end and rarely felt the need to venture far for friendship or entertainment and I'm sure we'd have all worn them with pride! I was a confident little kid that these days some, if not many, may have called me precocious. But not my Eurimbla Enclave! I never had a moment of self-doubt about being welcome in anyone's home, wherever and whenever I felt the urge to visit child or adult alike, I'd be greeted with 'Hey Poppy, come on in!' I can't tell you how unique of a setting it was that we children were surrounded and valued by not only our own families but by our Eurimbla extended family too! I craved company and a chat from a young age and I'd go in search of it! How fortunate was I that Eurimbla families had an open door policy which just fed my, dare I say 'addiction' to just seeing what was going on and could I get involved! My mum says I could have made mud pies with Rigby kids, danced to the latest top 40 with the Payne twins and had a 'Thimble beer' and cheese with Billy and Ada Tulloch and that would happen all in one afternoon! As a child who loved to entertain and be entertained Eurimbla Avenue was my stage and knowing that her curtain is about to come down and make way for 'another venue' I have reminisced about her and feel compelled to say 'Hey is it too late to get T-Shirts!'

## KIM RUSSELL CONSTANZO

'I lived at 31 Eurimbla Avenue for my first 27 years from 3 years of age. We had an idyllic childhood, of course as a result of our parents loving care, but also as a result of the endearing community of Eurimbla residents. Eurimbla was very multicultural way before

this term for new immigrants became common. We had families of Greek, Italian, Lebanese, Russian and Canadian origins as well as others. We all mixed socially and as children were given free reign to play between houses and form 'clubs' where we'd head out on adventures to the surrounding streets. On most school afternoons there'd be cricket games or bullrush played out on the road without fear of traffic. Residents happily slowed down if driving and waved to us all as we'd let them pass. They were quieter and much safer times.

We were closest buddies with the Payne children who lived at number 37 for 20 years. We recently began contact again via Facebook following their mum Judy Payne's funeral. We shared such a closeness growing up that it was like reuniting with family members. We'd often get lifts to high school with their dad Peter, who was the local Council Dog Catcher, getting in the back of the van and sitting on our school bags. No seat belts but as dogs didn't need them. Such fun times! Other days we'd slip out through the gate our dad had made in the back fence as a short cut through the Hospital to get to school. Mum would often make piles of sandwiches during school holidays to feed all the kids congregating at our home.

Our neighbours the Gumbleys became our surrogate grandparents and played an important role in our family's lives. As children we'd polish Dor's silver and her antique furniture as a job and were very pleased with the 50 cents we'd earn. As we got older we'd join them for drinks and cheese and we were always so very welcome at any time day or night.

We took for granted living near the coast and having such a short bus ride to the city! My children lament the distance and effort it takes to get them to the city travelling from Clareville.

Rather than attending UNSW around the corner I elected to travel to Lidcombe for my Speech Pathology Degree. At the end of my studies I headed to Albury to work but had to return to Eurimbla within a year due to a car accident resulting in a severe spinal injury. Our home was renovated for wheelchair access and I stayed until moving to the Northern Beaches in the late 80s, marrying, bringing up a family and working in my Speech Pathology practice.

I hold such warm memories for our time in Eurimbla Avenue. Thanks for the opportunity to reflect on this very happy stage of my life.'



a) Backyard E31, 1983. Kim Russell playing ball with her niece Vanessa Lovell with basset hound Tullulah. Frank Russell is cooking BBQ.  
b) Bronwyn Russell (left) with niece Vanessa and life long friend Romana, 1983 Images courtesy of Kim Russell

## THE TULLOCH FAMILY



Dinner at the Gumbley's [E33G]: Billy Tulloch [E41],  
Ada Tulloch and Eric Carroll [E35] *Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

'Bill and Ada [Tulloch], they were the street grandparents, they were collective street grandparents ... four houses up ... Tullochs ... they were amazing ... just amazing ... their boys [in past] had been playing cricket here and then their grandsons been playing cricket here.' [E58]

'Bill was a wonderful chap. Bill was a great raconteur so he was the Balmain Tigers Rugby League player, he was retired and had moved out of Balmain to here but they had done lots and lots of travelling and had stories about that.' [E47]



Bottom L-R: Billy Tulloch, Marion Russell, unknown, Muriel 'Moo' McCarthy (Doreen's sister) and Ada Tulloch  
*Image courtesy of Marion Russell*

## THE CARROLL FAMILY



Eurimbla Gang - Harold and Doreen Gumbley, Ada and Billy Tulloch and friends and relatives at wedding of Maureen Carroll and Mark Finnane, December 1972  
Photographer Christine Gates

Maureen Finnane (nee Carroll) recalls 'the Eurimbla Gang from our wedding ... I had especially remembered the wonderful image of Harold Gumbley sitting with arms folded in the front. Bill Tulloch is sitting directly behind Harold, and Ada Tulloch and Doreen Gumbley are side by side on RHS of the back row.'

Maureen <sup>[E35]</sup> 'I have only the happiest memories of growing up in 'Eurimbla'.

Susan (Maureen's sister) has confirmed that we moved to 35 Eurimbla in 1959 when she was 5 years old and Tom would have been 3 years old. We three had lots of continuing contact with the street, the Gumbleys and Tullochs especially, after we married. My parents Kathleen and Eric Carroll lived in Eurimbla until Mum died at home in 1987 and Dad died in 1996, so our Eurimbla history stretched over 37 years. We are very grateful to 'Mrs Gum' for the care she took of Dad after Mum died.

I lived in Eurimbla from 1959 until 1972 when I married Mark Finnane at 21 years of age. I clearly remember my first day in Eurimbla, when I was in 3rd class and allowed to walk home from school (Brigidine Convent Randwick) for the first time to 35 Eurimbla, where my Aunty Eva was waiting for me in the empty house, while Mum and Dad were on their way from Maroubra with the Removal Van. Aunty Eva gave me some money for an afternoon tea treat. I walked up to the Corner shop 'Mr Newtons' and bought a chocolate Wagon Wheel! Years later, when I was 14 years old, I started working for Mr Newton, delivering lunch orders to staff at the University of NSW at the top end of High Street.

There was a horse that used to live in the backyard of one of the houses towards the dead end, perhaps next

to the Tullochs 41, or one further along. It belonged to Betty, who did not live there, and was looked after by her parents who lived in the house. Kerry Barnard, (who lived opposite us in one of the semis, next to the Doyles) and I regularly would go after school to help groom the horse, and Betty would let us accompany her, walking to Centennial Park from Eurimbla.'

Margaret Scott <sup>[E22]</sup> and Sarah Nan Booth <sup>[E48]</sup> remember Noel Doyle <sup>[E46]</sup>. Margaret noted that 'a person who lived in Eurimbla in the 60's who went to Marcellin - Noel Doyle - lived further down the street - western side. His sister Fay went to Brigidine.'

Sarah <sup>[E48]</sup> said 'When we moved in to number 48, Noel, a lovely, gentle, very frail aged man, was our neighbour for a very short time before he passed away. Noel was on our semi side at number 46. Back then, both semis were mainly in their original condition, although his may already have had a flat roofed carport.'



Neighbours in Eurimbla Avenue: L-R: Eric Carroll, Kathleen Carroll, Marion Russell. Billy Tulloch is standing behind his wife Ada. Right: Doreen Gumbley and Noel Doyle\* at the front. Image courtesy of John Gumbley



a) Doreen Gumbley and Kathleen Carroll, next door neighbours and very good friends. *Image courtesy of John Gumbley*

b) Kerry Lynn Barnard with Gilette in Betty Lane's backyard, 1963. c) Maureen and Bluie in the front garden, E35.

d) Maureen, Susan and Tom Carroll in their backyard, with the Gumbley's fence in the background. e) Tom Carroll with puppy Sharnie, backyard E35, 1972. Notice just one Prince of Wales hospital building in sight! *Image courtesy of Maureen Finnane*

## THE PAYNE FAMILY

The Katz family <sup>[E47]</sup> and the Paynes <sup>[E37]</sup> were friends. Rita Katz keeps in touch with Debbie Whitney (nee Payne), who writes:

'We were number 37, next to us heading north were the Carrolls, Gumbleys, Russells and south were the Tullochs and then you [Katz family]. Kerry Barnard lived across the road and she was the local babysitter.

My Mum's Dad and her sister were bookmakers and of course my Dad loved horse-racing and gambling.

We used to hold talent quests often in our backyard and charge all the parents to attend. All the boys went to Marcellin and all the girls went to Brigidine. My Dad used to take us all to school in his dog van and we'd all pile, in hold onto the side, hold our breath and hope we made it without falling over. He'd circle around the streets to see if anyone needed a lift home with Kelly the dog sitting in the front seat.

We'd often have street parties and would play on the street or walk around the lane (with no shoes on) to get some lollies or whatever Mum ran out of at the local shop (it is now the Blind Shop [Blind Awnings & Shutter Shop] in Botany Street). At the top of High Street was the Odeon picture theatre where I remember seeing the [Sound of Music](#) five times, [Love Story](#) and the [Great Gatsby](#). We would always cut through the POW Hospital to get to and from school and climb the fence or go through someone's back gate.' Debbie <sup>[E37]</sup>

As neighbour Rita <sup>[E47]</sup> recalls: 'the centre of the Eurimbla social scene on that side of the street was the Payne house. They would have street parties in their backyard. When they'd had enough to drink they would take the lids off the garbage cans, they had the metal garbage cans in those days, and they would 'go for it!'. And they were all neighbours, there was nobody behind us so they could make as much noise as they wanted ... they'd use them as drums and they'd be drumming with those metal garbage cans and they had a most wonderful time.'



A neighbourhood get-together with Eric Carroll (all in white), Doreen Gumbley, Judy Payne and Una Smith (Marion Russell's sister-in-law).  
*Image courtesy of Marion Russell*

## THE D'ARCYS

Joseph D'Arcy, a Randwick postal official, and Lottie Amanda Mary D'Arcy, home duties, bought their home, 47 Eurimbla Avenue, from Victor Herbert Fielder, the builder. Joseph D'Arcy died and Lottie lived on there until her '80s, when in 1972 she sold to Michael and Rita Katz.

As a wedding gift to the D'Arcys, Len Jarvi, a furniture maker and family friend of the D'Arcys, gave them a lounge suite and a dining room suite.



Part of the D'Arcy's Jarvi lounge suite still in use at the Katz home today.  
*Image courtesy of Rita and Mike Katz*

## RITA AND MIKE KATZ

Rita recalls: 'We arrived in Australia in early 1971 (my husband got a job lecturing at UNSW in the Geology Department) and bought 47 Eurimbla Avenue in May 1971 for \$26,500, which felt like an awful lot of money at that time. The house was owned by Mrs D'Arcy, who was in her 80's at that time. She had lived in the house since it was built I think.

As I recall, she moved in with her husband and lived there for about 60 years. Her husband died and her son wanted her to move to a nursing home up on the north shore. We loved the house. It had stained glass doors into the dining room and cute little cabinets with stained glass doors on either side of the wood burning fireplace. At the back of the garden, the D'Arcys had many orchids in pots. We took a few when we sold the house and I think we still have one of them after 38 years in this house. We bought some of Mrs D'Arcy's furniture when we moved in and still have the old Jarvi lounge suite that Mr Jarvi gave to the D'Arcys as a wedding gift (he was a family friend) and we still have her dining room set. The laundry room had an old copper for boiling the clothes (I think) and I still have the wooden tongs (used for pulling the clothes out of the copper).



Mrs D'Arcy's laundry tongs.  
Image courtesy of Rita and  
Mike Katz

We were very sorry when we had to sell the house to the Blennerhassetts in October 1979 for \$74,500 (we were expecting our fourth child and there just wasn't room). The only problem with the house was that it was directly under the fallout zone from the POW Hospital incinerator. They would burn the bandages and other things that I would rather not remember. (Rumour had it that some radioactive stuff was burned there). We had a new baby and I would put him outside and bring him in covered in black ashes. I had a daily battle with the guy who ran the incinerator. I would phone and phone and tell him my problem.

There was another university lecturer (George Paxinos), he was up in arms because the Council put the grates on the road lengthwise, instead of crosswise and his bicycle used to get caught in the gratings. George, (who lived on Norton Street) wanted the gratings turned and we

wanted the incinerator closed. We formed the Randwick Environmental Group. I think Fred Orr (also at the UNSW) was also one of the members. I think there were only 4 or 5 people, but we eventually met with the head planner at POW Hospital and they moved the incinerator out of the area. I'm not sure if we ever had any success with the gratings, but I know George used to turn them around himself and then the Council would turn them back again.

At that time Eurimbla was a Catholic Street. Most of the people on the street were Catholic and our side of the street (the odd numbers) seemed to be very close friends. I think most of them went to the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Avoca Street. They didn't mingle very much with the neighbours on the other side of the street. They would have street parties and even street masses, but it always seemed to me that it was the people on our side of the street that were invited.

The centre of the Eurimbla social scene was the Payne house at number 37. Judy and Peter (Peter was the dog catcher for Randwick Council) had 4 children, Debbi, Wendy and Jennifer, the twins, and Peter John. Our daughter quickly became friends with the twins and we became part of the Eurimbla Avenue get togethers (although we were Jewish.) One time the priest from their church came to Judy's and performed a mass. I was invited and he put on all his religious vestments in front of us, so I could see what was worn by the Catholic clergy.

At street parties there would be a fair amount of beer drunk and eventually the metal lids of the garbage cans would come off and there would be much singing and noise making. There was a usually a small performance by the twins that ended up with the girls singing 'Hey Jude' which was Judy's special song.

Frank and Marion Russell lived a few doors down from the Paynes and they had 5 children I think. They were very close friends of the Paynes. Somewhere in my memory, I recall Judy once telling me that the street originally had a number of people that were involved with horse racing (at Randwick). There were bookmakers etc. I'm not sure if that was fact, but Judy's family was also involved with horses, so I'm guessing that it may have been a fact.

There was a very narrow lane across from our house that led out to Botany Street and the University (UNSW). The university students could often be seen tending a few plants that lived happily in that little lane. I was so naive

that I didn't know what they were growing there, but they did have pretty leaves.

At one time (around 1976-1977) our next-door neighbours wanted to sell their house and we also were thinking about selling our house, so we went to the hospital (POWH) and offered them the chance to buy both properties for something like \$50,000 each and the hospital said that they weren't interested because they couldn't afford it.'

With a growing family, in 1979 the Katz family moved to a new bigger home in Randwick. Danny, one of the Katz children, writes of his childhood days in Eurimbla Avenue:



Danny Katz  
Image courtesy of Danny Katz

### **IT'S KIND OF SAD TO HEAR MY CHILDHOOD STREET IS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR**

My childhood home was in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, right behind the Prince of Wales Hospital - like [right](#) behind it. My bedroom window had glorious views of the hospital incinerator; the smokestack really shimmered in the morning sun, quite stunning. Any time us kids played outside in the backyard, we'd come back in coated in layers of burned medical waste. Not really a problem: that stuff shook right off. Amputated-limb ash is not as sticky as you might think.

The family moved out ages ago, but last week I found out my childhood home is being demolished to make way for a new hospital extension. In fact the entire street is going to be bulldozed - a street called Eurimbla Avenue, which is probably named after an Aboriginal word, or maybe someone's surname, or possibly one of the horrific diseases that will soon be treated in the new hospital extension.

It's kind of sad to hear my childhood street is about to disappear because so many memories are tied up there. This was the street where my dad taught me to ride a bike. I couldn't do it at first: I kept falling off because two round wheels do not stand up by themselves, according to the laws of physics. (You'd think dad would understand basic science, he's a geologist. Or at least he should understand that the ground is really hard when you fall on it.)

It took days, weeks, months, but eventually I got it: I started riding all by myself, zipping up and down the

street on my sister's Barbie bike with the glittery pink handlebar streamers. Dinging the little ladybug bike-bell so all the neighbourhood kids would see how cool I was: dingle dingle dingle.

This was the street where I played cops and robbers with the twin girls down the road. They'd come round to my place and I'd be a cop, they'd be robbers, and my little brother would be their lawyer - he'd sit in the interrogation room and say, 'Don't answer that!' then get paid in Monopoly money, 500s only.

Somehow one of the twins always managed to escape, and somehow she'd always get cornered in my bedroom, and somehow we'd always end up wrestling on the bed, doing kissing stuff that doesn't normally happen between cops and robbers - it usually only happens between robbers and robbers who are doing time.

This was the street with the creepy, cobwebby laneway down the end, where my parents let me play on weekends (different times back then, parents expected to lose one or two kids along the way, it was way more relaxed). I'd pretend the laneway was an 'Insect Hospital' and I'd save all the bugs that were trapped in cobwebs, put them on little leaf-beds, and nurse them back to health by chewing on leaves and spitting leaf-juice into their little bug mouths - I think I may have drowned more than I saved.

If any bug actually managed to survive their hospital treatment, I'd tell them to get plenty of rest, eat lots of fresh food, and come back to see me in a week. Not one of them came back. I must've been a pretty good doctor.

So goodbye Eurimbla Avenue, goodbye childhood street, goodbye creepy laneway where I spent so many hours, lost in a world of wonder and imagination. Years later mum told me that someone was growing marijuana in there: apparently all the plants were dope plants. Which may explain quite a few of those wondrous, imaginative hours. And also those Chicken Twistie cravings.

[Danny Katz, The Age, 15 July 2018<sup>5</sup>](#)

# THE KOTSORNITHIS FAMILY



Tom and Irene Kotsornithis in the front of E10 prior to leaving their first home since 1955  
*Image courtesy of Hercules Kotsornithis*

Hercules Kotsornithis recalls: My parents lived in Eurimbla Avenue, March 1955 through to April/May 1987; 32 years, they saw a lot of change. Myself and my elder brother, who happens to be intellectually and physically disabled, were born there. He was born December 1955 and I was born January 1961. I left when I got married ... at the same time Mum and Dad [moved to Maroubra]. My father was born in Greece, came here from Greece at 17 years in 1938. Lived in east Sydney and Kensington and then met Mum [Greek also]. Mum came to Australia in 1948. They met in 1954, married 1955.

The [Eurimbla Avenue] area, I remember vividly the Hospital when it was an old paddock and playing in those grounds when it was being built. I remember Prince Charles coming to open the Hospital ... '70s. As a child we played in the 'paddock' next door ... with George, Maria's eldest son. We used to go up in the Hospital and play there ... getting right up to the roof ... When you think of it now, it was quite dangerous what we were doing but as kids it was an adventure.

I think Mum and Dad were one of the first, if not the first, as part of the Greek community ... Probably half a dozen Greeks in the street, probably from the mid up [the street i.e. towards High Street], midway going back there was a little congregation, there was Sam and his brother ... I do remember Eileen and Hilton when they moved into number 7; I had an old school friend Victor Issa and his parents of Lebanese descent bought number 17, in 1974/1975, they lived there until about 1990s/2000. I went to Randwick Boys and Victor Issa also went to RBHS and I went to Rainbow Street Public School ... 1966-1972.

We were [all] part of the same community ... the Greeks happen to interact a little more but our neighbours were our neighbours. There was a lady by the name of Mrs Duffy, number 12. We had a young Maltese couple, Tony and Lucy, bought from Mrs Duffy and [the Maltese couple] they had one daughter, Rita, surname Formasa, being from ethnic background, one drew towards them. There was an ethnic mix in the street ... yes, I remember Sam's family was there. I remember them from Day 1. They were the older kids in the street ... about 7 years older than I am ... him and his brother Michel ... and his parents ... the verge and the stuff there ... going to

school we would go down the lane there or cut through the houses in Magill Street.

My mother [remembers] ... before the Hospital was built, the Ambulance Station used to be in High Street, and as a kid, apparently there was a little water feature, a little fountain, apparently, I was between 3 and 5 years, I took my brother ... up there to the fish and water. Mum and Dad freaked 'cos two kids missing!

As kids, particularly around September, we used to have our 'mini Athletics', 'mini Olympics', as we used to call it. There were neighbours from Botany Street, a set of brothers, the Panogeros brothers, 2 or 3 of them would come across and they would play with myself, George and a few of the others in the street. We created our own games. We'd get on our bike go down the street, come back, you just did different things. We had TV, but we just played in the street ... there were not many bikes but there was one or two ... we'd have time trials, we'd play cricket and in front of number 14 or between 12 and 14 as there's a pole there, you'd play cricket ACROSS the road. I also remember that the neighbour at number 13, used to get leaves and put them in the gutter and burn them. I remember the smell rather than the actual flames! The Eucalyptus! As kids at the back of the Hospital Road, after the Hospital was built we used to make billy-carts and go down the back of the Hospital Road and race them. There was a grade and you used to go up and down and through to Magill Street and have races there. We used to go to the Garage directly opposite where there's a garage now ... we used to get the ball bearings and then we'd get pieces of timber ... and little ones for the front wheels and big ones for the back wheels, string and anything just to make it.

The house was pretty basic ... a lot of the features have remained the same since my Mum and Dad renovated in 1972 ... the features would be pre/post war, must have been ~1920s, almost 100 years old ... the only thing that's changed in number 10 was that they've extended the kitchen. My Mum was a great cook and what she cooked in the [small] place!! The parties, family gatherings and stuff like that was incredible ... basically a small backyard. We didn't grow vegetables, but Paul and Maria number 8 did ... the reason Mum and Dad wanted to move, they wanted a bit more land. It was quite tiny.

I don't recollect any street parties ... the only thing I remember as a kid was the garbos in their open trucks go down ringing their bells, asking for Christmas presents. They were just reminding people it was Christmas time! I remember Mum and Dad used to leave the empty bottles of milk out there and then the milkman would come in and drop the bottles ... daily or every second day perhaps,

My father was fortunate enough to win the lottery back in 1964 and he bought a second house, number 58 ... I have a copy of the settlement ... Mum's 91 ... Dad bought 26 February 1965 for £4,450 ... I think it was number 58 ... It's two storey now ... maybe number 56 ... it's a pair of semis, the one on the right hand side ... maybe the person who owned number 58 sold Dad number 56. The story was, must have been in the '70s, but the tenant couldn't afford the rent, she had a couple of children, and they were asking her to leave ... she went troppo ... and held her children, the weapon was a knife ... and all I remember was the Telegraph knocking at the door, 'why did you kick these people out?'; that was about the only event that I remember because there were police involved down the end of the street. We weren't part of it but the reporter came ... there were negotiations. That was the only incident that I remember.

Dad was the first person in the street to have the carport ... parking was getting very difficult because of the Hospital and Dad was a shift worker, a waterside worker, and because of that ... he found it very difficult ... Randwick Council refused to put it because at that time the Council was corrupt and they wanted ... a 'back hander', in the early 70s. And once the Council was kicked out Dad went to the Administrator and no problem. Dad was miffed because a house he used as what he called a 'precedent' was in Avoca Street ... and was approved ... but they wanted a 'back hander'. People used to park in front of our driveway and Dad got irate. One time, Dad was furious because a person had parked not only in front but in our property. But out of desperation, the car was in the drive with keys in the car and because when they came back they explained [it was] out of desperation ... [they had to see a specialist at the Hospital]. Cars parked in driveway ... part and parcel of that.

It became a ... there were a lot of homeowner buys then a lot more investments [around the time they left]. I think because of that it became more transient ... a lot more rental ... Dad sold 58 Eurimbla Avenue and combined with the sale of his place at the same time, perhaps early 80s. Then purchased where Mum currently lives ... that was part of their retirement funds as well.

The other thing as a youngster ... there were a lot less cars on the street, and as time got on there was more movement ... the University and the Hospital. I remember there were 'No Parking' signs and then there were 'Parking' signs.

One advantage, living in Eurimbla Avenue, in early 70s, there were a lot of electricity blackouts. However, not in our street as we were in the same group as the Hospital.

So we were fortunate ... there were occasions though ... we were a little bit protected ... that grid Avoca Street to Botany Street was part of the one grid and we were part of that grid.

Mum was a Wards Maid so she worked in the Hospital. She started as a cleaner for the University, but it was becoming a little more difficult with my brother [because of his disability] and so she resigned. Dad was the main breadwinner, but Mum would have a little work in the old Wards, in the huts ... she would come across to check on me [Hercules] and my brother but neighbours kept an eye on things; Maria and Paul number 8, a little bit of community movement 'cos of that.

Also as kids for pocket money we used to collect bottles, 5c each, get a bit of pocket money and you buy yo-yos and chocolates and all those other things. I remember the Odeon very well at the corner of Belmore Road and High Street, going up there on a Saturday, watching the Saturday matinee, getting in there and ... if you sat in the first three rows you paid 10c, but if you sat further back it was 25c ... we always sat in the first three rows until intermission, and then ... sit anywhere else. I remember the milk bars there ... the milk bar was part of it and so that was part of the activities we did ... we didn't go down to the Ritz that often. It was more the Odeon ... I remember The Spot being very quiet and now it's completely changed.

Growing up in Eurimbla Avenue and being carefree as a child was good ... I was there for 26 years ... for the first 26 years there were a lot of good times, there were some sad times too. A treat was going up the street in the morning with my friend Victor and buying the Sydney Morning Herald ... after we finished school in late '70s that's what we did, we'd go up the road ... Victor had a car, I didn't, but we'd hop over across the road.

How the street has changed ... I would say the street in the 60's was the home predominately for blue collar workers such as my parents. ... by the time I left the street in 1987 it began to change, where the newcomers were leaning towards being white collar workers, that is, professionals.

a) Irene Kotsornithis with baby Hercules and Nick at the front gate, E10.

b) Irene Kotsornithis with son Hercules and a cousin outside E10.  
E11 in background

c) Toddler Hercules Kotsornithis in the backyard.

d) Irene Kotsornithis and relatives in front of E10. E17 in the background

e) Irene Kotsornithis with Hercules and Nick, relatives and friends at E10

f) Irene Kotsornithis in front of E10, adjacent to E8

g) Irene Kotsornithis carrying Nick, early 1960, with relatives

h) Irene Kotsornithis carrying Hercules, with Nick and a neighbour in front of E10

*Images courtesy of Hercules Kotsornithis*



# EILEEN COLLINS



Eileen at home, E7. SMH 7/2/2018  
Photo: Louise Kennerley

In 1972, Eileen Collins and her husband Hilton moved from Palmer Street, Woolloomooloo to 7 Eurimbla Avenue following an acquisition by the NSW Department of Main Roads for the Cahill Expressway. Eileen lived at 7 Eurimbla Avenue for 46 years with various members of her family, until the recent acquisition of her home in 2018.

'The happiest times for me in Eurimbla Avenue having all my family here. It was a lovely quiet Avenue and the people were so kind and friendly.'

5 of the family came here 1st Hilton Eileen John Ernie - Kitty then later Eileen's father Murphy Honor. & then Roy Honor Eileen's brother Hilton Ernie Kitty - Murphy died here at no 7



We use to have a party at the end of the street at Xmas time & there were always someone in the Ave to fix a Tap or whatever in those days even to cut & trim your trees in the yard etc if your neighbor made a cake you would get a slice. I was also allowed by council to make street gardens & there was a time they would bring you plants of flowers etc to put in your garden in the street or give you mums. Those days are gone. The transport I think was better back in days gone by. Than what it is now. There were lots of push bikes = then they died out & coming back to life again. The happiest times for me in Eurimbla Ave having all my family here. Xmas & New Year there was always a party. = all welcome especially for the friends whom were on their own. The street community around here is the very best you can find. The people care about each other here in Eurimbla Ave there have been changes. When we came here the childrens hospital was a valent allotment

a) Eileen Collins' father Henry 'Murphy' Honor in the garden, E7  
b) Eileen Collins in front of her home, E7.  
c) Eileen at her street birthday party, 2018  
Images courtesy of Eileen Collins



I & my family moved into Eumbla Ave in 1942. I was born at Tea Gardens & went to live at Woolwomoolob when 18<sup>1/2</sup> I was born in Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1929. I met my husband Hilton in the Loo. We lived at 40 Palmer St where all the family were born. They lived at this home for over 40 years. We had to leave there again compulsory Acquisition by the main Roads for the Bahill. Our rent just went up from 30 shillings to \$2 2/6. We were given \$4,000 compensation - that was all we had & put it on our semi at Eumbla Ave. We had lost most of Hilton's family & there were Emie & Kitty - brother & sister left. Our son John whom went to school at the Loo not Randwick when we first came to Randwick our words were "Fancy going that far" & like Randwick when we came to love it, we had a wonderful community. There is still a Loo' reunion but most very young there is only 3 ladies I'm one left from the old mob as we called them. We still had a full stove & only got a Electric one when the rent up to 2 pound 2-6. We also had a wood coffer for our washing.

After moving to Eumbla Ave the people in the Avenue were all so kind & helpful

2 The children & parents played cricket in the middle of the street, there was not as much traffic around then. There were 2 shops on the corner = next to No 5 a butcher & small goods which was very handy = the butcher shop closed the a chinese cafe opened = until the uni bought the 2 plots which over many years the uni had different ones in there. We also had a milk man come around which was handy I bought my dad from Tea Gardens in his 90's to live with us as he could not stay on his own any more. He would sit on the veranah of a day, if anyone parked out the front = He would sing out "How long will you be there = if they said = I don't know he would tell them to move as his son in law would be home soon. We couldn't do that to-day = Times have changed & in my opinion not for the best I have in this house no 4 Eumbla Ave lived 4 of my family I thought I would be here till the end of my life also the nurses lived in this house in the 1st world war. This Ave has a lot of history. The Horses from the the stables use to trot down the middle of Eumbla Ave it was great

3 To see. We also had a great bus service (not so now) The Avenan had such a wonderful friendly feel about it none of us will ever find this again any where. It has broken my heart to leave here, I lived in a Home now where I live is a House = a big different not the same. I still think it is a disgrace that the gov't can turn up to your door & say I'm taking your home, & you don't have a say. They would not like their Home to be taken like that & also if we all had of been paid the correct money for our homes we could still be living at Randwick but no = we were not paid what our homes were worth they should hang their heads in shame the way they went about it.

You may use what you think is right but they have wiped out a whole community of wonderful people whom cared about each other warm wishes to you & group.

I am still at the P.O. Wales doing

my volunteer work. Last year I got my certificate for 20 yrs service can't do as many days as I now have to get 2 buses here to the hospital & seeing as I'm 90 in Oct sometimes a little hard. We are going to have a re-union around Sept when it warms up for our lost community. Keep well & hope my raving on will help a little. You can always find me Tues - wed for sure at the Volunteers Coffee Shop on Level 1 at the Hospital if ever your around there.

Love Thoughts - Prayer  
Eileen

## GEORGE AND ANDY AND THEIR DOGS BLUEY AND LUCY

Eileen [E7] 'I looked after George and Andy in number 56 for years and years because I always felt sorry for them, because Andy was one of those kids sent out from England when the English government and the Australian government sent them out to this country when the mothers couldn't afford to keep them and George's mother died when he was a child. And an aunt and uncle took him in and they horse whipped him with a horse whip and he became a hairdresser, then he went to sea. Andy was in an orphanage on the Central Coast in those days ... .. virtually they were slaves anyway back then and Andy went to sea also then, and that's where they met and became partners.'

'Andy, he was Scottish, he and his sister were sent out here during the War when they were kids [the Child Migration Scheme] ... and they got separated and his greatest wish was to meet up with his sister again.' [E48]

Eileen remembers ... the community feelings when both had passed away, 'two separate families – no relation to each other, beautiful people, two men who in Eurimbla Avenue broke everyone's heart. The Avenue thought the world of them both – no one ever knew why but the whole Avenue was so sad and upset.'

### **BRUCE KENNY-ROYAL, 'THE LOVELY GENTLEMAN WITH THE HAT'** [E32]

Bruce was very well known in Eurimbla Avenue and Botany Street. He was friendly and polite and often had a story to tell.

'He was probably born on the street ... because his grandmother lived here and they moved down the road. ... he was well in his 60s when he moved out.' [E18]

Bruce worked as a coachbuilder at the Railways. He had a passion for pigeon-racing.

'Bruce Royal lived up the road here ... his dad bought that house ... his dad died ... it was split up between Bruce and his brother and then Bruce decided he wanted to live in the country somewhere and ... he said it was a mistake ... he said 'I should never have left the Avenue ... I wished I had stayed in the Avenue because it was so happy there' but he couldn't.' [E64]

[For more about Bruce, see [The poor man's racehorse](#)]



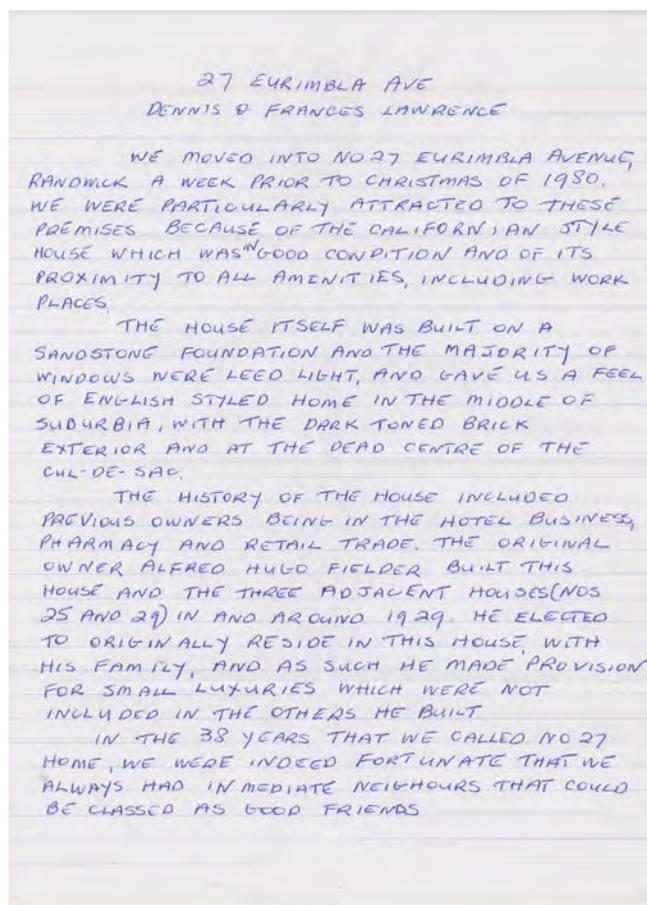
Andy Froot and George Maher with their cattle dog Bluey, E56. [25]  
*Image courtesy of Eileen Collins*



Bruce 'Feathers' Kenny-Royal and Graham Booth's son, holding Graham and Bruce's race winner and first pigeon home from Port Macquarie, early 2000

## DENNIS AND FRANCES LAWRENCE

Dennis and Frances moved into 27 Eurimbla Avenue in 1980, living there until the house acquisition in 2018<sup>6</sup>.



Dennis and Frances<sup>[E27]</sup> were local and liked the house. It was convenient to work and family. Notes from Frances:

'Eurimbla [was] different because of the community, cul-de-sac, handy, close to everything, various ages. Friendly neighbourhood.'

Christmas parties near Jenny. Why things changed? West side was mostly leased. Owners were on east side. 20 years ago people started to buy. Went on for 10-15 years. Uni bought 5-10 years ago and rented – 64/88 [of houses] privately owned. 20-33 years ago used to hear the horses from Newmarket. Couple of loose horses once in the street!

Suicides, gas, 29 [Eurimbla Avenue], Russian single man, 2005. In 1986 [a person from] 39 [Eurimbla Avenue], suicided in Howard Street.

Californian bungalows originally. 42-44 [Eurimbla Avenue] grew veggies on the nature strip (a community garden).

Horse trainers in the street (Lonsdale) ... Animals and pets could roam around.'

Frances and Dennis<sup>[E27]</sup> recall Rene Rivkin's driver living in Eurimbla Avenue: 'There was a celebrity's boarding house in the street, called [Rene Rivkin](#) ... number 43 ... an investment. ... He leased it out to his driver who lived there ... so I believe. The driver used to have a lot of parties, but we never seen Rene Rivkin.'

Frances and Dennis<sup>[E27]</sup> also recall [Leo Barry](#) and the AFL Swans (2001-2006) at 19 Eurimbla

'We used to have the Swans ... it'd be quite amusing because they'd ... while waiting for the boys to come and pick them up to take them to the airport, there'd be about 4 or 5 of them practising their handballs across the street, kicking the ball to one another.'

Jenny and Peter<sup>[E47]</sup> recall the AFL grand final in 2005 when Leo Barry took that famous mark, resulting in the Swans winning the Australian Football League (AFL) Premiership for the first time in 72 years.

# THE BLENNERHASSETT FAMILY

The Blennerhassett family in 2018 farewelling Eurimbla Avenue after many wonderful years from 1979.



The Blennerhassett family, September 2018  
*Image courtesy of Peter and Jenny Blennerhassett*

## THE BOOTH FAMILY

Wide, tree-lined Eurimbla Avenue can be seen in the background. It was usually quiet and peaceful on weekends. This was in contrast to the busyness during the week, with people searching for a parking spot whilst they went to the nearby hospital or university or just their normal workplace in one of the houses that had been converted into an office.<sup>[E48]</sup>



The Booth family in 2018. L-R: Graham, Sarah-Nan, Sarah-Nan's brother Jeremy, their sons and Scottish Terrier Maggie  
*Image courtesy of Graham and Sarah Nan Booth*

## PETER AND PAMELA McCARTHY



Pamela, Michael and Peter McCarthy in the backyard of E39 *Image courtesy of Peter McCarthy*

# GRAHAM AND GEORGINA WALSH-GREEN

'They have taken our homes, but they can never have our memories.'

Alison Morris and John Brooks sold 34 Eurimbla Avenue to Graham and Georgina Walsh-Green in 1995.

Graham and Georgina Walsh-Green moved to 34 Eurimbla Avenue in 1995 and remained there over the last 23 years. Graham and Georgina, both teachers, emigrated to Australia from UK. Georgina arriving on Cyclone Tracy Day, 1974 and Graham five months later. The first place they moved to was Oberon Street, then Bunnerong Road, then Engadine, then eventually back to Randwick. They felt really settled here in Eurimbla Avenue.

'I feel sad at being forced to leave my home. You form an emotional attachment, not just to your home but to the close-knit community.' Graham [E34]



Graham Walsh-Green, who initiated the community fundraising, reading a local newspaper article on the Eurimbla Precinct acquisition?  
*Image courtesy of Graham Walsh-Green*



Alison Morris's mother in front of E34, 1988  
*Image courtesy of Alison Morris and John Brooks*



34 Eurimbla Avenue, 2018  
*Image courtesy of Marian McIntosh*

# THE THLIVITIS FAMILY



The Thlitis family in front of their home, E21  
Image courtesy of Natasha and Peter Thlitis

Eurimbla Avenue has been the home of the Thlitis family ever since Alexandros and Angeliki Thlitis moved many years ago to number 21.

**Mia Thlitis (age 8) writes:**

Hi, we are the Thlitis family we are a family of 6, Peter (Dad), Natasha (Mum), Jade 14, Angie 13, (me) Mia 8, and Alex 6, plus our little dog named Coco. This has been our family home since we were all born at the Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick. Mum and Dad walked us home from hospital in a pram, that's how close we live! Dad works at the UNSW, Mum at a shop at The Spot called Live This, Angie and Jade attend Brigidine College and Alex and I are at Randwick Public School. We live, work and go to school locally. Originally it was my Dad's parent's house Alexandros and Angeliki Thlitis, both whom sadly passed away at home. I didn't get to meet my grandmother (Yai Yai) whom was an identical twin, but we all lived happily together with my grandfather (Papou), who used to cook great Greek food. This house

had many memories and when my Dad was young his Aunty Constance with her six children Julie, Stacey, Georgina, Irene, Angela and Steven moved from Perth and came to live with Yai Yai, Papou and my Dad.

Our home has always been filled with family and friends. I will remember all the birthdays, Christmas, New Year's Eve parties we had, and the first time learning to ride a bike in our street. We have loved having all our friendly neighbours. We have grown up with many of the kids in our street and my Dad was even babysat by a neighbour when he was a child! My Dad has lived in this home for his whole life, 47years! We have been privileged to be able to walk to school, The Spot, Randwick Ritz and to work.

It's hard to say goodbye to Eurimbla. Our home has many special memories which we will cherish forever.

The Thlitis family, E21  
Images courtesy of Natasha and Peter Thlitis



The following was written in 2018 by artist Monique Rüeger as the houses were emptying and barricades starting to be erected around them. Demolition was underway. The street looked like a war zone.

## THE END OF THE ROAD

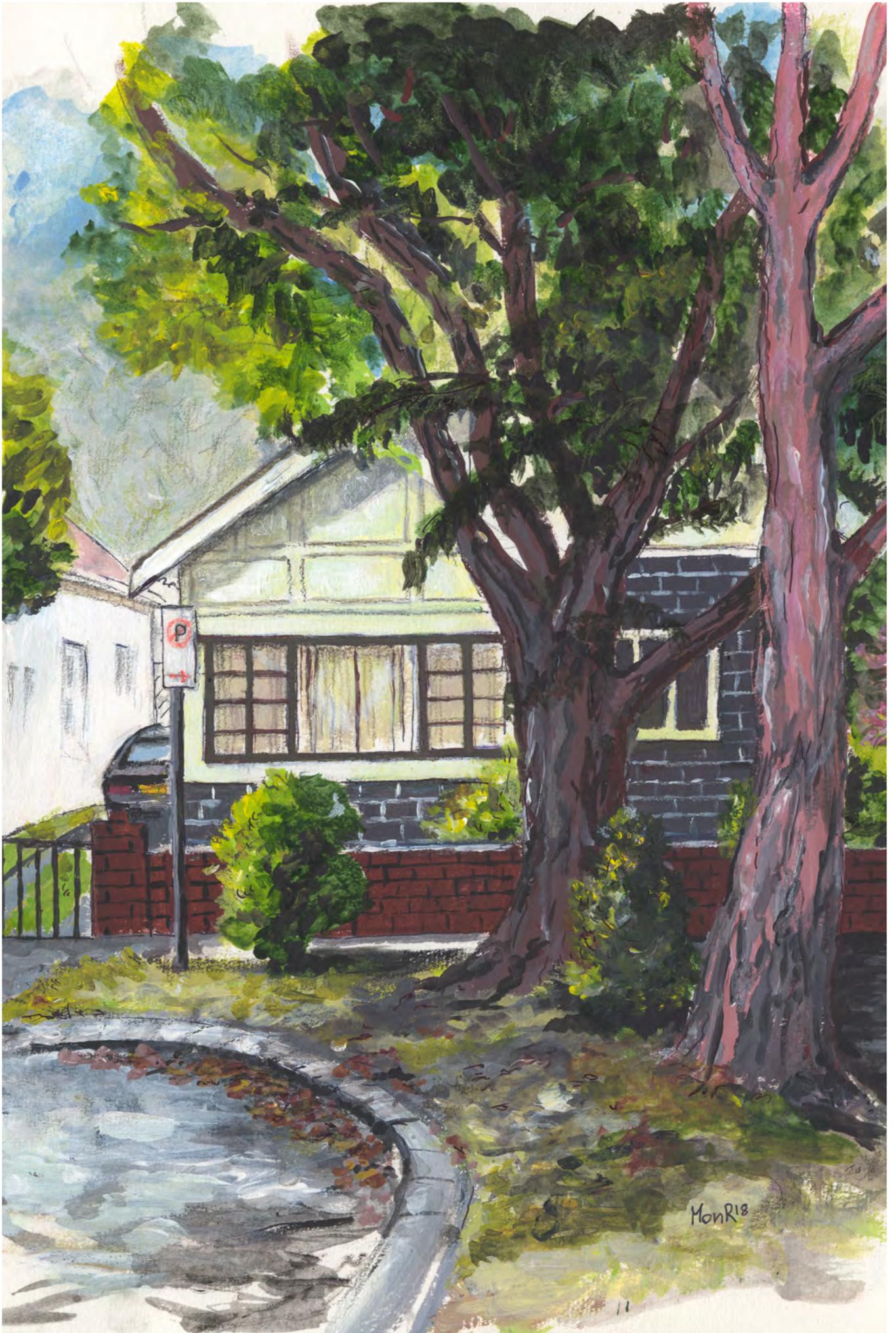
The noise of the children playing cricket and riding their bicycles in the cul-de-sac has died down. Forever. The houses in Eurimbla Avenue are empty.

The one at the end of the road was the home of our dear friends Jenny and Peter, the home where they lovingly raised their family and lived for almost 40 years.

Looming behind the houses was the big Randwick hospital. The ever-present threat of expansion was becoming reality. The houses of the cul-de-sac were to be demolished, the trees were to be chopped down and the lovingly tended gardens churned up to make place for a state-of-the-art new emergency facility. The tight-knit community who used to hold street parties at Christmas was dispersing. People were saying farewell to their long time neighbours. Like many, our friends were experiencing an emotional roller coaster. Sadness, resignation, new hope.

I decided to get my paints and brushes out of retirement and surprise them with a painting of their house. I called it 'Eurimbla, the end of the road'.

Eurimbla Avenue was to be erased from the map. It was the end of the road. But Eurimbla Precinct and its community won't be forgotten thanks to this book.





# A CENTURY OF CONSTRUCTION AND COMMUNITY LIFE

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The Eurimbla Precinct area of Randwick, New South Wales was about to be demolished to make way for the expansion of the adjacent Prince of Wales Hospital. The aim of the Eurimbla Precinct History Project was twofold, firstly to record the early history of settlement and building within the area and secondly, to capture the memories of those living in the area before it was demolished. One of the proposed outcomes of the Project, was to record these two aspects of the Eurimbla Precinct in a book.

The strength and importance of this community was evident when residents both present and past made significant contributions of time and memorabilia including almost 1000 photographs. Given that the incumbent residents had only a short time frame in which to negotiate a settlement with the acquiring body, to find another home and to prepare for moving, their enthusiastic commitment to the Project was remarkable. Links made with former residents led to reconnections and reunions. Leads were followed up, with some surprising results to add to the varied stories associated with this area!

The history of the land development and settlement in the Precinct from the 1850s until the early 1930s is described. Extensive research produced a vast array of information about land use by early colonial settlers, in particular market gardens. The associated homestead, The Willows, belonging to James Pearce, was built in the Precinct after he and his brother Simeon secured the purchase of land that would later become the Eurimbla Precinct. Many interesting details of the houses built within the Precinct are described during different phases of use. During WW1, for example, 14 houses in Eurimbla Avenue were acquired by the Commonwealth Government to accommodate nurses who were employed at the nearby Military Hospital. The lives of people living and working in the Precinct community in the early days are brought to life again, adding a rich tapestry and dimension to the history of this area.

Sadly, the houses and vegetation in the Precinct have now been bulldozed to make way for the expansion of the Prince of Wales Hospital. Life goes on – the residents who have left have now moved on to new beginnings and communities elsewhere. The result of the Project – this book – will be a memoir to those vibrant and diverse communities who lived in the Eurimbla Precinct.

Despite our best efforts, we never did solve the mystery of Pedro, the much mentioned horse in the paddock where the Sydney Children's Hospital now stands, adjacent to Eurimbla Avenue.

Life goes on ...



A very old rose transplanted from the Lawrence's back garden in Eurimbla Avenue is now thriving in Sam Sarkis' new home up north.

The rose, an ancient and beautiful flower, is said to be symbolic of love, hope and new beginnings.



# APPENDICES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# APPENDICES

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<b>Eurimbla Precinct Houses with Names</b> .....	172
<b>Land and House References, 2018</b> .....	174
<b>Sales History of War Service Homes</b> .....	176
<b>Two ships called 'Eurimbla'</b> .....	177
<b>Contributors - Oral History, Memoirs, Poems and Art</b> .....	178

**EURIMBLA PRECINCT HOUSES WITH NAMES<sup>1</sup>**

HOUSE CODE <sup>2</sup>	ADDRESS AND HOUSE NAME	SOME USES OF NAME ELSEWHERE	YEAR BUILT	FIRST RECORD OF HOUSE NAME - OCCUPANT, YEAR, AND/OR SOURCE
B 49 S	49 Botany, Broxburn	Place – Scotland	1924	Mrs M Mullins, 1925 Sands
B 51 S	51 Botany, Merool	Indigenous	1924	O C Cohen, 1925 Sands
B 53 S	53 Botany, Troja	Place - Ancient Troy	1915	Albert Morfoot, 1916 Sands
B 55 S	55 Botany, Araluen	Place - NSW, (Goldfields); Indigenous - Water lily	1915	Christopher Johnson, 1916 Sands
B 57 S	57 Botany, Aston	Place – UK	1915	Joseph Meekings, 1916 Sands
B 59 S	59 Botany, Miniclar	Family - Minnie Clara, daughter of John and Amelia Haythorn	1915	Haythorn, 1916. Sands
B 69 D	69 Botany, Lindewalla		1926	Sydney Waterboard plan
B 87 D	87 Botany, Inglewood	Place - Australia/ USA	1921	Sydney Waterboard plan
B 93 S	93 Botany, Annville	Personal name	1917	
B 95 S	95 Botany, Alma	Personal name; Crimean war - battlefield	1916	Victor J Cooke, 1923, Sands
B 101 D	101 Botany, Sherwood	Place – UK; named after builder's own house	1920	Randwick Building Application/ H.W. Talman, Sherwood, Conway Av
EE 5 S	5 Eurimbla, Clonbonny	Place – Ireland	1916	Patrick J Ryan, 1916, Sands
EE 7 S	7 Eurimbla, (1) Heremai	Pun – 'Here am I'	1916	Ernest T McGowan, 1917, Sands
EE7 S	7 Eurimbla, (2) Milburn	Surname; place - UK	1916	Surviving name plate brought by Eileen Collins from previous residence, Woolloomooloo
EE 7 S	7 Eurimbla, (3) North Pole	Comic	1916	Recent replacement by Eileen Collins
EE 9 S	9 Eurimbla, Laurale	Botanical	1920	Randwick Council rates, 1923 -25
EE 11 S	11 Eurimbla, (1) Homely	Descriptive	1920	Randwick Council rates, 1923 -25
EE 11 S	11 Eurimbla, (2) Camelia Grove	Botanical	1920	Surviving name plate
EE 25 D	25 Eurimbla, Roma	Place – Italy	1927	Sydney Waterboard plan
EE 27 D	27 Eurimbla, Coondah	Indigenous	1927	Sydney Waterboard plan
EE 31 D	31 Eurimbla, Eurimbla		1927	Surviving name plate
EE 39 D	39 Eurimbla, Clery	Place - WWI battle	1926	Ellis family, 1927, Sands, Electoral rolls
EE 41 D	41 Eurimbla, Idane		1926	Williams family, 1927, Sands
EE 43 D	43 Eurimbla, (1) Yulalie	Possibly 'Eulalie'	1926	Coates family, 1927, Sands.
EE 43 D	43 Eurimbla, (2) Bundarra	Place – NSW	1926	Surviving name plate
EE 45 D	45 Eurimbla, St Anns	Place – UK	1926	Sydney Waterboard plan
EW 2 S	2 Eurimbla, Hamlet		1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 4 S	4 Eurimbla, Hexham	Place - UK, NSW	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 6 S	6 Eurimbla, Clarence	Personal name, Place - NSW	1916	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 8 S	8 Eurimbla, Carlton	Personal name, Place - Vic	1916	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 10 S	10 Eurimbla, (1) Alpha	First (first house - Eurimbla Av)	1916	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 10 S	10 Eurimbla, (2) Baradine		1916	Surviving name plate
EW 12 S	12 Eurimbla, Agenda		1916	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 14 S	14 Eurimbla, Beltrees	Place - New Zealand	1916	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 16 S	16 Eurimbla, Blaxland	Personal name; Place -NSW	1916	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 18 S	18 Eurimbla, Dayton	Place – USA	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 20 S	20 Eurimbla, Denton		1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 22 S	22 Eurimbla, Kia-Ora	Maori - a goodwill greeting	1916	Possibly named by builder, Henry J Miller
EW 24 S	24 Eurimbla, Kesby		1916	Possibly named by builder, Henry J Miller
EW 26 S	26 Eurimbla, Essex	Place – UK	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 28 S	28 Eurimbla, Eaton	Possibly Eton, Place – UK	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 30 S	30 Eurimbla, Farleigh	Place – Queensland	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 32 S	32 Eurimbla, Fenton	Place – UK	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 34 S	34 Eurimbla, Glendenning	Place – NSW	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton
EW 36 S	36 Eurimbla, Glenalpine	Place – NSW	1917	Named by builder, Sydney Coulton

*Table continued*

<sup>1</sup> Includes only houses with names; houses numbered but without names are not included. No business, University or Hospital names;

<sup>2</sup> B=Botany Street; E=Eurimbla Avenue; EE= Eurimbla Avenue, east; EW= Eurimbla Avenue, west; M=Magill Street; S=Semi-detached; D=detached

## EURIMBLA PRECINCT HOUSES WITH NAMES<sup>1</sup>

Table continued

HOUSE CODE <sup>2</sup>	ADDRESS AND HOUSE NAME	SOME USES OF NAME ELSEWHERE	YEAR BUILT	FIRST RECORD OF HOUSE NAME - OCCUPANT, YEAR, AND/OR SOURCE
EW 42 S	42 Eurimbla Melron	Descriptive – 'agreeable'	1917	Surviving name plate
EW 48 S	48 Eurimbla, Rosered		1919	photo of name plate
EW 64 D	64 Eurimbla, Blair Athol	Place – Scotland	1921	Sydney Waterboard plan
M 4 D	4 Magill, The Poplars	Botanical	1883	Andrew Moore, 1918 Sands
M 4 D	4 Magill, Green Hills	Botanical	1883	Found in old records by Shaws
M 6 D	6 Magill, Excelsior	Descriptive - 'superior'	1923	Sydney Waterboard plan
M 12 D	12 Magill, Myeo	Indigenous	1922	John Molloy, 1923 Sands
M 14 D	14 Magill, Gaba Tepe	Place - WWI, Gallipoli	1924	Mrs Jane Hickey, 1925 Sands

<sup>1</sup> Includes only houses with names; houses numbered but without names are not included. No business, University or Hospital names;  
<sup>2</sup> B=Botany St; E=Eurimbla Av; EE= Eurimbla Av, east; EW= Eurimbla Av, west; M=Magill St; S=Semi-detached; D=detached

## LAND AND HOUSE REFERENCES 2018

Title references can be used to trace former owners of now demolished Eurimbla Precinct properties using NSW Land Registry Services records.

ADDRESS <sup>1</sup>	TITLE REFERENCE IN 2018	D = DETACHED S = SEMI-DETACHED	YEAR BUILT
1 Eurimbla, Butchers Shop	35 / 7745	EE 1 Shop	1923/24
3 Eurimbla, Grocery Shop	35 / 7745	EE 3 Shop	1923/24
5 Eurimbla, Clonbonny	1 / 12909	EE 5 S	1916
7 Eurimbla, Heremai	2 / 12909	EE 7 S	1916
9 Eurimbla, Laurale	A / 102 029	EE 9 S	1920
11 Eurimbla, Homely/Camelia Grove	B / 102 029	EE 11 S	1920
13 Eurimbla	B / 303 478	EE 13 S	1921
15 Eurimbla	A / 303 478	EE 15 S	1921
17 Eurimbla	D / 304 806	EE 17 D	1922
19 Eurimbla	C / 304 806	EE 19 D	1922
21 Eurimbla	B / 304 806	EE 21 D	1922
23 Eurimbla	A / 304 806	EE 23 D	1922
25 Eurimbla, Roma	1 / 13995	EE 25 D	1927
27 Eurimbla, Coondah	2 / 13995	EE 27 D	1927
29 Eurimbla	3 / 13995	EE 29 D	1927
31 Eurimbla, Eurimbla	4 / 13995	EE 31 D	1927
33 Eurimbla	5 / 13995	EE 33 D	1926
35 Eurimbla	6 / 13995	EE 35 D	1926
37 Eurimbla	7 / 13995	EE 37 D	1926
39 Eurimbla, Clery	8 / 13995	EE 39 D	1926
41 Eurimbla, Idane	9 / 13995	EE 41 D	1926
43 Eurimbla, Yulalie/Bundarra	10 / 13995	EE 43 D	1926
45 Eurimbla, St Anns	11 / 13995	EE 45 D	1926
47 Eurimbla	12 / 13995	EE 47 D	1926
2 Eurimbla, Hamlet	X / 455 567	EW 2 S	1917
4 Eurimbla, Hexham	Y / 455 567	EW 4 S	1917
6 Eurimbla, Clarence	A / 39756	EW 6 S	1916
8 Eurimbla, Carlton	B / 39756	EW 8 S	1916
10 Eurimbla, Alpha/Barradine	1 / 300 666	EW 10 S	1916
12 Eurimbla, Agenda	32 / 667 518	EW 12 S	1916
14 Eurimbla, Beltrees	3 / 12909	EW 14 S	1916
16 Eurimbla, Blaxland	4 / 12909	EW 16 S	1916
18 Eurimbla, Dayton	5 / 12909	EW 18 S	1916
20 Eurimbla, Denton	6 / 12909	EW 20 S	1916
22 Eurimbla, Kia-Ora	7 / 12909	EW 22 S	1916
24 Eurimbla, Kesby	8 / 12909	EW 24 S	1916
26 Eurimbla, Essex	9 / 12909	EW 26 S	1917
28 Eurimbla, Eaton	10 / 12909	EW 28 S	1917
30 Eurimbla, Farleigh	11 / 12909	EW 30 S	1917
32 Eurimbla, Fenton	12 / 12909	EW 32 S	1917
34 Eurimbla, Glendenning	13 / 12909	EW 34 S	1917
36 Eurimbla, Glenalpine	14 / 12909	EW 36 S	1917
38 Eurimbla	B / 441 943	EW 38 S	1918
40 Eurimbla	A / 441 943	EW 40 S	1918
42 Eurimbla Melron	1 / 118 2570	EW 42 S	1918
44 Eurimbla	2 / 118 2570	EW 44 S	1918
46 Eurimbla	23A / 434 935	EW 46 S	1919
48 Eurimbla Rose Red	23B / 434 935	EW 48 S	1919
50 Eurimbla	1 / 522 596	EW 50 S	1919

*Table continued*

<sup>1</sup> B=Botany Street; E=Eurimbla Avenue; EE= Eurimbla Avenue, east; EW= Eurimbla Avenue, west; M=Magill Street; S=Semi-detached; D=detached

## LAND AND HOUSE REFERENCES 2018

Table continued

ADDRESS <sup>1</sup>	TITLE REFERENCE IN 2018	D = DETACHED S = SEMI-DETACHED	YEAR BUILT
52 Eurimbla	2 / 522 596	EW 52 S	1919
54 Eurimbla	1 / 501 682	EW 54 S	1921
56 Eurimbla	2 / 501 682	EW 56 S	1921
58 Eurimbla	3 / 513 339	EW 58 S	1921
60 Eurimbla	4 / 513 339	EW 60 S	1921
62 Eurimbla	19 / 7745	EW 62 D	1921
64 Eurimbla, Blair Athol	18 / 7745	EW 64 D	1921
2 Magill	1 / 307 266	M 2 D	1923
4 Magill, Poplars (1918)/Green Hills	12 / 806 091	M 4 D	1883
6 Magill, Excelsior	11 / 806 091	M 6 D	1923
8 Magill	7 / 945 640	M 8 D	1912
10 Magill	1 / 11351	M 10 D	1922
12 Magill, Myeo	2 / 11351	M 12 D	1922
14 Magill, Gaba Tepe	3 / 11351	M 14 D	1924
49 Botany, Broxburn	1 / 590 480	B 49 S	1924
51 Botany, Merool	2 / 590 480	B 51 S	1924
53 Botany, Troja	A / 440 501	B 53 S	1915
55 Botany, Araluen	B / 440 501	B 55 S	1915
57 Botany, Aston	C / 440 501	B 57 S	1915
59 Botany, Miniclar	D / 440 501	B 59 S	1915
61 Botany	1 / 13997	B 61 D	1927
63 Botany	2 / 13997	B 63 D	1927
65 Botany	3 / 13997	B 65 D	1927
67 Botany	4 / 13997	B 67 D	1927
67A Botany	5 / 13997	B 67A D	1927
69 Botany, Lindewalla	6 / 13997	B 69 D	1927
71 Botany	7 / 13997	B 71 D	1927
73 Botany	A / 167 106	B 73 D	1920
75 Botany	B / 167 106	B 75 D	1920
77 Botany	C / 167 106	B 77 D	1920
79 Botany	D / 167 106	B 79 D	1920
81 Botany	A / 33161	B 81 D	1921
83 Botany	B / 33161	B 83 D	1921
85 Botany	C / 33161	B 85 D	1921
87 Botany, Inglewood	D / 33161	B 87 D	1921
89 Botany	E / 33161	B 89 D	1921
91 Botany	F / 33161	B 91 D	1921
93 Botany, Annville	1 / 113 4643	B 93 S	1916
95 Botany, Alma	2 / 113 4643	B 95 S	1916
97 Botany	A / 439 101	B 97 S	1920
99 Botany	B / 439 101	B 99 S	1920
101 Botany, Sherwood	3 / 302 329	B 101 D	1920

<sup>1</sup> B=Botany St; E=Eurimbla Av; EE= Eurimbla Av, east; EW= Eurimbla Av, west; M=Magill St; S=Semi-detached; D=detached

## SALES HISTORY OF WAR SERVICE HOMES<sup>2</sup>

ADDRESS	BUILDER, YEAR	DP 12909 LOT NO.	1ST PURCHASER FROM WAR SERVICE HOMES	YEARS RESIDENT IN EURIMBLA AVE	TOTAL YEARS	DATE OF PURCHASE OR WSH LOAN PAID	LAND TITLES OFFICE REFERENCE
EE 5, Clonbonny	H J Miller, 1916	1	DWYER, James Francis & Ann	1921-1963/ 1969	49	1960	Vol. 8129 - 247
EE 7, Heremai Clonbonny	H J Miller, 1916	2	FRASER, Angus & Rosina Harriet	1921-1970/ 1972	52	1957	Vol. 7401 - 11
EW 14, Beltrees	S Coulton, 1916	3	ALLEN, Agnes			1954	Vol. 6815 - 46
EW 16, Blaxland	S Coulton, 1916	4	McDONALD, Roy, & JW	1928-1930	3	1928	Vol. 4243 - 240
EW 18, Dayton	S Coulton, 1916	5	KING, William Edward	1923-1952	30+	1952	Vol. 6489 - 209
EW 20, Denton	S Coulton, 1916	6	KENNY, Francis	1923-1944+	22+	1944	Vol. 5438 - 113
EW 22, Kia-ora	H J Miller, 1916	7	JACKSON, Sydney Simpson			1926	Vol. 3849 - 211
EW 24, Kesby	H J Miller, 1916	8	JACKSON, Sydney Simpson			1926	Vol. 3849 - 211
EW 26, Essex	S Coulton, 1917	9	TREMAINE, George Henry	1921-1950+	30+	1950	Vol. 6177 - 241
EW 28, Eaton	S Coulton, 1917	10	D'ARCY, Sarah J & Phyllis L. D'ARCY	1934-1980+	47+	1950	Vol. 6350 - 4
EW 30, Farleigh	S Coulton, 1917	11	KING, Cecil & Lily	1921- 1953/1964	42	1953	Vol. 6638 - 112
EW 32, Fenton	S Coulton, 1917	12	HASEL, Mary Jane	1923-1924	2	1925	Vol. 3702 - 207
EW 34, Glendenning	S Coulton, 1917	13	ROZYNSKI, Arthur & Marie Louise	1924-1965/ 1970	45	1958	Vol. 7578 - 146
EW 36, Glenalpine	S Coulton, 1917	14	McDONALD, Roy, & JW			1929	Vol. 4245 - 87

<sup>2</sup> Properties resumed by Commonwealth, October 1918, *Government Gazette*.

(New CT, 30 May 1919, Volume 2940 folio 163)

Properties transferred from Commonwealth to War Service Homes, July 1922.

(New CT, 1 September 1922, Volume 3358 folio 225. DP 12909, Registered 24 December 1924, No. B152652 in Vol 3358 fol.225)

# TWO SHIPS CALLED 'EURIMBLA'

It has been suggested that Eurimbla Avenue may have been named after a ship, but the dates given below for the two ships that have carried that name would seem to disprove that theory.

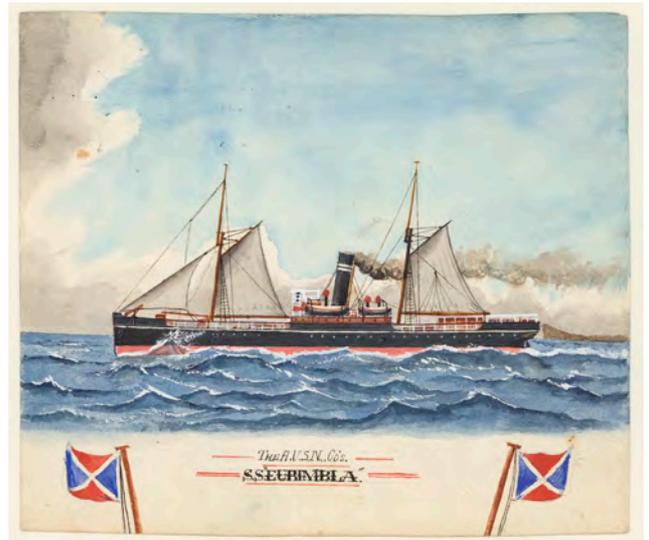
Naming places to commemorate ships is not unknown in the Randwick area. The suburb of Malabar was named after a ship wrecked on the rocks of Long Bay on 2 April 1931, and Hereward Street in Maroubra commemorates an earlier local shipwreck in May 1898<sup>1</sup>. There is also a street in South Coogee named for SS Cuzco, while others in Maroubra recall US warships which were deployed in the WW2 battles of the Coral Sea.

However, when Eurimbla Avenue was 'launched' at the Land Titles Office in August 1914, with the official approval and registration of the plan of the land subdivision showing it as a newly created access road for the building allotments, neither of the two SS Eurimbla ships was actually in existence.

The first SS Eurimbla, 1884 -1907, was a steel screw steamship built in Fife, East Scotland, in 1884 for the Australasian Steam Navigation Company Limited. One of the Directors of the company was Edward Lord, who may have been influential in the choice of name for the new steamship, as his family owned several properties similarly named<sup>2</sup>.

The SS Eurimbla (by all accounts a very well equipped and fitted-out vessel) was used to carry freight and passengers between Sydney and various ports up to north Queensland. One of its frequent ports of call was a timber-getting district in Queensland, established at about the same time, which was also called Eurimbla. Unfortunately it was a rather accident prone ship, with several minor collisions and accidents reported in the newspapers in subsequent years - an unlikely candidate for commemoration as a street name!

In 1905 the SS Eurimbla was sold to a Japanese shipping company, who renamed it Hide Maru. On 27 April 1907 it ran aground yet again and was wrecked at Suyon Bay in Korea<sup>3</sup>. It thus disappeared from naval history years before the naming of Eurimbla Avenue.



Allan C. Green's SS Eurimbla , 1884  
Source: Allan C. Green (artist), A.U.S.N. Co's S.S. Eurimbla  
<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/195612>

The second SS Eurimbla, 1921 -1959, was built by the Australian engineering company of Poole and Steel at their shipyard at Osborne, South Australia, at a cost of over £200,000. The company, which also built rolling stock for the SA Railways, was founded in about 1901, and had its main shipyard at Balmain, Sydney. The SS Eurimbla was one of several ships commissioned by the Commonwealth Government, although only three were built on the Port River at Osborne, the other two being SS Euwarra and SS Eugowra. The ships built at Balmain were also called after various towns and villages, such as Cootamundra, Cowra, Geraldton and Katoomba, the names having been chosen by the Commonwealth Government<sup>4</sup>.

By the time the second SS Eurimbla was launched on 20 April 1921, Eurimbla Avenue had been officially in existence for at least seven years, thus disproving any possibility of it being named for that ship. In any case, its name was short lived, for it was sold to BHP Ltd. in 1923, and renamed Iron Master. It was scrapped in 1959<sup>5</sup>.



SS Eurimbla and shipyard workers at launch, 1921.  
Source: *Ships' List, South Australia*

## CONTRIBUTORS - ORAL HISTORY, MEMOIRS, POEMS AND ART<sup>3</sup>

### ORAL HISTORY

HOUSE	NAME	DATE OF INTERVIEW	RESIDENCY	YEARS
B 55	Debra CONN	26 May 2018	1991 -2018	28
EW 10	Hercules KOTSORNITHIS	14 April 2018	1961-1987	26
EW 18	Jenny SPURGEON	22 February 2018	1965 -2018	53
EW 34	Graham WALSH-GREEN	16 February 2018	1995 -2018	23
EW 42, 44	Sam SARKIS	8 March 2018	1956 -c.1970, 1997-2018	14/21
EW 48	Sarah-Nan and Graham BOOTH	27 April 2018	1992 -2018	26
EW 56	Dinah COHEN and Wendy GILLET	6 March 2018	2004 -2018	14
EW 58	Shelley McMINN	24 April 2018	1986 -2009	23
EW 64	Colleen KAUTER	8 March 2018	1979 - 2018	40
EE 7	Eileen COLLINS	21 February 2018	1972 -2018	46
EE 27	Dennis and Frances LAWRENCE	9 February 2018	1980 -2018	38
EE 33	Doreen and son John GUMBLEY	28 February 2018	1948 -2013	65
EE 39	Peter McCARTHY	7 June 2018	1987 - 2014	27
EE 45	Maria BISOGNI/BARNETT	26 March 2018	1993 - 2018	25
EE 47	Jenny and Peter BLENNERHASSETT	19 March 2018	1979 -2018	39
EE 47	Rita KATZ	10 April 2018	1971 - 1979	8
M 4	Jane and David SHAW	9 March 2018	1997 -2018	21

### MEMOIRS

HOUSE	NAME
EE 33	John GUMBLEY
EW 42	Sam SARKIS
EW 42	Cheryl D. COBB
EW 48	BOOTH family
EE 7	Eileen COLLINS
EE 7	Carmel FINEGAN on her grandfather, John Pender Finegan
EE 21	Mia THLIVITIS
EE 25	Dennis and Frances LAWRENCE
EE 31	Marion and Frank RUSSELL and daughters Kim RUSSELL CONSTANZO, Lauren McGEE and Lesley LOVELL
EE 35	Maureen FINNANE (Carroll)
EE 37	Debbie WHITNEY (Payne)
EE 39	Peter McCARTHY
EE 43	Betty LANE HOLLAND (Coates)
EE 47	Rita KATZ and son Danny KATZ (2)
EE 47	Jenny and Peter BLENNERHASSETT
EW 10	Hercules KOTSORNITHIS

### POEMS

HOUSE	NAME
EW 34	Graham WALSH-GREEN, Haiku verse
EE 41	Ada and Bill TULLOCH
Non-resident	Fred ORR

### ARTIST

Non-resident	Monique RÜEGER
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<sup>3</sup> EE=east Eurimbla Avenue, EW= west Eurimbla Avenue, M=Magill Street, B=Botany Street

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*Commonwealth of Australia Government Gazette 1901-1973*

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NSW Land Registry Services (LRS), Sydney and online, <https://www.nswlrs.com.au> for NSW land records of property ownership and transactions, maps and plans.

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Randwick City Library, Bowen Library, Local Studies Collection, Maroubra - Council records, local newspapers, files of news clippings, local histories. Also for resources supplied by NSW State Archives for pre-1856 births, marriages and deaths.

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Transcripts of oral history interviews. Eurimbla Precinct History Association, Inc

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# ENDNOTES

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## INTRODUCTION

- 1 NSW Government Response: *Review of the NSW Land Acquisition (Just Terms) Compensation Act 1991*, David Russell SC and *Housing Acquisition Review*, Michael Pratt AM Customer Service Commissioner, 2014
- 2 Harriet Alexander 'The crows move in as Randwick's Eurimbla Avenue is wiped off the map', *SMH*, 29 October 2018, p.14
- 3 Eurimbla Avenue, Randwick – Land Dedication for Public Road. Director City Services Report No. CS9/19. Ordinary Council Meeting 26 March 2019.

## EARLY HISTORY OF EURIMBLA PRECINCT

### LOCATION AND LAND PURCHASE

#### *Location and Land Titles*

- 1 The Title Deeds for the two parcels of land were recorded at the Registry of Deeds Department of the NSW Supreme Court as Grant Serial 82, pp.204-205. Although the land had been bought in January 1851, the transfer of ownership from the Crown was not considered legal until the 'paperwork' had been signed off by the Governor of NSW on behalf of the Monarch. Due to the staff shortages and consequent backlog of work caused by the gold discoveries of 1851, the Pearces' Title Deeds were not signed by Governor Charles Fitzroy until 1 November 1851, which is thus the date given on all future references to their land title. The actual parchment documents were not ready for collection by the Pearce brothers until July 1852.

#### *The Land and its Locality Before the 1850s*

- 2 The course of the creek that flowed through the Pearces' land and through Bird's Gully to the Botany Bay wetlands can be clearly seen on J.S. Adam's map, surveyed in the early months of 1853: J.S. Adam, *Map 5690*. 1853, SANSW
- 3 There are numerous accounts of the early colonists' use of the ancient trackway along the high ridgeway which became known as Frenchmans' Road. Alex Protos summarises many of these accounts: Alex Protos, *The Road to Botany Bay: the story of Frenchmans Road, Randwick through the journals of Lapérouse and the First Fleet writers*. 2000, Sydney: R&DHS
- 4 Archaeological excavations in 1995 in the grounds of the Prince of Wales Hospital revealed an ancient cooking site but no evidence of more permanent settlement such as tool-making sites: NSW Dept of Health & Heritage Council of NSW & Austral Archaeology & Godden Mackay Pty. Ltd & South Eastern Area Health Service (NSW), *Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery: archaeological investigation*. Report. 1997, Vol.1, p.104, Sydney, NSW: South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service
- 5 Prior to their sale to the Pearces' in January 1851, Lewis Gordon surveyed the area in early 1850, both to formalise an old track for 'A new line of road...' and to establish the boundaries for the future Portions 379 and 380. His map shows the isolated parcels of Crown land that had been sold up to that time. The only house noted on the map was 'Pearce's house'. Lewis Gordon, *Map 5312*. 1850, SANSW
- 6 Many of the testimonies and affidavits have been summarised in: Lionel F. Bowen, *Early Coogee and Randwick: Evidence from the St Jude's Case 1861 - 1862*, 1998, Randwick: R&DHS. The newspapers of the day also reported on the proceedings: *SMH*, 15 June 1861, p.5; *The Empire*, 26 June 1861, p.5. The files are now at the SANSW, Series NRS7454.

#### *The First Purchase of the Eurimbla Precinct Land*

- 7 Newspaper notice regarding S.H. Pearce's intention to return to England: Simeon H. Pearce, *Take Notice*, *SMH*, 17 September 1845, p.4
- 8 S.H. Pearce's letter to the Surveyor General, 30 July 1847. SANSW, NRS13731, 2/1701, 47/14
- 9 G. Hooper's sale of 4 acres to S.H. Pearce: OS Deed registered at LTO in *Book 13 No.467*
- 10 Comment from Pearce's daughter Clara: SLNSW, Mitchell Library, Pearce papers, A2149
- 11 S.H. Pearce's letter to the Surveyor General, 27 October 1847: SANSW, NRS13731, 2/1701, 47/23
- 12 See descriptions in Christopher J. Keating, *Surry Hills: The City's Backyard*, c.2008, Sydney, NSW: Halstead
- 13 S.H. Pearce letter to the Surveyor General, 25 March 1850. SANSW, NRS13731, 2/1701, 50/17
- 14 Lewis Gordon's 1850 survey: *Crown plan C 589.690*, Land Registry Services
- 15 Proclamation regarding Government land auction on 15 January 1851, *Gov. Gaz*, 13 December 1850, Issue 143
- 16 Pearces' Grants by purchase, January 1851. Registered at LTO Serial 82, pp.204-205.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

### 1851 – 1876 James Pearce and the First Market Garden

- 17 James Pearce's purchase of Simeon Pearce's half share registered at the LTO, OS Book 26, No.133
- 18 Letter regarding Edward Elkins: SANSW, NRS905, 4/3182, 53.136
- 19 Jane Barker's journal held privately; extracts cited by Kenneth Cable: Cable, Kenneth, 'Mrs Barker and her Diary'. *Journal of Royal Australian Historical Society*, 1968, 54 (March): p.92
- 20 Randwick Municipal Council minutes, 17 August 1860. *Randwick Municipal Council Minutes Book* accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection. Also recorded in *SMH*, 23 August 1860, p.8
- 21 Advertisement *SMH*, 28 March 1854, p.6
- 22 Mortgages registered at LTO, OS Book 111, No.739 and Book 116, No. 842
- 23 James Pearce transferred the land 'in love and affection': Deed registered at LTO, OS Book 122 No.380
- 24 James Albert Pearce's sale to Enos Napper for £310, registered at LTO, OS Book 131, No.182
- 25 Information about *amaurosis*: <https://eyewiki.org>
- 26 James Pearce's final mortgage registered on 1 August 1873 at LTO, OS Book 137, No.472
- 27 The Deed of Trust from James and Sophia Pearce to Simeon Pearce registered at LTO, OS Book 142, No.395
- 28 Simeon Pearce's discharge of the mortgage on Portion 379 registered at LTO, OS Book 152, No.133
- 29 James Pearce's death was registered by Simeon Pearce. Certified copy, Registrar's Certificate No. 3466/1876.

### 1877 – 1911 Later Market Gardens

- 30 Michael Benedict Magill's lease registered at LTO, OS Book 220, No.692
- 31 Auction first advertised in *SMH*, 18 June 1881, p.13
- 32 Viles and Way purchase of the Magill nursery land registered at LTO, OS Book 235, No.151
- 33 Norah Joyce purchase of Lot 5, Section 1 registered at LTO, OS Book 264, No.263, 6 March 1883
- 34 Charles Pearce's advertisement, *SMH*, 22 April 1880, p.15
- 35 Reuss and Nott 1886 map, SLNSW, Mitchell library, SL MA3, 811.1816/1886/1 Reuss and Nott, *Map of Randwick and Coogee Parish of Alexandria: showing subdivisions, reserves, public buildings*, 1885-1887, 1886, Reuss and Nott: Sydney
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- 39 Pearce brothers' purchase of Tresiders' shop and business, 31 Sydney Arcade. *Kiama Independent*, 13 April 1888, p.2
- 40 Advertisement placed by Pearce Bros in *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 23 March 1889, p.47 displays Governor's official insignia
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- 42 The Trustees submitted Primary Application (PA) 7591, and received CT Vol.936 fol.137
- 43 Charles Pearce's purchase of the Eurimbla Precinct land noted as Instrument No.362224, Vol.936 fol.137
- 44 Lease to G.W. Valentine was registered in new CT, Vol.1468 fol.16
- 45 Charles Pearce's sale to Albert Edward Reid, and Albert Reid's to Harold Longworth both recorded in the CT Vol.1468 fol.16.

### 1912 -1914 The Sub-Division of Eurimbla Precinct Land and the Creation of Eurimbla Avenue

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- 48 Higinbotham & Robinson *Sydney Suburban Borough Maps, 189-*, Sydney: Higinbotham & Robinson
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- 51 Letter from valuers, deceased estate papers of Charles W. Coulton, SRNSW, NRS13340, 20/2092
- 52 Dobbie sub-division plan, DP 7745, August 1914. Instrument No. A125566 in CT, Vol.1468 fol.16
- 53 Report of Longworth's purchase of Eurimbla Station, *Sydney Mail*, 3 October 1906, p.843
- 54 Image of Eurimbla, Potts Point in Lee family albums, Mitchell Library, PXE 1433 Box 1.

## BUILDING SEQUENCE 1915-1927

- 55 *Construction and Local Government Journal*, 16 April 1915, p.2

- 56 Purchase recorded by NSW Land Registry as dealing A135085, CT Vol.1468 fol.16
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- 58 *Randwick Council Rates Books*, West Ward, Microfilm Reel 17, accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection
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- 61 Charles W. Coulton, Deceased Estate files, SANSW, NRS13340, 20/2092, pre A100858
- 62 A new CT was issued to Mary J. Lester, registered in Vol.7411 fol.170. All subsequent transfers of ownership up to 1988 are recorded on that title
- 63 A new CT for 57 Botany Street was issued to J. and I.R. Hayes, registered in Vol.7173 fol.7
- 64 Residential dates for all house occupants are taken from *Randwick Rates Books* (to 1926), *Sands Directories* (to 1932) and *Electoral rolls* (to 1980), unless otherwise referenced
- 65 A new CT for 55 Botany Street was issued to E.W. Corbett, registered in Vol.7173 fol.8
- 66 A new CT for 59 Botany Street was issued to H.B. Chaffer, registered in Vol.7173 fol.6
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#### **OTHER HISTORICAL EVENTS IMPACTING EURIMBLA PRECINCT 1915-2017**

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- 3 Surveyor T.B.U. Sloman 1890 plan. *Field Book* 1897, Sydney Water
- 4 Mortgage on Lot 5 registered at LTO, OS Book 271 No.234, 9 June 1883.
- 5 *Randwick Council Minutes*, early 1880s, labourer's wages assessments
- 6 Discharge recorded May 1892 in OS Book 1118 No.921
- 7 Comments by Jane and David Shaw regarding ghosts at 4 Magill Street. EPHA Oral History interview, 18 March 2018
- 8 Death Certificate of Norah Joyce records she was born in County Tipperary, Ireland and died September 1905, age 60. The informant was her son, Patrick (Jack) Joyce. Registrar General Certificate 10346/1905
- 9 The valuation can be found in documents regarding Norah Joyce's Deceased Estate at SANSW, NRS13340, 20/362. Valuer Frederick W.H. Pearce, son of the late Simeon H. Pearce waived his fees for the work
- 10 Property sale registered at LTO, Book 931 No.951. Eviction hearings reported in *Truth*, 3 September 1911, p.11
- 11 PA 20374 for Lot 5, Section 1, Magill's sub-division. CT Vol.2811 fol.162, issued 15 December 1917 to nominee A.E. Moore
- 12 Randwick Council Building Application, 2394/1913, accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection
- 13 Sale registered at LTO, Vol.2811 fol.162. Randwick Building Application, No. 6647/1919, accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection
- 14 Purchases of Lot 5 registered at LTO, CT Vol.2811 fol.162, and Lot 4 registered at LTO, CT Vol.3041 fol.71
- 15 For her consolidated land, Mrs S. Johnstone was issued with a new CT, Vol.3497 fol.225, 31 August 1923
- 16 Randwick Council Building Application 668/1925, for 'tool shed' at 4 Magill Street, accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection
- 17 Auction of 4 Magill Street, by Hardie and Gorman, in *Construction Journal*, 16 May 1934, p.12; Sold for £550, *SMH*, 30 June 1934, p.7
- 18 Randwick Council Building Application No. 315/1935, 6 August 1935, accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection.

#### **1888 CHARLES CONDER - CHINAMAN'S GARDEN**

- 19 Charles Conder's painting was acquired at auction by Art Gallery of NSW, 30 August 2017, <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/458.2017/>

- 20 *Randwick Council Rates 1874-1888*, R&DHS
- 21 *Sands Directory*, 1880-1889
- 22 Charles Conder, personal papers, Mitchell Library, SLNSW.

**1889 PEARCE BROTHERS' NURSERY AND FLOWER FARM**

- 23 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 24 *Kiama Independent & Shoalhaven Advertiser*, 13 April 1888, p.2
- 25 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 26 *Sydney Mail*, 23 August 1890, p.406
- 27 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 28 *Sydney Mail*, 2 May 1891, p.970
- 29 The Post Office at that time was at the south east corner of the junction of Short Street and Belmore Road, Randwick
- 30 *Sydney Mail*, 2 May 1891, p.970
- 31 *Sydney Mail*, 2 May 1891, p.970
- 32 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 33 *Illustrated Sydney News*, 22 August 1889, p.30
- 34 *Illawarra Mercury*, 31 January 1889, p.2
- 35 *Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 28 September 1889, p.690
- 36 *Daily Telegraph*, 29 June 1889, p.10
- 37 The twelve acres would have been 4½ acres in the middle section of the Eurimbla Precinct, and the remainder as a separate garden to the north of Arthur Street on what remained of the land that James Pearce bought in late 1852 and March 1853.

***What Was Growing In The Pearce Brothers Nursery And Flower Farm, 1889?***

- 38 'Pearce Brothers' Nursery, Randwick' in Social Notes, *Illustrated Sydney News*, 22 August 1889, p.30
- 39 'Pearce Brothers' Nursery, Randwick' in Social Notes, *Illustrated Sydney News*, 22 August 1889, p.30
- 40 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 41 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 42 'Pearce Brothers' Nursery, Randwick' in Social Notes, *Illustrated Sydney News*, 22 August 1889, p.30
- 43 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 44 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 45 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 46 *Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 28 September 1889, p.690
- 47 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 48 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 49 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 50 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 51 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 52 *Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 28 September 1889, p.690
- 53 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 54 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070

- 55 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 56 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 57 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 58 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 59 'Pearce Brothers' Nursery, Randwick' in Social Notes, *Illustrated Sydney News*, 22 August 1889, p.30
- 60 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 61 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 62 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15
- 63 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 25 May 1889, p.1070
- 64 Approximately 6.3 kg potatoes planted equates to 230 kg of potatoes harvested, an increase of 365%!
- 65 Melancholy Jacques, 'Among the Flower Nurseries. Messrs Pearce Brothers' Plant Nursery', *SMH*, 14 September 1889, p.15.

### **1918 COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WAR HOMES ACQUISITION**

- 66 The free land grant to Trustees of the Destitute Children's Society registered 31 January 1856 at LTO, Series 198 pp.170-176
- 67 *Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children 1858-1915*, Collection AGY-503, SANSW
- 68 Report of Official Enquiry into the conduct of the Randwick Institute for Destitute Children, 1916, SANSW, NRS14628, 9/6152
- 69 *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 17 October 1918, Issue 163, p.2038
- 70 Birth of Merchant's baby on 2 July 1918 announced in *SMH*, 13 July 1918, p.12  
Letter to the Sunday Times regarding the acquisition and re-housing problems, 27 October 1918, p.5
- 71 The transfer of the fourteen houses from the Commonwealth Government to the War Service Homes Commissioner registered at LTO, CT Vol.3358 fol.225, 1 September 1918.

### **1924 EURIMBLA AVENUE SHOPS**

- 72 Randwick Council Building Application No. 26/23, accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection
- 73 John O'Riordan's involvement with Marcellin College is described in Charles McGee, *On a Winner: a History of Marcellin College, Randwick, 1923-1998*, 1999, Randwick, NSW: Marcellin College, p.8
- 74 Henry Doubleday's purchase of 1 and 3 Eurimbla Avenue, and the two leases, recorded at LTO, CT Vol.3358 fol.243
- 75 Randwick Council Building Application No. 92/28, accessed at Randwick City Library, Local Studies Collection
- 76 NSW Electoral Rolls, South Sydney, District of Randwick
- 77 NSW Electoral Rolls, South Sydney, District of Randwick
- 78 Interview by Murray Waldren, *The Weekend Australian*, 1998, <http://users.tpg.com.au/waldrenm/cleary.html>
- 79 Henry Doubleday's sale to C.J. Thomson recorded at LTO, CT Vol.3358 fol.243
- 80 EPHA Oral histories and information supplied by Ms Christine Yeats, RAHS
- 81 LTO, CT Vol.3358 fol.243
- 82 Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) Annual Report 2015-2016, <https://www.racs.org.au/annualreports>.
- 83 Jon Cleary *Now and Then, Amen*. 1988, Glasgow, UK: William Collins Sons & Co Ltd, pp. 3-4

## HOUSING - NAMES, NUMBERS AND STYLES

- 1 Many of the early names have been sourced through various documents including *Randwick Building Applications*, *Randwick Council Rates*, *Sands Directory*, *Sydney MWS&DB* plans as well as surviving name plates and photos of early plates
- 2 *Randwick Council Rates* 1925 (year 1924 rates) indicate *Laurale* (9 Eurimbla Avenue) and *Homely* (11 Eurimbla Avenue)
- 3 The exception was the two houses in Magill Street. Although 4 Magill Street was built in 1883, it does not seem to have been named until 1918, when a new owner gave it the name *The Poplars*. The only other house on the north side of Magill Street prior to 1922 was the future 8 Magill Street (c.1912) which never seemed to have been given a formal name. It was owned and occupied for decades by the Joyce family, so there would have been no practical need for any further identification in such a short side street! Official house numbering in Magill Street was not introduced until 1926
- 4 *Sands Directory* street listings for Randwick 1918. *Sands Directory*, January 1919, lists properties 'canvassed' up to October 1918.

## LIVING IN EURIMBLA PRECINCT

- 1 Beverley Kingston, *A History of New South Wales*. 1st Ed, 2006, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p.166
- 2 NSW Government Health Infrastructure & Advisian, *Development Application to Randwick City Council No.208/2018*, Project No 301015-03835, Statement of Environmental Effects: Randwick Campus Redevelopment, Appendix I 'Flora and Fauna Assessment', 16 April, 2018, p.35
- 3 NSW Government Health Infrastructure & Advisian, *Development Application to Randwick City Council No.208/2018*, Project No 301015-03835, Statement of Environmental Effects: Randwick Campus Redevelopment, Appendix I 'Flora and Fauna Assessment', 16 April, 2018, p.35
- 4 'Messrs. Pearce Brothers' Nursery and Flower Farm', *The Sydney Mail*, 25 May 1889
- 5 Cecile Brunner, image courtesy of Wagner's Nursery: <https://www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au/products/souvenir-de-la-malmaison-clg-1>
- 6 *POW Hospital Randwick Campus Redevelopment Stages 1 and 2*, Report to Lendlease Building on behalf of Health Infrastructure NSW, Casey & Lowe Archaeology & Heritage Pty Ltd, December 2018
- 7 Correspondence, Casey & Lowe Archaeology & Heritage P/L and Project Officer, Randwick Campus Redevelopment, regarding find of isolated coins at 44 Eurimbla Avenue, Randwick, POW Hospital. Randwick Campus Redevelopment, 18 March 2019
- 8 Reserve Bank of Australia Pre-Decimal Inflation Calculator estimates a 'basket of goods and services' costing £6 6s 3d in 1944, <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> Accessed 18/03/2019
- 9 Surname 'Faherty' 1944-1946; Surname change to 'O'Flaherty', Registrar General Instrument 3862, pre-1947
- 10 NSW Electoral Rolls, Australia, 1943 Watson, Randwick
- 11 *SMH*, Family Notices, 29 December 1948, p.3
- 12 *SMH*, Family Notices, 12 March 1949, p.38
- 13 NSW Electoral Rolls, 1927 to 1983
- 14 'Lavers Report 'sent to CIB'', *Daily Telegraph*, 16 June 1951, p.6
- 15 Jon Cleary, *Now and Then, Amen*. 1988, William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd: Glasgow, p.5
- 16 *High Noon at Eurimbla Avenue* donated by Fred E. Orr, 23 February 2018
- 17 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenny\\_McPherson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenny_McPherson)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenny\\_McPherson#Murder\\_of\\_'Greyhound'\\_Charlie\\_Bourke,\\_1964](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenny_McPherson#Murder_of_'Greyhound'_Charlie_Bourke,_1964)  
Reeves, Tony; *Mr Big: The True Story of Lenny McPherson and his Life of Crime*, 2005, Allen & Unwin: Sydney, pp.1-12
- 18 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999\\_Sydney\\_hailstorm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_Sydney_hailstorm)  
<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/storm-sydney-1999/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999\\_Sydney\\_hailstorm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_Sydney_hailstorm) .

## A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- 1 The quarry would have been opened to provide the stone for the 1848 construction of Simeon Pearce's Blenheim House and some of its outbuildings. Simeon was from the Cotswolds in the south-west of England, where building in stone was commonplace, so he would have been familiar with this style of housing. The site of the quarry is shown on a plan used by the Sydney MWS&DB, Randwick Sheet 34. These plans were based on maps compiled in the 1890s, and then modified over the years to show structures relevant to the Board's activities. The quarry is also referenced in the High Street, Randwick listings in some early editions of *Sands Directory*.
- 2 Letter regarding 'Corporation carters' grievances', *SMH*, 11 October 1892, p.6
- 3 From a letter published in the *Sportsman (Melbourne)*, 10 September 1895, p.5
- 4 From a letter published in the *Australian Star*, 15 October 1897, p.8

- 5 Section of report of Randwick Municipal Council meeting, *SMH*, 4 March 1901, p.9
- 6 Comment regarding the tip during Health Week in the *Evening News*, 26 November 1925, p.5
- 7 'Incinerator to be built in Randwick Park', *Labor Daily*, 31 January 1928, p.6
- 8 *Sydney Sunday Times*, 29 April 1928, p.3
- 9 Full report *Sydney Mail*, 10 February 1932, p.49
- 10 Details of tenders required, *Construction (Sydney)*, 25 January 1939, p.10  
'Boy injured in fall down shaft', *SMH*, 21 September 1954, p.1
- 11 Resumptions gazetted: Kensington Racecourse, Portion 1486, 60 acres, resumed November 1952 for UNSW; Randwick Park, Portion 1500, 24½ acres, resumed 13 November 1959 for UNSW; as noted on the LTO Charting Map 13b, Parish of Alexandria, County Cumberland, NSW .

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

- 1 John Pender Finegan WW1 1915 enlistment papers (Service Number 7764): NAA, 1999, B2455, Finegan J P, Canberra: NAA
- 2 Correspondence between Carmel Finegan and EPHA, 29 May 2018
- 3 Monty Wedd publications include:  
*Wedd, Monty, Bold Ben Hall: an authentic biography*. 2018, Margate Beach, Queensland: Comicoz  
*Wedd, Monty, Australian Military Uniforms, 1800-1982*. 1982, Kangaroo Press: Kenthurst, NSW  
Montague 'Monty' Archibald Wedd obituary: *Newcastle Herald*, 9 May 2012  
<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/115991/monty-wedd-designer-of-dollar-bill-dies/>
- 4 Later location for UNSW, 1959
- 5 'It's kind of sad to hear my childhood street is about to disappear' Danny Katz, *The Age*, 15 July 2018
- 6 Frances and Dennis Lawrence memoir, 2020
- 7 Image courtesy of Graham Walsh-Green. Graham reading a local newspaper article concerning the Eurimbla Precinct acquisition – 'Making sure the history of streets endures' by Marie Hogg, *Southern Courier*, 20 February 2018  
<http://newslocal.smedia.com.au/southern-courier/PrintArticle.aspx?doc=NLSNC%2F2018%2F02%2F20&entity=ar00801>

## APPENDICES

### *Two Ships Called 'Eurimbla'*

- 1 Trevor L. Brignell, *Some Shipwrecks in the Randwick Municipality, 1987*, Historical Monograph No.3, R&DHS
- 2 *SMH*, 2 October 1884, p.8  
*Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser*, 29 November 1884, p.1094
- 3 *Flickr* [https://www.flickr.com/photos/anmm\\_thecommons/8778542664](https://www.flickr.com/photos/anmm_thecommons/8778542664)
- 4 *Express*, Adelaide, 21 April 1921, p.2
- 5 A full account of the launch was reported in many papers including *Advertiser, Adelaide*, 21 April 1921, p.7  
*The Ships' List* at <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/lines/commonwealth.shtml> .

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# INDEX

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## A

Acknowledgements 187  
Adam, John 11  
Anderson, R. 27  
Animals 97  
    Birds 97  
    Dogs 87, 97, 98, 99, 149, 151, 158, 163  
    Ducks 98  
    Fish 89, 97, 98, 153  
    Horses 29, 83, 88, 100, 101, 134, 147, 149, 151, 158, 167  
    Snakes 98  
Apollo 11 114, 139  
Australia Day 106

## B

Balcombe, Thomas 12  
Barnard, Kerry Lynn 85, 147, 148, 149  
Barradine 174  
Blennerhassett Family 79, 85, 86, 91, 98, 99, 106, 116, 127, 160, 164, 187  
Booth Family 85, 97, 98, 103, 127, 147, 158, 161, 187  
Bourke, Charlie 112  
Bradford, Thomas F 27  
Brooks, John 162  
Building Sequence 23–25  
Bus with nowhere to go 113

## C

Carroll Family 85, 101, 106, 107, 113, 124, 144, 146, 147, 148, 149, 178, 187  
Cars 29, 57, 102, 154  
    Carports 57, 58, 59, 60, 73, 147, 154  
    First Car in the Precinct 57  
Cleary, Jon Stephen 49, 109, 110, 185  
Cobb, Cheryl D. 69, 83, 138, 187  
Collins, Eileen 54, 58, 83, 88, 89, 93, 94, 99, 100, 104, 123, 124, 125, 127, 138, 153, 156, 158, 172, 178, 187  
Community  
    Belonging and Connection 123  
    Final Gathering 127  
    Friendships 124  
    Fundraising 125, 126, 162, 187  
    Reunion 127  
    Sam's Sanctuary 94, 124, 137  
Conder, Charles  
    (Rainy Day) 14 Feb 1888. Chinaman's Garden Randwick 39, 40, 182  
Contributors 178  
Cook, George P. 27  
Coulton  
    Charles William 22, 23  
    Sydney 23, 26, 48, 54, 172  
Curry, Frederick 22, 23

## D

D'Arcy 72, 150, 151  
Davidson, Duncan 27  
Dobbie, Stuart Randolph 9, 20, 21, 22, 181  
Doyle, Noel 106, 147

## E

Eurimbla  
    Two Ships called 'Eurimbla' 177  
    Walkway 21  
Eurimbla Avenue  
    Dedication as a public road 7  
    Kerbing and guttering 28  
    Shops in the Precinct 27, 29, 30, 49, 50, 56, 86, 87, 88, 138  
        Butcher 13, 30, 49, 88, 134, 139  
        Eurimbla Inn 30, 50  
        Grocer 49, 83, 134  
Eurimbla Point Piper 22  
Eurimbla Precinct  
    Acquisitions  
        1918 Commonwealth Government 6, 47, 184  
        2017 NSW State Government 6  
    Building Sequence 1915-1927, 23  
    Changing Skylines 30, 75  
        Advantages of living within The Precinct 79  
        University of NSW 75  
    Precinct Land purchase 13–15  
    Requests to buy 14  
    The land and its locality before the 1850s 11  
Eurimbla Precinct History Association 125, 192  
Eurimbla Station 22

## F

Fielder, Victor Herbert 27, 150  
Finegan, John Pender 48, 132, 178, 186, 187  
Fire at No.45 113  
Food and Recipes 89  
Frood, Andy 158

## G

Gardening 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 45, 46, 47, 58, 60, 89, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 138, 141, 148, 151, 156, 159, 167, 183  
    Home Gardens 94  
    Street Gardens 93  
George and Andy 99, 124, 158  
Ghosts 114  
Gordon, Lewis 11, 15, 180  
Growing up in the Precinct 100  
Gumbley Family 57, 70, 72, 74, 81, 85, 86, 89, 101, 105, 106, 138, 139, 141, 144, 146, 147, 148, 149, 187

## H

Holland, Betty Denice (Coates) Lane 49, 55, 100, 134, 135, 178, 187  
Home deliveries 88  
Hooper, George 14  
House Names 26, 55, 172, 175  
    Agenda 26, 54, 172, 174  
    Alma 18, 26, 55, 172, 175  
    Alpha 26, 54, 172, 174  
    Annville 18, 26, 55, 172, 175  
    Araluen 24, 25, 56, 172, 175  
    Aston 24, 25, 55, 56, 172, 175  
    Barradine 174  
    Beltrees 26, 54, 172, 174, 176

Blair Athol 27, 55, 173, 175  
 Blaxland 26, 54, 55, 172, 174, 176  
 Broxburn 27, 55, 172, 175  
 Bundarra 27, 55, 172, 174  
 Camelia Grove 54, 172, 174  
 Carlton 26, 54, 172, 174  
 Clarence 25, 26, 54, 55, 172, 174  
 Clery 27, 55, 172, 174  
 Clonbonny 26, 55, 56, 172, 174, 176  
 Coondah 27, 55, 172, 174  
 Dayton 26, 48, 54, 172, 174, 176  
 Denton 26, 54, 172, 174, 176  
 Eaton 26, 54, 55, 172, 174, 176  
 Essex 26, 54, 55, 172, 174, 176  
 Eurimbla 27  
 Excelsior 27, 55, 173, 175  
 Farleigh 26, 54, 172, 174, 176  
 Fenton 26, 54, 55, 172, 174, 176  
 Gaba Tepe 27, 55, 173, 175  
 Glenalpine 26, 54, 55, 172, 174, 176  
 Glendenning 26, 54, 55, 172, 174, 176  
 Green Hills 37, 38, 54, 173, 175, 185  
 Hamlet 26, 54, 172, 174  
 Heremai 26, 54, 56, 132, 172, 174, 176  
 Hexham 26, 54, 55, 172, 174  
 Homely 27, 54, 55, 172, 174, 185  
 Idane 27, 55, 172, 174  
 Inglewood 27, 172, 175  
 Kesby 26, 54, 55, 172, 174, 176  
 Kia-ora 26, 176  
 Laurale 27, 54, 172, 174, 185  
 Lindewalla 172, 175  
 Melron 26, 54, 55, 173, 174  
 Miniclar 24, 25, 55, 56, 172, 175  
 Myeo 27, 55, 173, 175  
 Poplars 37, 38, 54, 173, 175, 185  
 Roma 27, 109, 172, 174  
 RoseRed 26, 54, 173  
 St. Anns 27, 55  
 Troja 24, 25, 56, 172, 175  
 Yulalie 27, 55, 172, 174  
 House Names, Alphabetical sequence 26, 54  
 House Numbers 56  
 Housing Styles 61  
 Hunt, Christopher William 27

## J

Joyce  
 Honora 18  
 William 18, 37

## K

Katz  
 Danny 85, 86, 127, 152, 178, 186, 187  
 Rita 53, 72, 82, 85, 87, 89, 101, 105, 107, 122, 124, 125,  
 149, 150, 151, 153, 178, 187  
 Kenny-Royal, Bruce 103, 158  
 Kotsornithis Family 153–155

## L

Land and house references, 2018 171, 174  
 Lavers-McDermott 'Murder' Case 109  
 Lawrence, Dennis and Frances 127, 159, 167, 186, 187  
 Leisure 101–102  
 BBQs 102, 106, 107, 125, 145  
 Car enthusiasts 102  
 Celebrations - Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, Halloween, New  
 Year 104  
 Pigeons 103

SP Bookies 101, 134  
 St. Patricks Day 104  
 Longworth, Harold 20, 21, 22, 24, 108, 181

## M

Magill, Michael Benedict 17  
 Magill Street 10, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 37, 38, 41, 42, 54,  
 58, 61, 62, 67, 92, 114, 124, 153, 178  
 4 Magill Street  
 Original house 37  
 Owners  
 Johnstone, Susannah 38, 61, 182  
 Joyce Family 37  
 Moore, Andre 38, 173  
 Naylor, William 38  
 Shaw, Jane and David 37, 38, 61  
 Sweeney, John James 38  
 Magill's Nursery Sub-Division 18  
 Market Gardens 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 39, 40, 167  
 Xian Loong 39  
 Marron, John 27  
 McCarthy, Peter and Pamela 94, 122, 146, 161, 178, 187  
 Military Hospital 6, 23, 26, 47, 48, 167  
 Miller, Henry John 26  
 Morris, Alison 162, 187

## N

Napper, Enos 17  
 Nesbitt, Herbert W. 26

## O

Orr, Fred  
 'High Noon at Eurimbla Avenue' 111

## P

Paintings  
 Monique Rüeger 59, 60, 64, 65, 68, 73, 96, 100, 104, 129,  
 164, 187  
 Payne Family 107, 149  
 Pearce  
 Alfred Ernest 19, 20, 41  
 Charles Morton 19, 20, 41, 181  
 James 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 34, 41, 47, 167  
 James Albert 16, 17  
 John Edward 17, 34, 41  
 Simeon Henry 10, 13, 15, 17, 19  
 Blenheim House 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 34, 35, 118, 185  
 Portion 379 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 42, 181  
 Portion 380 10, 16, 42

## R

Randwick  
 Actions Groups  
 Randwick Council Precinct Group 120  
 Randwick West Progress Association 29, 119, 120  
 Incinerator  
 Prince of Wales Hospital Incinerator 122  
 Randwick Incinerator 120  
 Rubbish Tip 21, 108, 118, 119  
 Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children 6, 18, 29, 184  
 Russell Family 142–145

## S

Sarkis Family 62, 63, 94, 95, 102, 106, 108, 124, 127, 136,  
 137, 138, 167  
 School 29, 34, 49, 50, 85, 86, 87, 100, 107, 108, 114, 136,  
 144, 145, 147, 149, 153, 154, 163  
 St. Judes Church 11, 12

**T**

Talman, Harry Walter 26  
Taxi chase 113  
Thlivitis 82, 104, 105, 163, 187  
Thlivitis Family 163  
    Mia 82, 85, 89, 106, 107, 127, 163, 178, 187  
Thomas, Michael Christopher 109  
Thompson, Alice Isabella 14  
Thompson, Sophia Frances 14  
Tomlinson, Noel 27  
Treasures, Lost and Found  
    Cache of Coins 108  
    Money Behind The Wardrobe 108  
    Bottles 108  
    Toy Car 108  
Tulloch Family 82, 83, 86, 106, 107, 108, 112, 116, 145, 146,  
    147

**V**

Violet Hall 17, 18

**W**

Walsh-Green, Graham and Georgina 125, 127, 131, 162, 186  
War Service Homes 6, 48, 171, 176, 184  
    Sales History 176  
Wedd, Montague 'Monty' Archibald 133  
Wig Library 113  
Willows 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42,  
    108, 167, 192  
    Pearce Brothers' Willows Nursery and Flower Farm 42, 44,  
    45, 46, 95  
    Site of The Willows and Greenhouses 19, 23, 41, 42, 95



# EURIMBLA PRECINCT HISTORY ASSOCIATION, INC

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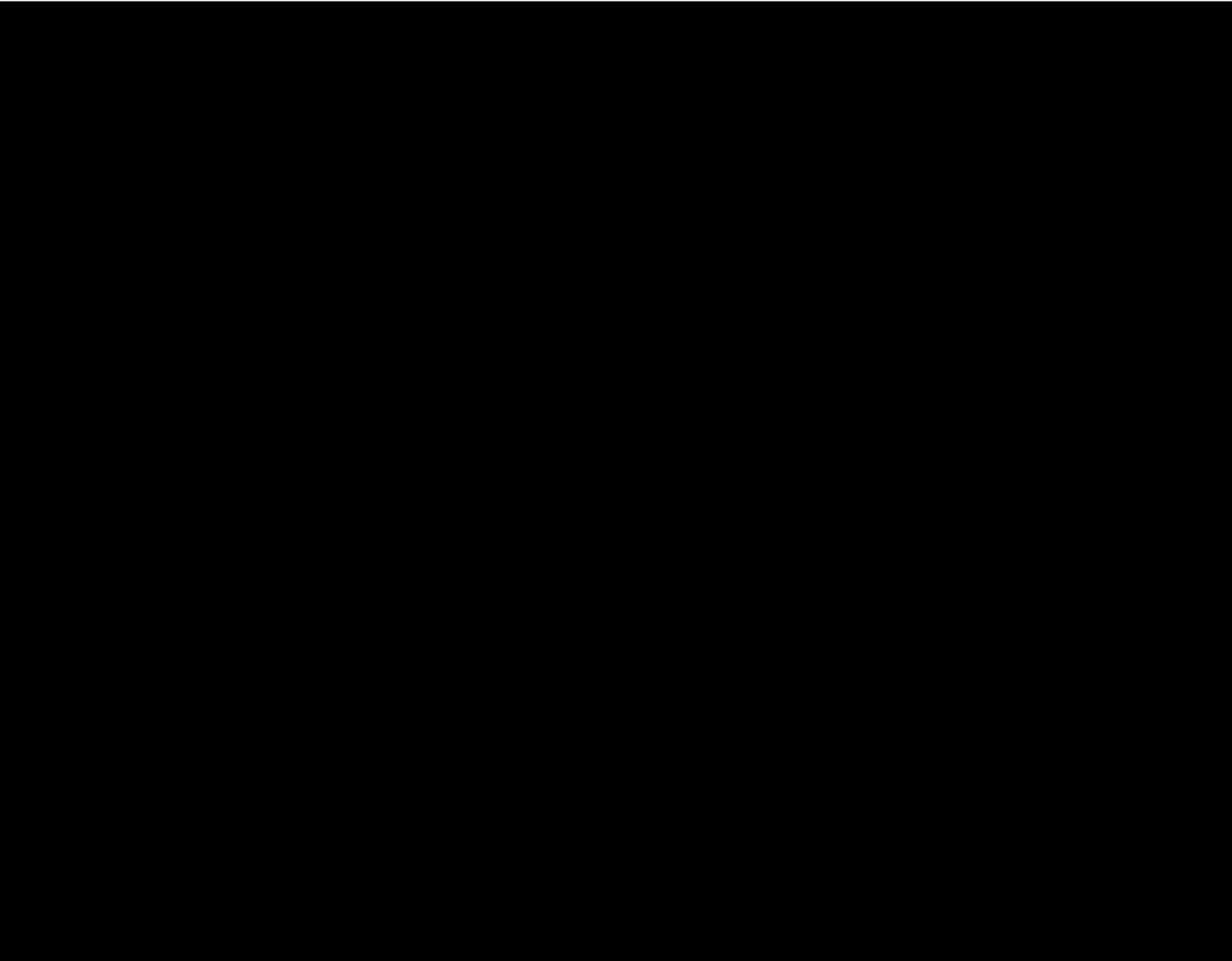
Authors Rosalie, Jan, Monique and Jenny are Randwick residents with a keen interest in local history. Together they formed the Eurimbla Precinct History Association, Inc for the specific purpose of documenting the history of the Eurimbla Precinct and its community prior to demolition. They spent many hours interviewing residents, transcribing oral interviews, cataloguing photographs, researching historical records and applying for grants prior to the demolition of the Precinct. Jenny, a former resident from the Precinct, acted as community liaison, particularly during the resident interviewing phase. Monique made several paintings of houses in the area, a unique addition to the project. Rosalie took on the role of project manager. Jan carried out extensive historical research. Rosalie and Monique conducted the oral history interviews as well as undertaking the collection of photos.

EPHA members Rosalie, Jan, Monique and Jenny during a visit to The Willows archaeological site at the invitation of NSW Health Infrastructure, February 2019

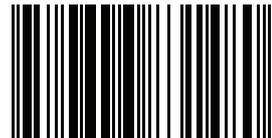








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