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Over the Palisade

👉 An attempt by developers of the Scottish Hospital site, Presbyterian Aged Care, to claw back some of the promised public open space on Dillon Street Reserve - a community benefit, was averted by Woollahra Councillors. The Royal Hospital for Women Park was the result of the Paddington Society's push for community open space and what a benefit that is!

👉 To protect our local heritage Woollahra Council plans to carry out a study of hotels in Paddington to establish more specific conservation controls.

👉 The Paddington Markets car park (opposite the Markets in Newcombe Street) is to be developed by the Uniting Church to multi-level residential on Gordon Street, commercial use on Newcombe Street and to include car parking for market stall holders. To the relief of residents increased traffic will be curtailed as Council will again have traffic enter from Oxford Street with the Gordon Street end of Newcombe Street closed.

👉 The Paddington Bowling Club has closed its doors and appointed a voluntary administrator. The NSW Government responded to allegations of unruly behaviour and loud noise and forced the Club to stop serving alcohol outdoors. The Government has also withdrawn its approval for the owners of the Club to build a Child Care centre on Club land. An independent Report into activities involving the Club has found evidence of corrupt conduct by officials dealing with the Club. The Club also faces numerous charges against its management which are due before the Courts in August.

👉 It's disappointing that we now have only two Ward Councillors representing Paddington - the result of a decision not to hold a by-election by Woollahra Council after the resignation of Cllr Wise.

ANNUAL DINNER Thursday 6 August

Do join us | Bookings essential
See back page

Council Amalgamation?

What do Council Amalgamations mean for the heritage of Paddington?

The NSW State Government is currently reviewing the effectiveness of local government with the objective of amalgamating 152 current Local Government Areas (LGAs) across the state into 18 Regions of which one will be the Metropolitan Sydney Region. The Metro Region will comprise five Sub Regions which will be formed from 38 existing Sydney municipalities and shires, the Central Subregion formed by amalgamating Woollahra, Waverley Randwick, Botany Bay and Sydney with a total population of about 500,000.

The amalgamation plan is in accordance with the October 2013 Final Report "Revitalising Local Government" produced by the Independent Local Government Review Panel that was appointed by the State Government in April 2012. Both City of Sydney (CoS) and Woollahra Municipal Council (WMC) are fiercely opposed to the State Government's plans for amalgamation and wish to retain their independence.

What does this mean for Paddington? The pros and cons of this issue have been discussed intensely by members of The Paddington Society (TPS) Executive Committee. Amalgamation could bring reunification of North and South Paddington but at the same time could see a weakening of controls over development in the suburb. It presents a quandary for the TPS executive.

On the positive side Council amalgamation would address the issue of re-unification. Paddington is administered by two different Councils - WMC for the North and CoS for the South. It could also result in an improved urban design approach for Paddington's public domain.

On the negative side Council amalgamation could lead to the planning controls of CoS being applied to the whole of the new Central Sub Region. The tight controls of WMC that presently apply to North Paddington could be replaced by the looser controls of CoS. When we talk about "controls" we refer to the instrument that councils rely on to control development, which is called a Development Control Plan.

Woollahra DCP 2015 contains a section that spells out the particular characteristics

for this Heritage Conservation Area as well as listing numerous controls and guidelines. In developing this DCP there was extensive consultation by WMC with TPS.

Sydney DCP 2012 has general performance controls with statements that apply to South Paddington. In addition it contains more specific controls for single dwellings, terraces and dual occupancies. Specific controls which apply to all such building types in the whole LGA including areas such as Glebe and Surry Hills as well as Paddington.

Compared with the Woollahra DCP the Sydney DCP is more cumbersome and less rigorous in seeking to conserve the heritage values of the precinct.

Paddington as an independent municipality began in 1860 following separation from the Sydney City Council, culminating in the opening of the Paddington Town Hall in 1891. Eventually in 1948 a once proud but now bankrupt Paddington Council was absorbed into the City of Sydney.

In 1968 Paddington was split between two municipalities, Woollahra and South Sydney, with the boundary running down the centre of Oxford Street. More recently South Paddington moved from South Sydney Council to the City of Sydney in the 2004 merger of those two councils.

The upside of Council amalgamation would be the uniting of the two halves of Paddington under one municipality with one set of planning controls. This has for some time been a major objective of the Paddington Society.

However, there are many unanswered questions surrounding amalgamation. We have touched on some major issues as we see it. The downside continues to stare us in the face. The possibility of losing the effective DCP controls which we helped Council formulate over a long period of consultation and which have proved to be so effective over time is unconscionable.

So, in the opinion of The Paddington Society Executive Committee, the prospect of Council amalgamation should be vigorously opposed by all those who value the conservation of our heritage.

Early Paddington

For many thousands of years the Paddington area was occupied by the Cadigal people. The area was known as Cadi, the name our indigenous people gave to the south shore of Sydney Harbour, an area stretching from Watsons Bay to Sydney Cove. There were some 30 separate groups from the coastal Eora clans living here, each made up of between 30 and 50 people related to one another.

The area was a sandstone landscape of heath on long narrow ridges and taller woodland in deep rocky gullies with shallow sandy soils. Travelling east from what is now Hyde Park along Oxford Street, built to follow an Aboriginal track along the ridge, was Turpentine and Iron Bark forest. At about Taylor Square this became woodland of Angophora, mahogany, forest Red Gum, Bangalay and Scribbly Gum spreading across most of north Paddington except for a swampy area at Rushcutters Bay. Along the ridge from about Juniper Hall and stretching to Rose Bay, Bondi and Coogee were banksia, Angophora, Casuarina, Hakea and sedges. Further to the south, Paddington overlooked banksia scrub and grass trees and the freshwater sedge swamp that today forms Centennial Park.

The Cadigal were saltwater people eating fish & shellfish. Being coastal dwellers they were adept at fishing, swimming, diving, canoeing, even in surf. Plentiful supplies of seafood were supplemented with fruits, nectar, roots and tubers, as well as birds and small animals. Plants provided everyday items with leaves and native grasses used to weave baskets. Grass tree flower spikes provided shafts for hunting & fishing spears. Indeed, the clan name, Cadi, was also the name given to the grass trees, indicating the significance of this plant to the people.

When the First Fleet sailed into Sydney Harbour in 1788 the British considered the land unoccupied and unowned and gradually dispossessed the Cadigal peoples. Settlers changed the face of the



1842 Sketch by Frederick Garling from Old South Head Road (now Oxford Street) to Rushcutters Bay showing topography

country with their farms, orchards, plants and animals, quarrying, timber-getting and fires. Some Aboriginal food plants, fish and shellfish were soon exhausted leading to starvation for both colonists and the Eora people in the early years of the colony. A smallpox epidemic in 1789 may have killed

up to 80% of the Sydney clans, followed by lesser epidemics through the 19th century.

The 1830s saw a rising concern with respectability, and a hunger for land, that almost banished the Aborigines from the town and the new harbourside suburbs moving them south to Botany Bay, Sydney's



The Terraces 1886, villa estate of H B Bradley, now part of the Scottish Hospital, 2 Cooper Street. Source: ML

New Project

Ultimate Book on Paddington

The Paddington Society has embarked on an ambitious project to publish a history from before early settlement to the present day, building on the scholarly work of Max Kelly's 1978 'Paddock Full of Houses, Paddington 1840-90'.

The idea to proceed was boosted by a generous bequest some years ago from one of our life members, a researcher and lover of history. With the assistance of a small Arts NSW grant, we now have a



1964 photo by Lee Pearch of terraces facing Orange Tree Grove (now developed) off Bennetts Grove Avenue. Source: National Library of Australia

visual database and will continue to apply for government grants, and seek both corporate and individual sponsorship to help finance this exciting project.

The new book will emphasise the visual landscape, but will also draw on social, economic and political history to help explain this built environment. It is intended to be a high quality hardback publication, written by professional historians, which will appeal to residents, scholars, tourists, architects, students – everyone

If you have any material such as photos or drawings to contribute please contact Linda Gosling via the Society's email at: heritage@paddingtonociety.org.au.



and scattered settlement. Source: Mitchell Library

unwanted 'backyard'. Despite this the Aboriginal people never disappeared from Paddington they just became more invisible and increasingly marginalised. There are accounts of continuing occupation, for example, in his memoirs Obed West recalls that his Barcom Glen estate, centred on Boundary Street and stretching to Rushcutters Bay, was heavily forested in the 1810s and a great camping place for 'blacks'. It has been recorded that Aboriginal people continued to gather here for decades and on Queen Victoria's birthday each year were presented with a gift of blankets. West also recalled troupes of people carrying canoes over their heads heading down to Bondi, Coogee and Maroubra to fish in the 1830s.

Elizabeth Macquarie established a settlement of 'bark huts for the natives' at Elizabeth Bay in the 1820s, and when Alexander Macleay started to build Elizabeth Bay House and garden in the early 1830s, Aborigines probably still lived on the property using the sandstone overhangs as shelter. Surveyor Govett observed in the 1830s

that settlers often encouraged families of Aborigines to stay on their estates 'to keep away strange blacks who might otherwise make dangerous incursions'.

Bungaree, a celebrated Aboriginal elder, camped at the Domain and Elizabeth Bay. He died on Garden Island in 1830, and was buried at Rose Bay. Warrah Warrah, his son, set up camp on South Head Road at Rose Bay and travellers threw sixpences when they passed his gunyah until he died in 1863.

It is difficult to recognise the early Paddington landscape today, with trees felled, creeks filled in, stone quarried, land densely subdivided and built upon. Still traces remain - pockets of remnant plants, roads tracing ridges (Oxford Street) or streams (Boundary Street) or accessible routes (Glenmore Road), terraces hugging the topography, occasional sandstone outcrops and a few street names such as Cascade and Glenview are reminders of earlier times.

Grace Karskens in her history of the area states that Paddington and the Sydney Harbour region were shared landscapes in the colonial period with ongoing Aboriginal history and cross-cultural stories. The stately homes and heavy buildings of British authority stood alongside the lighter signatures of Aboriginal camps, fighting rings, middens, rock shelters, tracks, scarred trees and grooved images.

References:

- *The Colony, A History of Early Sydney*, Grace Karskens, Allen & Unwin, Sydney 2009
- *Taken for Granted, The Bushland of Sydney & its Suburbs*, D Benson & J Howell, Kangaroo Press, Sydney, 1990
- *The Memoirs of Obed West, A Portrait of Early Sydney*, E W Marriott, Barcom Press, 1988
- *Eora, Mapping Aboriginal Sydney 1770-1850*, State Library of NSW exhibition brochure (online), 2006

William Street Paddington

This unique street fulfils a special retail function in Paddington and attracts people from all over.

The works widen the footpaths and narrow the carriageway make good urban design sense ie - more room for pedestrians and a narrower passage for vehicles.

All this produces the right results, traffic calming without compromising the character of William Street. It will benefit the place and help reinforce retail activity, and it will achieve these objectives whilst looking as though it has always been there, a simple rule to apply in heritage areas.

So why has Woollahra Council undone all this good by vandalizing the intersection? The raised threshold at the intersection with Underwood Street has changed the character of the street for the worse. No longer does it read as a single urban entity, it has become fragmented ugly.

And to add insult to injury the raised threshold is finished with fake cobblestones - a pattern stamped into concrete to try, without success, to simulate the appearance of 'heritage'. It is a finish which is not part of the accepted Paddington palette of materials and takes away from the quality of the streets and buildings.

The Paddington Society supported the road narrowing but spoke strongly against trivialising the street with raised platforms and patterned pavements.

We have for many decades urged Council to consider the public domain with the same sensitivity they demand of property owners renovating their houses. After all, are they not the custodians of our heritage public domain?



William Street raised threshold.

Why I Live Here



Is Paddington a great place to live? No. Paddo is an awesome place to live. It's not just the great community feel, the parks and playgrounds, art galleries and restaurants, and the terrace-lined streets that we

love. We have met some great neighbours

and friends in Paddington, whether it be through our children, our 'dog friends' in the park, or over a coffee and conversation at Alimentari.

Paddington is the perfect combination of modern, progressive thinking mixed with classic, historical architecture. This is something unique and worth preserving for the future. Thank you for having us.

Katie and Dan Beaumont

The Paddington Society 2015 Committee

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Another Viewpoint

Heritage Shelters?

The loss of the “heritage” stone and timber bus shelters along the 389 route through Paddington has been bemoaned from many quarters. But are they truly “heritage”?

These shelters were erected, from memory, around 1980-90. They are a modified version of a shelter design used in other parts of Woollahra. These originals were based on an early English lych gate form and they had some merit. The Lych Gate occurred at the entrance to churchyards and provided protection for corpse bearers to lay out the deceased on a communal bier. The gate to St Marks, Darling Point, is a small scale example of a Lych Gate.

The roof of the original Woollahra bus shelter was supported in the same manner. A central post at each end sat atop the stone plinth. The roof was braced by two semi-circular timber members each side of the central post. They were truly elegant structures. However, even had they been introduced in this original form they would have been out of place in Victorian Paddington.

But they weren't. The very feature which gave these shelters elegance and beauty was eliminated and the form dumbed down by replacing the curved braces with two posts at either end. A lych gate had become a garden shed. And all beauty and meaning was lost. There appeared no rationale whatsoever for imposing these sheds on Paddington.

So in heritage terms the shelters did not ring true. The frank expression of a contemporary bus shelter is today far more justifiable as part of the transit system than relating to ancient English burial traditions.

Oh well. You're either on the bus or you're off the bus.

ANNUAL DINNER

Wednesday 6th August 2015
7pm at Cipri Italian Restaurant
10 Elizabeth Street, Paddington.

Guest Speaker:
Greg Medcraft, Chairman ASIC

Members: \$90 | Friends \$95
Welcome drink, canapés and dinner

Everyone Welcome!

Bookings:
heritage@paddingtonsociety.org.au or
Frances 0417 475 669

RSVP essential by 30th July 2015

Ongoing Issues

White City

At a meeting on site on April 2011 representatives of the Hakoah Club assured members of the Paddington Society Committee that the Club would comply with the site specific 2007 DCP. The site specific 2007 DCP was the result of a lengthy and successful consultation with the community of Paddington. The 2007 DCP is supported by The Paddington Society.

Council has been approached by the club seeking to change the DCP guidelines, the LEP height controls and to create particular heritage listings and controls on the site. There has been no discussion with The Paddington Society or the general community. Indeed a recent request seeking information about proposals from the club has received no response. It would appear that the Hakoah Club no longer intends to honour its intent to comply with the 2007 DCP.

The club web site suggests that very detailed drawings and reports have been prepared without any consultation. This means the club has committed a lot of money before any community engagement.

Council has apparently submitted a planning proposal to the Department of Planning to determine if it should proceed to Gateway Determination stage. Where is the consultation here?

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) has prepared a Position Paper on White City confirming its strong interest in any proposals.

We understand that the heritage consultancy community has so far refused to participate in any heritage approach that does not list the entire site.

The community can only be concerned. Changing height controls, limiting heritage agreements, impacting views from the Paddington slopes to Rushcutters Bay all bode ill for this place.

The Paddington Society calls for proper community participation in this process.



Tennis match at White City 1930. Sam Hood
Source: SLNSW

Local Issues

Centennial Park

The Centennial and Moore Park Trust intends to construct an all-weather sports area, football field in size, opposite Robertson Road and immediately south of the grand entrance to Centennial Park at Anzac Parade; a small section of this area is currently used for netball. The area of parkland is to be surrounded by a 2.4m fence, illuminated and payment will be required to use the space.

The Paddington Society is always interested in any developments in Centennial Park and as many of us use it frequently, would like the Park to be open to all. It should be remembered that the Centennial Park area was originally declared as Sydney Common by Governor Macquarie and then legislated as Centennial Park by Henry Parkes to be freely available to the residents of Sydney providing fresh air and open space.

The Park Trust is under pressure from the NSW Government to be self-funded but a balance must be maintained.

St Vincent's Development



View of proposed development at St Vincent's Hospital

St Vincent's Private Hospital recently gave a community presentation at the Beauchamp Hotel on their plans to build a new East Wing and the refurbishment of the existing main Private Hospital building. A new 12 storey building will be in the middle of the hospital campus in an existing courtyard near the junction of the Public Hospital.

This building will provide more Private Hospital beds and operating theatres. As it is in the middle of the campus, Paddington will not be affected by overshadowing and there should be no or little visible impact from Boundary Street / Barcom Avenue as the new building will be obscured by existing buildings. From a distance the top 3 stories may be visible above the existing hospital skyline from some parts of Paddington. All access to the construction site by trucks will be from Victoria Street, not from Boundary Street or Barcom Avenue. If you would like further information, the project phone number is 8382-7125 or email svphs.redevelopment@svha.org.au

The Paddington Paper is the official newsletter of The Paddington Society providing news and informed comment on local issues. Views expressed are those of the editorial committee and not necessarily those of the membership of the Paddington Society.

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Passionate for Paddington? Then join us and get involved! www.paddingtonsociety.org.au