



## SHR Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape



## Conservation Management Plan - Appendices

Prepared for  
Waverley Council

October 2023 • Version 6

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**A**

# Burra Charter

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# THE BURRA CHARTER

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for  
Places of Cultural Significance 2013



Australia ICOMOS Incorporated  
International Council on Monuments and Sites

## ICOMOS

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) is a non-governmental professional organisation formed in 1965, with headquarters in Paris. ICOMOS is primarily concerned with the philosophy, terminology, methodology and techniques of cultural heritage conservation. It is closely linked to UNESCO, particularly in its role under the World Heritage Convention 1972 as UNESCO's principal adviser on cultural matters related to World Heritage. The 11,000 members of ICOMOS include architects, town planners, demographers, archaeologists, geographers, historians, conservators, anthropologists, scientists, engineers and heritage administrators. Members in the 103 countries belonging to ICOMOS are formed into National Committees and participate in a range of conservation projects, research work, intercultural exchanges and cooperative activities. ICOMOS also has 27 International Scientific Committees that focus on particular aspects of the conservation field. ICOMOS members meet triennially in a General Assembly.

## Australia ICOMOS

The Australian National Committee of ICOMOS (Australia ICOMOS) was formed in 1976. It elects an Executive Committee of 15 members, which is responsible for carrying out national programs and participating in decisions of ICOMOS as an international organisation. It provides expert advice as required by ICOMOS, especially in its relationship with the World Heritage Committee. Australia ICOMOS acts as a national and international link between public authorities, institutions and individuals involved in the study and conservation of all places of cultural significance. Australia ICOMOS members participate in a range of conservation activities including site visits, training, conferences and meetings.

## Revision of the Burra Charter

The Burra Charter was first adopted in 1979 at the historic South Australian mining town of Burra. Minor revisions were made in 1981 and 1988, with more substantial changes in 1999.

Following a review this version was adopted by Australia ICOMOS in October 2013.

The review process included replacement of the 1988 Guidelines to the Burra Charter with Practice Notes which are available at: [australia.icomos.org](http://australia.icomos.org)

Australia ICOMOS documents are periodically reviewed and we welcome any comments.

## Citing the Burra Charter

The full reference is *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013*. Initial textual references should be in the form of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013* and later references in the short form (*Burra Charter*).

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The Burra Charter consists of the Preamble, Articles, Explanatory Notes and the flow chart.

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# The Burra Charter

(The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013)

## Preamble

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1964), and the Resolutions of the 5th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988, 26 November 1999 and 31 October 2013.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

Who is the Charter for?

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

Using the Charter

The Charter should be read as a whole. Many articles are interdependent.

The Charter consists of:

- Definitions Article 1
- Conservation Principles Articles 2–13
- Conservation Processes Articles 14–25
- Conservation Practices Articles 26–34
- The Burra Charter Process flow chart.

The key concepts are included in the Conservation Principles section and these are further developed in the Conservation Processes and Conservation Practice sections. The flow chart explains the Burra Charter Process (Article 6) and is an integral part of

the Charter. Explanatory Notes also form part of the Charter.

The Charter is self-contained, but aspects of its use and application are further explained, in a series of Australia ICOMOS Practice Notes, in *The Illustrated Burra Charter*, and in other guiding documents available from the Australia ICOMOS web site: [australia.icomos.org](http://australia.icomos.org).

What places does the Charter apply to?

The Charter can be applied to all types of places of cultural significance including natural, Indigenous and historic places with cultural values.

The standards of other organisations may also be relevant. These include the *Australian Natural Heritage Charter*, *Ask First: a guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values* and *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections*.

National and international charters and other doctrine may be relevant. See [australia.icomos.org](http://australia.icomos.org).

Why conserve?

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are historical records, that are important expressions of Australian identity and experience. Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian landscape. They are irreplaceable and precious.

These places of cultural significance must be conserved for present and future generations in accordance with the principle of inter-generational equity.

The Burra Charter advocates a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.

## Articles

### Article 1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter:

- 1.1 *Place* means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.
- 1.2 *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.  
  
Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric*, *setting*, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, *records*, *related places* and *related objects*.  
  
Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.
- 1.3 *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including elements, fixtures, contents and objects.
- 1.4 *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.
- 1.5 *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of a *place*, and its *setting*.  
  
Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.
- 1.6 *Preservation* means maintaining a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- 1.7 *Restoration* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing elements without the introduction of new material.
- 1.8 *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material.
- 1.9 *Adaptation* means changing a *place* to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.
- 1.10 *Use* means the functions of a *place*, including the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.

## Explanatory Notes

Place has a broad scope and includes natural and cultural features. Place can be large or small: for example, a memorial, a tree, an individual building or group of buildings, the location of an historical event, an urban area or town, a cultural landscape, a garden, an industrial plant, a shipwreck, a site with in situ remains, a stone arrangement, a road or travel route, a community meeting place, a site with spiritual or religious connections.

The term cultural significance is synonymous with cultural heritage significance and cultural heritage value.

Cultural significance may change over time and with use.

Understanding of cultural significance may change as a result of new information.

Fabric includes building interiors and sub-surface remains, as well as excavated material.

Natural elements of a place may also constitute fabric. For example the rocks that signify a Dreaming place.

Fabric may define spaces and views and these may be part of the significance of the place.

See also Article 14.

Examples of protective care include:

- maintenance — regular inspection and cleaning of a place, e.g. mowing and pruning in a garden;
- repair involving restoration — returning dislodged or relocated fabric to its original location e.g. loose roof gutters on a building or displaced rocks in a stone bora ring;
- repair involving reconstruction — replacing decayed fabric with new fabric

It is recognised that all places and their elements change over time at varying rates.

New material may include recycled material salvaged from other places. This should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.

Use includes for example cultural practices commonly associated with Indigenous peoples such as ceremonies, hunting and fishing, and fulfillment of traditional obligations. Exercising a right of access may be a use.

## Articles

- 1.11 *Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.
- 1.12 *Setting* means the immediate and extended environment of a *place* that is part of or contributes to its *cultural significance* and distinctive character.
- 1.13 *Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.
- 1.14 *Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the place.
- 1.15 *Associations* mean the connections that exist between people and a *place*.
- 1.16 *Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses to people.
- 1.17 *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

## Conservation Principles

### Article 2. Conservation and management

- 2.1 *Places of cultural significance* should be conserved.
- 2.2 The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance* of a *place*.
- 2.3 *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places of cultural significance*.
- 2.4 *Places of cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

### Article 3. Cautious approach

- 3.1 *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric, use, associations* and *meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.
- 3.2 Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

### Article 4. Knowledge, skills and techniques

- 4.1 *Conservation* should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.

## Explanatory Notes

Setting may include: structures, spaces, land, water and sky; the visual setting including views to and from the place, and along a cultural route; and other sensory aspects of the setting such as smells and sounds. Setting may also include historical and contemporary relationships, such as use and activities, social and spiritual practices, and relationships with other places, both tangible and intangible.

Objects at a place are encompassed by the definition of place, and may or may not contribute to its cultural significance.

Associations may include social or spiritual values and cultural responsibilities for a place.

Meanings generally relate to intangible dimensions such as symbolic qualities and memories.

Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (e.g. maintenance, restoration, reconstruction); the use of and activities at the place; and the use of introduced explanatory material.

The traces of additions, alterations and earlier treatments to the fabric of a place are evidence of its history and uses which may be part of its significance. Conservation action should assist and not impede their understanding.

## Articles

4.2 Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the *conservation* of significant *fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

## Article 5. Values

5.1 *Conservation* of a *place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.

5.2 Relative degrees of *cultural significance* may lead to different *conservation* actions at a place.

## Article 6. Burra Charter Process

6.1 The *cultural significance* of a *place* and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy. This is the Burra Charter Process.

6.2 Policy for managing a *place* must be based on an understanding of its *cultural significance*.

6.3 Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a *place* such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

6.4 In developing an effective policy, different ways to retain *cultural significance* and address other factors may need to be explored.

6.5 Changes in circumstances, or new information or perspectives, may require reiteration of part or all of the Burra Charter Process.

## Article 7. Use

7.1 Where the *use* of a *place* is of *cultural significance* it should be retained.

7.2 A *place* should have a *compatible use*.

## Explanatory Notes

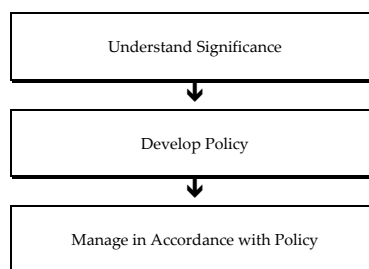
The use of modern materials and techniques must be supported by firm scientific evidence or by a body of experience.

Conservation of places with natural significance is explained in the Australian Natural Heritage Charter. This Charter defines natural significance to mean the importance of ecosystems, biodiversity and geodiversity for their existence value or for present or future generations, in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value.

In some cultures, natural and cultural values are indivisible.

A cautious approach is needed, as understanding of cultural significance may change. This article should not be used to justify actions which do not retain cultural significance.

The Burra Charter Process, or sequence of investigations, decisions and actions, is illustrated below and in more detail in the accompanying flow chart which forms part of the Charter.



Options considered may include a range of uses and changes (e.g. adaptation) to a place.

The policy should identify a use or combination of uses or constraints on uses that retain the cultural significance of the place. New use of a place should involve minimal change to significant fabric and use; should respect associations and meanings; and where appropriate should provide for continuation of activities and practices which contribute to the cultural significance of the place.

## Articles

### Article 8. Setting

*Conservation* requires the retention of an appropriate *setting*. This includes retention of the visual and sensory setting, as well as the retention of spiritual and other cultural relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

### Article 9. Location

- 9.1 The physical location of a *place* is part of its *cultural significance*. A building, work or other element of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.
- 9.2 Some buildings, works or other elements of *places* were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other elements do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.
- 9.3 If any building, work or other element is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate *use*. Such action should not be to the detriment of any *place* of *cultural significance*.

### Article 10. Contents

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is: the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*; on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition; for cultural reasons; for health and safety; or to protect the place. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

### Article 11. Related places and objects

The contribution which *related places* and *related objects* make to the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be retained.

### Article 12. Participation

*Conservation*, *interpretation* and management of a *place* should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has significant *associations* and *meanings*, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

### Article 13. Co-existence of cultural values

Co-existence of cultural values should always be recognised, respected and encouraged. This is especially important in cases where they conflict.

## Explanatory Notes

Setting is explained in Article 1.12.

For example, the repatriation (returning) of an object or element to a place may be important to Indigenous cultures, and may be essential to the retention of its cultural significance.

Article 28 covers the circumstances where significant fabric might be disturbed, for example, during archaeological excavation.

Article 33 deals with significant fabric that has been removed from a place.

For some places, conflicting cultural values may affect policy development and management decisions. In Article 13, the term cultural values refers to those beliefs which are important to a cultural group, including but not limited to political, religious, spiritual and moral beliefs. This is broader than values associated with cultural significance.

## Conservation Processes

### Article 14. Conservation processes

*Conservation* may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a *use*; retention of *associations* and *meanings*; *maintenance*, *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction*, *adaptation* and *interpretation*; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these. Conservation may also include retention of the contribution that *related places* and *related objects* make to the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

### Article 15. Change

15.1 Change may be necessary to retain *cultural significance*, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a *place* and its *use* should be guided by the *cultural significance* of the place and its appropriate *interpretation*.

15.2 Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.

15.3 Demolition of significant *fabric* of a *place* is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of *conservation*. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.

15.4 The contributions of all aspects of *cultural significance* of a *place* should be respected. If a place includes *fabric*, *uses*, *associations* or *meanings* of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.

### Article 16. Maintenance

*Maintenance* is fundamental to *conservation*. Maintenance should be undertaken where *fabric* is of *cultural significance* and its maintenance is necessary to retain that *cultural significance*.

### Article 17. Preservation

*Preservation* is appropriate where the existing *fabric* or its condition constitutes evidence of *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other *conservation* processes to be carried out.

Conservation normally seeks to slow deterioration unless the significance of the place dictates otherwise. There may be circumstances where no action is required to achieve conservation.

When change is being considered, including for a temporary use, a range of options should be explored to seek the option which minimises any reduction to its cultural significance.

It may be appropriate to change a place where this reflects a change in cultural meanings or practices at the place, but the significance of the place should always be respected.

Reversible changes should be considered temporary. Non-reversible change should only be used as a last resort and should not prevent future conservation action.

Maintaining a place may be important to the fulfilment of traditional laws and customs in some Indigenous communities and other cultural groups.

Preservation protects fabric without obscuring evidence of its construction and use. The process should always be applied:

- where the evidence of the fabric is of such significance that it should not be altered; or
- where insufficient investigation has been carried out to permit policy decisions to be taken in accord with Articles 26 to 28.

New work (e.g. stabilisation) may be carried out in association with preservation when its purpose is the physical protection of the fabric and when it is consistent with Article 22.

## Articles

### Article 18. Restoration and reconstruction

*Restoration and reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

### Article 19. Restoration

*Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric*.

### Article 20. Reconstruction

20.1 *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In some cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a *use* or practice that retains the *cultural significance* of the place.

20.2 *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional *interpretation*.

### Article 21. Adaptation

21.1 *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

21.2 *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant *fabric*, achieved only after considering alternatives.

### Article 22. New work

22.1 New work such as additions or other changes to the *place* may be acceptable where it respects and does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the place, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation.

22.2 New work should be readily identifiable as such, but must respect and have minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

### Article 23. Retaining or reintroducing use

Retaining, modifying or reintroducing a significant *use* may be appropriate and preferred forms of *conservation*.

### Article 24. Retaining associations and meanings

24.1 Significant *associations* between people and a *place* should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the *interpretation*, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

24.2 Significant *meanings*, including spiritual values, of a *place* should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

## Explanatory Notes

Places with social or spiritual value may warrant reconstruction, even though very little may remain (e.g. only building footings or tree stumps following fire, flood or storm). The requirement for sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state still applies.

Adaptation may involve additions to the place, the introduction of new services, or a new use, or changes to safeguard the place. Adaptation of a place for a new use is often referred to as 'adaptive re-use' and should be consistent with Article 7.2.

New work should respect the significance of a place through consideration of its siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and material. Imitation should generally be avoided.

New work should be consistent with Articles 3, 5, 8, 15, 21 and 22.1.

These may require changes to significant fabric but they should be minimised. In some cases, continuing a significant use, activity or practice may involve substantial new work.

For many places associations will be linked to aspects of use, including activities and practices.

Some associations and meanings may not be apparent and will require research.

## Article 25. Interpretation

The *cultural significance* of many *places* is not readily apparent, and should be explained by *interpretation*. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement, and be culturally appropriate.

## Conservation Practice

## Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter Process

26.1 Work on a *place* should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.

26.2 Written statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be prepared, justified and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the place.

26.3 Groups and individuals with *associations* with the *place* as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in identifying and understanding the *cultural significance* of the place. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its *conservation* and management.

26.4 Statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be periodically reviewed, and actions and their consequences monitored to ensure continuing appropriateness and effectiveness.

## Article 27. Managing change

27.1 The impact of proposed changes, including incremental changes, on the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be assessed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes to better retain cultural significance.

27.2 Existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings* should be adequately recorded before and after any changes are made to the *place*.

## Article 28. Disturbance of fabric

28.1 Disturbance of significant *fabric* for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the place, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.

In some circumstances any form of interpretation may be culturally inappropriate.

The results of studies should be kept up to date, regularly reviewed and revised as necessary.

Policy should address all relevant issues, e.g. use, interpretation, management and change.

A management plan is a useful document for recording the Burra Charter Process, i.e. the steps in planning for and managing a place of cultural significance (Article 6.1 and flow chart). Such plans are often called conservation management plans and sometimes have other names.

The management plan may deal with other matters related to the management of the place.

Monitor actions taken in case there are also unintended consequences.



28.2 Investigation of a *place* which requires disturbance of the *fabric*, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

#### Article 29. Responsibility

The organisations and individuals responsible for management and decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each decision.

#### Article 30. Direction, supervision and implementation

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

#### Article 31. Keeping a log

New evidence may come to light while implementing policy or a plan for a *place*. Other factors may arise and require new decisions. A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

New decisions should respect and have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place.

#### Article 32. Records

32.1 The records associated with the *conservation* of a *place* should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

32.2 Records about the history of a *place* should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

#### Article 33. Removed fabric

Significant *fabric* which has been removed from a *place* including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its *cultural significance*.

Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the place.

#### Article 34. Resources

Adequate resources should be provided for *conservation*.

The best conservation often involves the least work and can be inexpensive.

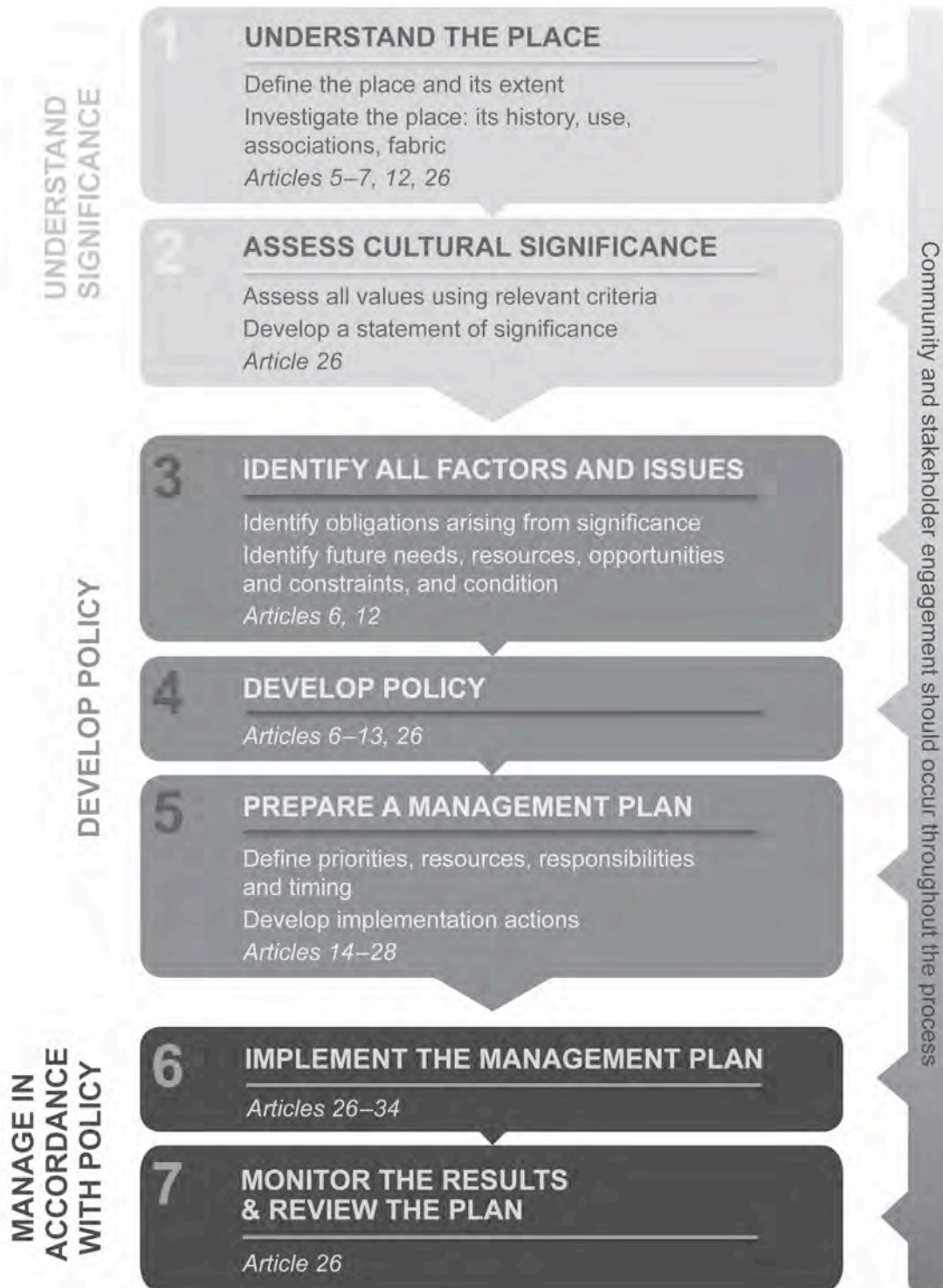
*Words in italics are defined in Article 1.*

# The Burra Charter Process

Steps in planning for and managing a place of cultural significance

The Burra Charter should be read as a whole.

Key articles relevant to each step are shown in the boxes. Article 6 summarises the Burra Charter Process.



# B

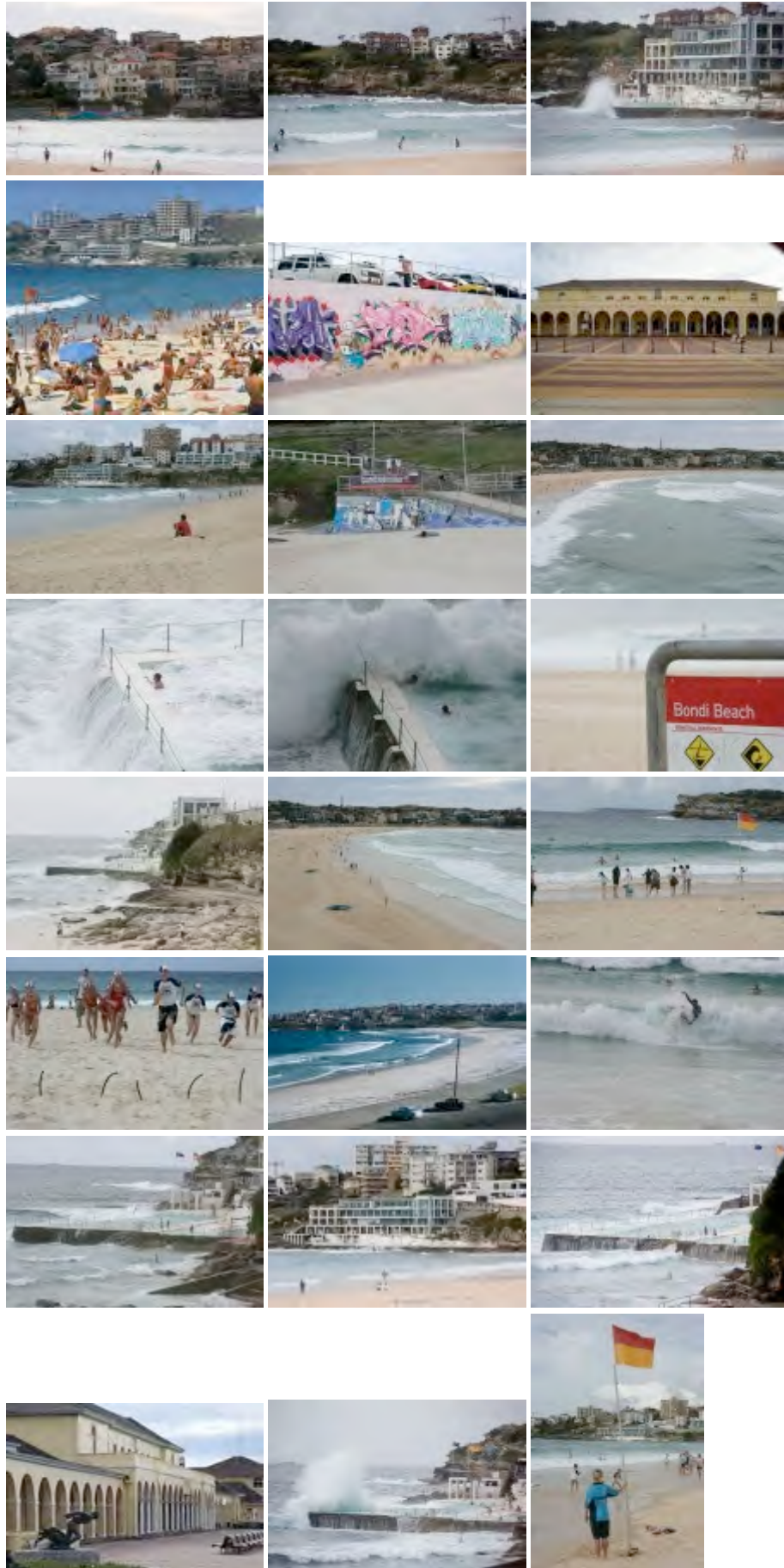
# Heritage Listings

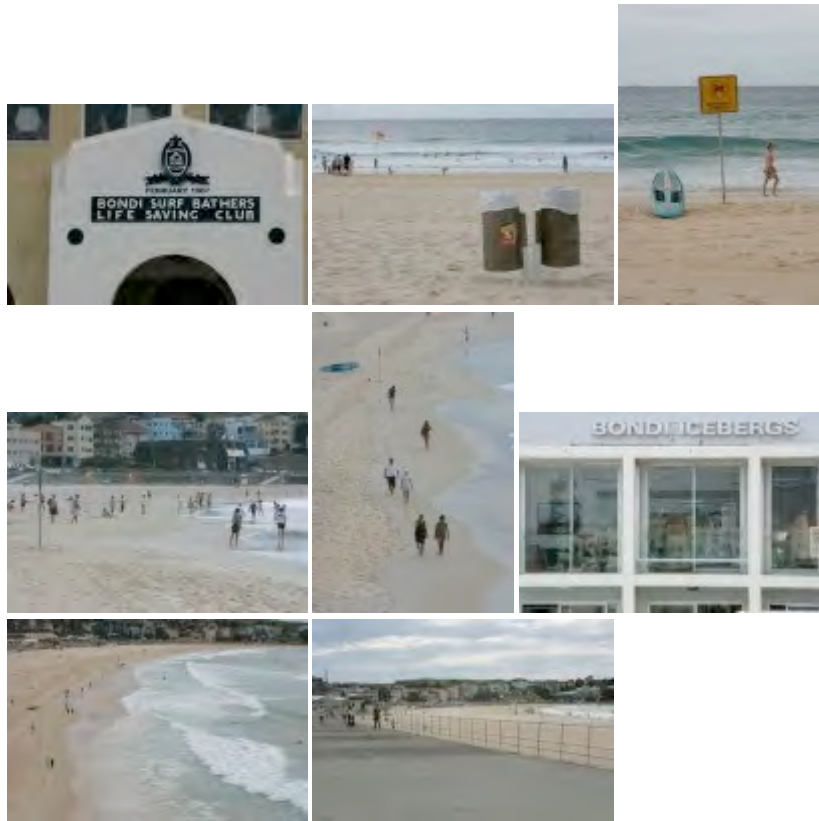
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## Australian Heritage Database Place Details

### Bondi Beach, Campbell Pde, Bondi Beach, NSW, Australia

Photographs





List	National Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed Place (25/01/2008)
Place ID	106009
Place File No	1/12/O38/OO10

### Summary Statement of Significance

Bondi Beach is an urban beach cultural landscape of waters and sands, where the natural features have been altered by development associated with beach use and consisting of promenades, parks, sea baths, the surf pavilion and pedestrian bridges. The predominant feature of the beach is the vastness of the open space within an urban setting.

Bondi Beach is significant in the course of Australia's cultural history as the site of the foundation of Australia's first recognised surf lifesaving club in 1907. From Bondi the surf lifesaving movement spread initially to NSW, then to the rest of Australia and to the world. Along with the 'digger' and the 'bushman', the lifesaver has achieved an iconic place in Australia's cultural imagery. The lifesaver grew to become an accepted feature of the beach and, as beach guardian and symbol of what was seen to be good about being Australian, became woven into Australia's popular culture. As it was at the beginning, the SLSA has remained a voluntary organisation and a significant contributor to a well-established tradition of volunteering in Australia. SLSA is now Australia's largest volunteer water safety organisation, with a national membership in 2006 of 120,000 members representing 305 clubs. Surf lifesavers have rescued more than 520,000 people in the 80 years since records have been kept, with the number of rescues each season fluctuating between 8,000 and 12,000.

Bondi Beach is one of the world's most famous beaches and is of important social value to both the Australian community and to visitors. Bondi Beach is significant because of its special associations for Australians as a central place in the development of beach culture in Australia. It embodies a powerful sense of place and way of life. It is where Australians meet nature's challenge in the surf and is strongly associated with the Bronzed Aussie myth of easygoing hedonism and endeavour balanced with relaxation. A place full of Australian spirit, synonymous with Australian beach culture, it is recognised internationally.

At the end of the 19th century, the beach emerged as an alternative cultural landscape to the mythology of the interior. The interior represented notions of toil and hardship against an often unforgiving landscape, while the coast evoked images of health and leisure in the equally unforgiving environment of the sea. During the Depression the Australian notion of beaches as egalitarian playgrounds took root and Bondi, with its strongly working-class constituency, became the epitome of that idea. The developing beach culture reinforced an already strong myth of Australian egalitarianism, of a nation where 'a fair go' was available to all. The constructed features, such as the sea baths and the surf pavilion demonstrate the development of the natural features of the beach to accord with daylight swimming, recreational beach culture, surf life saving, and associated beach sports. The Bondi Surf Pavilion building within its developed parkland setting is an important element of the site. Built in 'Inter War Mediterranean style', the Pavilion is outstanding for its place in the development of beach and leisure culture and is a famous landmark at Bondi Beach. The pool complex is significant for its strong associations with the famous 'Bondi Icebergs' winter swimming club as well as other swimming groups. The pool and clubhouse enjoy a strong nexus not usually enjoyed by other seaside pools. The site has been used continuously for organized swimming since before 1900 and has a strong social importance as a meeting place as well as a sporting and recreational facility. The Bondi Icebergs contributed strongly to this development. To many in Sydney they were seen as inheritors of the Anzac spirit – fun-loving larrikins not taking themselves too seriously, while still displaying the essential 'Aussie' characteristics of a fair-go, generosity, and mateship.

Egalitarian in nature, the beach and surfing had a profound effect in changing our way of life, and developing our sense of national identity. The central role of beaches, and Bondi Beach in particular, in Australia's self image is reflected in the use of the beach by painters, filmmakers, poets and writers in exploring this new self image and reflecting it back to Australian society. Bondi has played a central role in this process, and has come to be viewed both within Australia and internationally as the quintessential Australian beach.

## Official Values

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### Criterion A Events, Processes

Bondi Beach is significant in the course of Australia's cultural history as the site of the foundation of Australia's first recognised surf lifesaving club in 1907. From Bondi the surf lifesaving movement spread initially through NSW, subsequently to the rest of Australia, and then to the world. Along with the 'digger' and the 'bushman', the lifesaver has achieved an iconic place in Australia's cultural imagery. The lifesaver grew to become an accepted feature of the beach and a symbol of what was seen to be good about being Australian.

From its inception, Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) has remained a voluntary organisation and a significant contributor to a well-established tradition of volunteering in Australia. Today SLSA is Australia's largest volunteer water safety organisation, with a national membership in 2006 of 120,000 members representing 305 clubs (SLSA 2007). Surf lifesavers have rescued more than 520,000 people in the 80 years since records have been kept, with the number of rescues each season in recent years fluctuating between 8,000 and 12,000.

### Criterion G Social value

Bondi Beach is significant because of its special associations for Australians, having a central place in the development of beach culture in Australia. Bondi Beach is one of the world's most famous beaches. With its golden sands, parks, and blue waters framed within rocky headlands, it has come to be seen both nationally and internationally as part of the Australian way of life and leisure. It is where Australians meet nature's challenge in the surf and is strongly associated with the Bronzed Aussie myth of easygoing hedonism and endeavour balanced with relaxation.

The beach and the surf lifesaving movement established at Bondi Beach facilitated a movement away from the restrictive attitudes of 19th century morality and the beach became the source of acceptable healthy pleasure. During the Depression the Australian notion of beaches as egalitarian playgrounds took root and Bondi, with its strongly working-class constituency, became the epitome of that idea.

The developing beach culture reinforced an already strong myth of Australian egalitarianism, of a nation where 'a fair go' was available to all. The Bondi Icebergs contributed strongly to this development. To many in Sydney they were seen as inheritors of the Anzac spirit – fun-loving larrikins not taking themselves too seriously, while still displaying the essential 'Aussie' characteristics of a fair-go, generosity, and mateship. Egalitarian in nature, the beach and surfing had a profound effect in changing our way of life, and developing our sense of national identity.

The central role of beaches, and Bondi Beach in particular, in Australia's self image is reflected in the use of the beach by painters, filmmakers, poets and writers in exploring this new self image and reflecting it back to Australian society. Bondi has played a central role in this process, and has come to be viewed both within Australia and internationally as the quintessential Australian beach.

Bondi Beach, Bondi Park and the headland reserves, the Bondi Surf Pavilion, the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club and North Bondi Surf Lifesaving clubhouse, and the Bondi Pool area and Icebergs building, together constitute an iconic place that is emblematic of the Australian beach experience.



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## Description

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Bondi Beach is approximately 1.5km long and over 100m wide, the semi-circular arc of the beach is set in a flat basin flanked by elevated ridges extending to sandstone cliffs and headlands at the north and south ends, and enclosed by commercial and residential buildings. The gentle slope of the sand has resulted in a safe swimming beach for all age groups. Public access reserves contain the beach, the Pavilion, the club houses and bathing pools, and extend up onto the headlands at either end of the beach – Ben Buckler at the north and Mackenzies Point at the south.

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## History

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### 19th century to 1920:

The attractions of sea bathing in Australia are almost as old as the colony itself. By 1803 Governor King had issued an edict forbidding convicts from bathing in Sydney Harbour because of 'the dangers of sharks and stingrays, and for reasons of decorum' (National Museum of Australia 2007: p.49). By 1834 the *Sydney Gazette* was reporting that bathing is 'the favourite recreation in Sydney', so much so that in 1838 bathing at Sydney's harbour and surf beaches was banned between 9.00am and 8.00pm on pain of fine (NMA 2006: p.49). The first drowning in the Australian surf was also recorded in the *Sydney Gazette* on 18 July 1818 at Bondi Beach (National Museum of Australia 2007: p.49).

During the middle of the nineteenth century the Bondi Beach area started to become popular for picnics and other recreational activities. This popularity has continued, with the exception of the war years, unabated to this day.

A grant of 200 acres (81 hectares) of land around the beach was first made in 1810 to William Roberts, and remained in the Roberts family until subdivided in 1852 by another family member, Francis O'Brien. In 1855, O'Brien made the beach and adjacent land available to the public as picnic grounds and a pleasure resort. He closed it in 1877, due to lack of control over people's rowdy behaviour. Although the land was freehold, calls were made for the beach to become a reserve. The Municipal Council of Waverley was proclaimed in 1859, and from that time efforts were made to establish the beach as a public reserve. Eventually in November 1881 an area at Bondi Beach was surveyed by the NSW Government, and in June 1882 an area of 25 acres 2 roods 16 perches (approx. 10.3 hectares) was resumed and dedicated as a public reserve. In 1885 the Council of the Municipality of Waverley was appointed Trustees of 'Bondi Park'. In November 1915 the area of the reserve was again increased to 32 acres 2 roods (approx. 13 hectares) (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.68).

Until the twentieth century, sea bathing was restricted by legislation and was officially prohibited between 9.00 am and 8.00 pm by Section 77 of the *Police Offences Act (1901)* (NSW). This situation began to ease by the beginning of the twentieth century and the law never seems to have been vigorously pursued by the authorities (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.108)

While the beach at Bondi is one of many surfing beaches along the coastline of metropolitan Sydney, Bondi was a particularly popular destination. The first tramway reached the southern end of the beach in 1884 and a regular tram service from Circular Quay to Bondi was begun in 1902. In 1911 these tramways were extended along the beachfront. The fast pace with which the early steam trams thundered down the final hill to Bondi Beach gave rise to the vernacular saying 'to shoot through like a Bondi tram' – to leave in a hurry.

Waverley Council erected the first shelter or surf bathing sheds in about 1903 and as a result of increased interest in surf bathing, a number of changes occurred including the building of bathing sheds (1911), the construction of a sea wall (1911 extended in 1915), construction of a marine drive (with tramway turning circle in the middle), tree reserve, and new club houses at Bondi and Bondi North Life Saving Clubs.

The world's first surfing newspaper, *The Surf* (later known as *The Surf and Suburban News*) was established in December 1917 by a group of Bondi surf bathers. As part of its mandate, the newspaper covered the activities of individual surf clubs along the coast. Details of rescue work during the period were also provided. During WWI club members on active service were sent copies of *The Surf* to keep them informed of events on their beach, and some regularly wrote letters to the Editor as a way of keeping in touch (Brawley 2007: pp.90-1)

In December 1883 residents petitioned Council for baths at the southern end of the beach, and in 1884 baths were built over a natural rock pool. In 1892 the Bondi Amateur Swimming Club (BASC) was formed. The baths were also used by the Bondi Ladies Amateur Swimming Club which was initially formed in 1907 (reformed in 1920), and which was for a time before World War II the largest such club in Australia. Several

women champions came from the club including Pam Singleton who competed at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956. The two swimming clubs amalgamated in 1969. The popularity of the BASC contributed to Council's work on the pool. In 1898 the Baths were extended; and in 1911 they were remodelled. The pool was lengthened to 50 yards in 1915 and then 50m in 1930. In 1931 the baths were repaired although they were in need of rebuilding. The entire pool was repoured in 1978 but using the existing framework.

#### *1920s and 1930s:*

During the 1920s improvements to the beach, park and baths were adopted including a kiosk, surf shed, laboratories, band stand and increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic capacity. By the end of 1933 Waverley Council was reported to have spent approximately £162,000 on the improvement works (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.72). The pavilion, and other works forming the rest of the scheme, were opened on 21 December 1929. The crowd of onlookers was estimated at 160,000 to 200,000. By 1928 the number of visitors carried by tram and bus to Bondi was estimated at 14 million, and by 1929 an average of 60,000 people were visiting the beach on a summer weekend day (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.73).

The pavilion served several purposes, including offering changing facilities for swimmers, food outlets and entertainment venues. There were Turkish baths and a ballroom and entertainment areas on the upper floor that took advantage of the excellent location. Tunnels provided bathers with access from the change rooms to the beach under Marine Drive, from which bathers exited via the concrete groynes which also served to mitigate sand drift problems.

The use of the 'Mediterranean-Georgian Revival' style with the repeated symmetry of arched arcades, its low-lying form, use of terracotta Cordova-style tiles and white-cream walls proved to be an ideal style for a beach front setting. It has come to represent the lifestyle of the inter-war period for generations in Sydney. The pavilion at Bondi was the largest example of its type in Sydney. In addition to the change facilities provided on the lower floor, the upper floor of the pavilion was operated as a separate entertainment area providing dining and supper dances. It became a popular entertainment and social venue, most notable for Roy Starfield's Supper Dances. The pavilion was unique in Sydney for the time with a combination of entertainment facilities and fine location. The pavilion's planning originally also incorporated an amphitheatre at the rear, a relatively common feature at the time but the example at Bondi, however, was more sophisticated than others.

The park as part of the improvement scheme is arguably a landmark in the history of urban design in NSW because of its ambitious scale, date of construction and relative isolation at the time of construction. In view of its integrity it is also an exemplar of a trend in landscape design typical of the inter-war era (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.110). In the park the use of pedestrian bridges and tunnels over and under Campbell Parade and Marine Drive was an imaginative engineering solution to the introduction of grand traffic thoroughfares (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.111).

The 1930s were a popular time at the beach and Bondi drew not only Sydneysiders but also people from elsewhere in Australia and overseas visitors. Advertising literature of the 1930s referred to Bondi Beach as the "Playground of the Pacific". The iconography centred on female bathers and the pavilion. This image of the pavilion and location at Bondi Beach came to represent at a national level an aspect of the Australian lifestyle, and the beach and the pavilion are integrally linked in this association.

#### *1940s to the present:*

The period of the early 1940s was dominated by World War II. After the outbreak of war with Japan, the Army took control of the beach and facilities including the Bondi Pavilion. In preparing the beach for defence against enemy landing the groynes of the pavilion (which projected onto the beach for access and stabilising sand drift) were demolished, and the beach front generally fenced off (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.77). Despite these emergency measures the first floor of the pavilion at least continued in its pre-war mode with Roy Starfield's supper dances.

The war years of the 1940s produced far-reaching changes in the social and economic climate of Australia. Bathing patterns had changed, and the post-War popularity of the new nylon bathing costumes meant there was less reliance on changing sheds. The post-war era also saw increased use of cars which facilitated greater choice in the number of beaches that bathers could visit. The reliance on public transport began to fade.

These developments affected the future of the pavilion, which Waverley Council (faced with the financial burden of maintaining the building) was ready to recognise (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.77). An improvement scheme for Bondi Park and Beach was submitted to Waverley Council in January 1952 but never acted upon.

An indication of Bondi's significance at the time is that in February 1954 a "Royal Command" Surf Carnival was held at Bondi Beach in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Bondi Beach had the distinction of being specifically chosen for the event. As a result of the event, Her Majesty gave permission for the Marine Parade to be renamed 'Queen Elizabeth Drive' (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.77).

Although the beach was popular, Waverley Council was losing money on the pavilion. By 1959 the pavilion was unlicensed and the fabric of the building was declining. By the 1960s one third of the men's changing area was closed and the auditorium was rarely used (Clive Lucas et al 1997: pp.79-80). The pavilion generally declined during the 1960s, although an occasional plan was mooted about its future.

By the early 1970s the pavilion was seen as a white elephant. It was at this time that a reprieve and a new direction arrived, with the Bondi Theatre Group gaining approval to convert the ballroom into a theatre (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.81). The theatre was opened by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam in 1975, and the pavilion became the centre of Waverley Council's cultural program in 1977 (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.81). This saw the demolition of the change rooms, lockers, the former Turkish baths. The courtyard was replaced by a grassed amphitheatre, netball court, craft workshops, art gallery, child care centre, gymnasium and a restaurant, and the building was licensed again. The Bondi Pavilion Community Centre was opened by NSW Premier Neville Wran in 1978. In 1980 Council sponsored a mural in the courtyard, and in 1987 a new forecourt was constructed. Substantial repairs were carried out in the mid 1990s and by the late 1990s the pavilion was the centre for various community and cultural events (Clive Lucas et al 1997: p.82).

In 2000 the beach took on a new guise as the venue for the Sydney Olympic Games beach volleyball competition. Recent changes from 2002 to 2005 to the Bondi Surf Pavilion included construction of new forecourt community facilities by Tanner Architects; a glazed semi-circular addition to northern end of pavilion to house a seafood restaurant; restoration of the fenestration to northern end of the east facade; and relocation of the Foundation stone. In September 2007 female government leaders and spouses in Sydney for the APEC meeting were invited to lunch at the 'Icebergs' restaurant at Bondi Beach by the wife of the Australian Prime Minister, Mrs Janette Howard.

#### *The Bondi 'Icebergs'*

The well known Bondi Icebergs (regarded as cranks' at the time) were formed in 1929. The Icebergs grew out of a group of swimming enthusiasts who enjoyed swimming in winter. To be a member of the club, swimmers have to take the plunge into the icy waters of Bondi Baths on at least three out of every four Sundays during winter months, for a period of five years. The Icebergs did not have a clubhouse for the first three years of their existence. In 1932, a year after the baths had been extended, the Bondi Ladies Swimming club moved to a new clubhouse nearby and the Waverley Municipal Council offered their old premises adjacent to the pool to the Icebergs. The Icebergs would eventually take out a long lease on the clubhouse at an initial annual rental of one £1 (Andrews 2004: p.75). Additionally, on 14 June 1932 the Waverley Council Assistant Engineer submitted plans and specifications for the erection of a weatherboard club room for the Icebergs Club, at a cost of £150. These premises were to be their home for more than a quarter of a century, but by the mid-1950s it became obvious that a new clubhouse would have to be built. They had seen this coming and for several years had been putting aside money to help pay for the rebuilding. The 'Bergs' referred to this nest egg as the club's 'Frozen Assets'. Once again negotiations with Waverley Council got underway. The Council decided to build a new clubhouse on the condition that the Icebergs contribute the money they had been saving. The 'Bergs' cash contributed to around a third of the construction costs (Andrews 2004: p.75).

Of the rules under which the Bondi Icebergs operated, Rule 15B was regarded as the most important. Under Rule 15B members were required to complete three swims a month during winter months for five years, and if:

"A member fails to complete three swims in one calendar month during the winter season, he or she is then required to submit a written explanation to the Swimming Committee prior to the first Tuesday after the last Sunday of each month, giving their explanation for failing to complete the compulsory swims."

The rule was rigidly enforced. Failure to offer an explanation, or where that explanation was rejected by the Committee, meant that the member was barred from the club for twelve months, and not even permitted to come to the club as a visitor (Andrews 2004: p.25).

The idea of grown men willingly swimming in the icy Bondi winter waters was the subject of long standing jibes, both private and public. The Sydney press often reported on the winter antics of the 'Bergs' and they were a source of inspiration for some of Australia's finest press cartoonists including Brodie Mack and Emile Mercier (Andrews 2004: p.55).

On 5 September 1971 members of the Icebergs club were involved in the dramatic rescue of a 27 year old woman parachutist from Cremorne, Mrs Pattie King. The desperate struggle to save the young woman was watched by more than 10,000 people who had gathered at Bondi beach to watch the finish of the first 'City to Surf' race (Andrews 2004: p.109). Mrs King was one of ten Australian Parachute Federation members who were to make a display jump from 10,000 ft and land on the beach. A sudden drop in the wind caused three of them to fall into the sea. Mrs King hit the water only five yards from MacKenzie Point beside the South Bondi baths, where 12ft waves were breaking onto the rocks. The Bondi Icebergs were lined up ready to start a race in the baths and two members immediately dived in to help (Andrews 2004: p.109). The two Icebergs reached Mrs King, but could not keep her head above the water, and with each wave she became more entangled with the parachute lines. The power rescue boat from the beach got to within 10 yards of the drowning woman and her supporters, and a crewman dived in with a line and tied it to the chute hoping to tow her away from the rocks but the boat itself was smashed on the rocks (Icebergs 2007). Fifteen Icebergs fought desperately to keep Mrs King up, but her parachute and sodden equipment were too heavy. She was underwater for about 20 minutes because she kept snagging on the rocky bottom (Icebergs 2007). Three doctors who had taken part in the City to Surf race tried desperately to resuscitate Mrs King, but she was to die four days later in hospital (Andrews 2004: p.110).

Because of their attempts to save her, the Bondi Icebergs became the first Club ever to receive the Certificate of Merit for Bravery of the Royal Humane Society of NSW (Andrews 2004: p.110).

In 1993 tests on the Icebergs clubhouse revealed that it was riddled with concrete cancer, and a massive upgrade was required (Andrews 2004: pp.137-8). Waverley Council was reluctant to bear the cost and recommended demolition and the disbandment of the club. The Labor dominated Council was also of the opinion that a 'men only' club was politically incorrect and had outlasted its usefulness (Andrews 2004: p.137). Members of the 'Bergs' commenced a successful community campaign to save the club based on the slogan "Remember the Titanic" with 'SS Waverley Council' foundering on a Bondi Iceberg (Andrews 2004: p.138). During 1993 the Council rejected proposal after proposal, but the tide of public opinion was turning against it. The NSW Government under Premier John Fahey, weighed into the fight suggesting that the Icebergs clubhouse was an Australian icon. The Federal Opposition Leader, John Hewson, stated bluntly that the clubhouse would be demolished "over my bloody dead body" (Andrews 2004: pp.139-40).

Eventually the advertising and media tycoon, John Singleton, was to come to the club's rescue and secured financial support for the demolition of the old club building and the construction of new modern facilities. Singleton saw the Icebergs as iconic and something that all Australians held close to their hearts - larrikins who still had the discipline to complete their five years of swimming almost every winter Sunday (Andrews 2004: p.142). In October 1998 a \$10 million development application was lodged with Council for a four story building on the space of the old clubhouse. One of the Council's persistent objections to the Iceberg's club was removed when the club admitted women members as from May 1995 (Andrews 2004: p.127). The ground floor of the new club building, opened in 2002 and contains public facilities, with the first floor becoming the headquarters of Surf Lifesaving Australia, the heirs of the surf lifesaving organisation that had been born on Bondi Beach over ninety years earlier. The top two floors contain the Iceberg's clubhouse, and a restaurant to a design by Lazzarini and Pickering Architetti in conjunction with Tanner Architects completed in 2004.

#### *The commencement of the Australian surf life saving movement at Bondi*

Through the nineteenth century the rise in the popularity of swimming in Europe raised issues about the proper training of swimmers. The British Royal Humane Society educated people on resuscitation techniques and acknowledged the bravery of swimmers in rescues, but provided no instruction on how to actually effect a rescue and secure a patient. Impressed by the active approach to educating the public advocated by the Melbourne-based Royal Humane Society of Australasia, English swimmer William Henry and his friend Archibald Sinclair approached the English Royal Humane Society stressing the need for greater public education by the organisation, including practical instruction on securing and saving a drowning person (Brawley 2007: p.12). The two men and a number of supporters formed the 'Life Saving Society' in 1891. As the society's membership grew a handbook of practical lifesaving techniques was formalised which borrowed heavily from the squad drill section of the 1892 British Infantry Drill Book and the Manual of the Medical Staff Corps (Brawley 2007: p.12).

The late 1880s also saw swimming pools and swimming clubs appear throughout the Sydney metropolitan area. In part, public interest in swimming was fuelled by the efforts of a group of commissioned and senior non-commissioned officers of the NSW Army Medical Corps, who were stationed at Victoria Barracks at Paddington in Sydney. Aware of the benefits of exercise for health, the group saw swimming as an especially restorative pastime and many of the early swimming clubs that emerged at this time were formed as a direct consequence of the initiatives set in motion by these men (Brawley 2007: p.12).

The increasing popularity of bathing in Sydney raised a number of issues concerning the prevention of drowning. Given Henry and Sinclair's assertion that a lifesaving instructor should be familiar with the Infantry Drill Book, John Bond of the NSW Army Medical Corps took on the mantle of instructor of a life saving class (Brawley 2007: p.14). He moved to Waverley in 1893, became interested in the activities of the Waverley Amateur Swimming Club and spent time coaching other club members in life saving techniques. With the success of Bond's early classes, the Waverley branch of the Life Saving Society sought to expand its activities to the nearby Bondi Baths by affiliating with the Bondi Amateur Swimming Club. A demonstration by Bond and his students in lifesaving techniques was held at the Bondi Baths on Commemoration Day 1895 (Brawley 2007: p.12). For his achievements in the introduction of early lifesaving techniques and training Bond was elected a life member of the Bondi Beach Surf Lifesavers Club in March 1909, and inducted into the SLSA Hall of Fame on 18 March 2005 (SLSA 2007).

There has always been a debate in surf lifesaving circles about whether the first surf lifesaving club was at Bondi or Bronte Beach. In late 1906 a local man nearly drowned at Bronte. Responding to this incident, a group of his friends began to meet irregularly on Sunday afternoons to train in the use of the lifeline positioned on the beach by Waverley Council. In February 1907 a rescue at Bronte nearly had fatal results when the lifeline was not immediately available because the group were training with it, and as a result Waverley Council ordered the group to cease their activities (Jaggard 2006: p.34). Because of the Council's chastisement of the Bronte irregulars, bathers at Bondi resolved to place their attempts to protect the public on a more formal footing. In consequence of the drowning of 16 year old Reginald Bourne at Bondi on 10 February 1907 (Brawley 2007: p.31), what is now regarded as the world's first formally documented surf life saving club, the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club (HBSBLSC 1956: p. 10), was formed at the Royal Hotel, Bondi Junction, on 21 February 1907 (NMA 2006: P.3).

As the city's beachside councils accepted their control of the beaches in the wake of the passage of the NSW *Local Government Act (1906)*, they looked beyond issues of protecting surf bathers and decided that issues of public decency related to surf bathing would also be their responsibility. At the beginning of the surfing season of 1907/08, Manly, Waverley and Randwick councils issued ordinances concerning acceptable dress for surf bathers. Many bathers regarded the new costume code as draconian. Further, the costume itself was seen to be impracticable and dangerous for bathers and surf lifesavers. The Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving, Manly Surf Club, and a private social swimming club on North Steyne Beach launched a campaign against the new costume ordinance. It was as a result of this that the clubs decided that an umbrella organisation representing all the emerging surf clubs on Sydney's beaches would be desirable. The meeting to form this umbrella body took place at the Sydney Sports Club on 18 October 1907, and resulted in the creation of the New South Wales Surf Bathing Association. This was the parent body of today's organisation, Surf Lifesaving Australia, and it is from this date that the surf lifesaving movement in Australia marks its birth (NMA 2007: P.3).

The aims and objectives of the Bondi club were to train members on how to rescue a drowning person, the correct procedure in resuscitation, to provide efficient life-saving apparatus, to regulate surf bathing, and to promote surf bathing as a sport and recreation. Many of the key features of surf rescue were laid down in these early years, and several were Australian inventions. The custom of surf patrol members wearing red and yellow quartered caps to identify themselves as lifesavers commenced at Bondi during the summer of 1907-08 (Brawley 2007: p.61). The surfboat developed from small open boats such as those used by the Sly brothers of Manly from 1903 to rescue distressed bathers from the surf. The first surf ski was made in 1913 and adapted for lifesaving by the 1930s. Resuscitation methods, which were on the whole imported from overseas, also changed markedly over time (NMA 2006: p.5). From 1922, Association-patrolled beaches gradually began to have manned lookout towers or vantage points with shark alarm bells, and even shark harpoons in surfboats. To recognise the valour of surf lifesavers and the very great demands made on them in the course of rescues, the Surf Bathing Association introduced the Meritorious Awards system in 1919 (NMA 2006: p.5).

Along with the lifesaver's cap, flags and surfboat, the surf-reel is one of the most identifiable of surf lifesaving's objects. A model reel was developed by members of the Bondi Club, Lyster Ormsby, John Bond, and Percy Flynn, using a cotton reel and hair pins, and the first prototype was manufactured by a Sydney firm of coachbuilders, Olding and Parker (HBSBLSC: p.8). This reel was first used at Bondi in a display on 23 December 1906 (My Beach 2007). The reel, line and belt were used in lifesaving rescues for seven decades, and events centred on the reel became a regular element of surf lifesaving carnivals. Since the introduction of the inflatable rescue boat (IRB), the rescue board and the rescue tube in the 1970s and 1980s, the reel has gradually been relegated to competition use only (NMA 2006: p.7). But it remains an important symbol for surf clubs around the country, and even today in the March-past at Australian surf carnivals each club squad consists of a standard bearer and a 'rescue and resuscitation' party carrying a reel emblazoned with the club's name and crest.

The Bronze Medallion was introduced in 1910 by the Surf Bathing Association as its measure of proficiency, and is still the basic qualification required to perform surf rescues today. The Association's Bronze Medallion proficiency test included use of the reel, and it was adopted widely in New South Wales and interstate, and remained largely unchanged for decades (NMA 2006: p.7). The first Bronze Medallion squad was examined at Bondi Beach on 2 January 1910, and the Bondi Surf Bather's Life Saving Club's Sid Fullward was the first man to gain a Bronze Medallion (HBSLSC: p.10).

The first woman to gain her Bronze Medallion was Edie Kieft of Greenmount in northern NSW. Kieft was 15 years old when she qualified for her Bronze Medallion in January 1923, and was 84 when she finally received the award, since women were not allowed to become full members until 1981. Because Kieft had registered using only her initial and surname, the Surf Bathing Association of New South Wales didn't realise she was a woman. When they discovered that 'E' stood for Edith, they withheld the award. Kieft (by now Mrs Rowe and a grandmother) was finally awarded her bronze medallion in 1991 (NMA 2006: p.9). Women now comprise 40 per cent of club membership. The first woman surf club captain was selected in 1987, although it was not until 1998 that a woman became a member of SLSA's governing National Council (NMA 2006: p.24).

Sunday 6 February 1938 - ['Black Sunday'](#) - bought home to the Australian public the value of the volunteer surf life savers who manned Sydney's beaches. An estimated 35,000 people were on Bondi beach, and a large group of lifesavers were about to commence a surf race when three freak waves hit the beach and hundreds of people were swept out to sea (Brawley 2007: p.133). Eighty lifesavers went to their aid and many of these lifesavers had to be saved themselves, as desperate swimmers grabbed onto rescue lines and dragged them underwater. Due to the dedication of the lifesavers 300 people were eventually rescued (Australian Culture and Recreation Portal 2007), 60 immersion cases required treatment, while 35 were unconscious and required resuscitation (Jaggard 2006: p.28). As more and more people were rescued the Bondi clubhouse began to resemble a hospital emergency ward. Four people did not respond to resuscitation, and the body of a fifth was recovered some days later (Jaggard 2006: p.28). Bondi's 'Black Sunday' remains the largest mass surf rescue recorded in Australia's history.

The events of 'Black Sunday' 1938 had taken place against the backdrop of Europe's descent into war and chaos. At this time the Australian surf lifesaver offered an alternative vision to the ideals of masculinity promulgated by Nazism and Fascism. Writing of the achievements of Bondi's lifesavers during the events of Black Sunday, English writer Paul McGuire informed Britain that:

*'Australian Surf and Life Saving Clubs are volunteer services, regiments with an heroic tradition earned in the saving, not the slaughter of life'*. (quoted in Brawley 2007: p.144)

Within 18 months of the events of Black Sunday, Australians would again be at war and as they had 25 years before, Bondi's lifesavers would answer the call in numbers that rivalled and surpassed the enlistment rates of any other Australian community organisation (Brawley 2007: p.144). Records show that 210 club members enlisted in the armed services, of which 14 were to die on active service (HBSLSC: p.22).

The familiar red and gold flags that have become to hold an enduring place on Australian beaches were introduced at Bondi during the war, when reduced club membership made it difficult to patrol the whole beach. The flags would be positioned along the safest stretch of water, and bathers advised to 'swim between the flags'.

The Bondi march-past pennant became part of Australian military folklore. In February 1940 the club had paid £6 to have a replacement standard made. When the club's pre-war standard bearer in march-past competitions enlisted in mid-1940, he took the old standard to the Middle East with him. On meeting other lifesavers he asked them to donate their unit colour patch or other insignia, which was then sewn onto the pennant. The pennant travelled through the Middle East and the Pacific before advancing into the Philippines with Macarthur's headquarters, collecting patches as it went. It was returned to the club in November 1945, and remains on display in the clubhouse (Brawley 2007: p.161).

Many Bondi lifesavers took their interest in surf lifesaving with them to war. During their time in Palestine, the 2AIF found a number of beaches at which its men and women could relax. In the wake of several unfortunate drownings, Australian military authorities began to seconde former surf life savers to patrol beaches such as Tel Aviv and Neuserat. As well as beach patrols, the 2AIF also held a number of surf carnivals as a means of rest and recreation (Brawley 2007: p.161). At a carnival at Tel Aviv beach in September 1941, watched by General Sir Thomas Blamey, a nine event program included a march-past, rescue and resuscitation, and a surf race. A carnival at the same beach in October 1941 attracted 160 entrants for the surf race, 24 teams for the rescue and resuscitation competition, and 28 teams for the beach relay (Jaggard 2006: p.194).

In the Pacific campaign surf lifesavers also found themselves back on beaches doing patrols to protect their brothers and sisters-in-arms. In 1944 Australian units were sent to the island of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands to replace American units needed for the invasion of the Philippines. Torokina Beach was out of bounds to the then resident American forces after a number of drownings. The Bondi men joined with a number of other surf lifesavers from New South Wales and Western Australia to form the Solomon Islands Surf Life Saving Club at Torokina. The Solomon Islands Club patrolled the beach, and held carnivals. More than 5,000 spectators watched the 1945 carnival (Jaggard 2006: p.194). By mid-1945 the club had 286 members including over 100 Bronze Medallion holders (Jaggard 2006: p.194). By the time the club disbanded at the end of the war, they had trained and examined 300 members of the military for the Bronze Medallion (Brawley 2007: pp.161-3).

Following the War, the internationalisation of the surf lifesaving movement gained pace. On the evening of 2 November 1953 at the London Coliseum, a Royal Command Performance took place before the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth II. The performance concluded with an 'Australian Tableau' which included cricketers, servicemen, and Indigenous peoples. At the rear of the tableau, dominated by a large flag, were six lifesavers dressed in Bondi march-past costumes and caps and the flag was Bondi's march-past standard. The Queen subsequently issued a royal command to the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia to hold a 'Royal Surf Carnival' at Bondi Beach during her tour of Australia in 1954. It was held on 6 February, 16 years to the day after the momentous events of 'Black Sunday' (Brawley 2007: pp.202-3). Both royal events were widely reported in the Australian and international press and stimulated interest in the surf lifesaving movement.

At the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, the opportunity was taken to hold an international surf carnival at Torquay beach outside Melbourne. Teams from California and Hawaii in the USA, as well as from New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Ceylon took part in front of crowds of athletes and visitors that had come to take part in the Olympic Games (Walding 2003: p.22). Many of these teams and athletes were to take Australian life saving techniques back to their homelands. Another more significant outcome from the carnival was the formation by the representatives of the participating nations of the International Council of Surf Lifesaving.

Another major evolution in the development of post-war surf lifesaving in Australia was the encouragement of pre-adolescent members, or 'Nippers', during the 1960s. The Nippers program was introduced to arrest falling membership and to attract young people aged from eight years to young teens to surf lifesaving. While there had been junior clubs in the 1920s and 1930s they were essentially in name only, whereas Nipper members had the opportunity to learn and participate. The first Nippers group started in the Illawarra club, NSW, in the mid-1960s and the concept soon spread interstate. The first interstate carnival specifically for Nippers alone was held in January 1972 at Palm Beach in Queensland. Within two years, teams from New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia were competing, and other states followed (NMA 2006: p.24).

In 1991 the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia changed again to '[Surf Life Saving Australia](#)' (SLSA), its present name. Today SLSA is Australia's largest volunteer water safety organisation. By 2006 there was a national membership of 120,000 members representing 305 clubs (SLSA 2007). Forty percent of these active members are female (Jaggard 2006: p.223). Surf lifesavers have rescued more than 520,000 people in the 80 years since records have been kept, with the number of rescues each season in recent years fluctuating between 8,000 and 12,000. An [independent economic study conducted for SLSA](#) in 2005 concluded that if not for the presence of volunteer surf lifesavers, 485 people would drown each year and 313 would be permanently incapacitated as a result of accidents in the surf (Australian Culture and Recreation Portal 2007). The study found that the economic and social value of surf lifesaving services provided by volunteer lifesavers is worth more than \$1.4 billion per year (SLSA 2007). Today in NSW, over 58,000 members spend in excess of 270,000 voluntary hours patrolling 129 clubs to protect 1,590 kilometres of coastline from Fingal Beach in the north to Pambula Beach in the south (SLSNSW 2007). During the 2006-07 season they performed 6,319 rescues, 188,824 preventative actions and treated 30,940 first aid cases.

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## Condition and Integrity

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The condition of the place is good. In recent years considerable efforts have been made to clean the beach water of pollutants by lengthening the Bondi sewerage outfall. Portions of the weathered sandstone dykes were previously used by Waverley Shire Council as a garbage dump is now discontinued. The major potential danger is from vandalism and abrasion from increasing pedestrian tourist traffic. The pavilion has been repaired and refurbished on several occasions; substantial works were undertaken in the 1970s and the 1990s. An external visual inspection made by Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners in 2007 for Waverley Council found the condition of the Bondi Surf Pavilion and the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club Building to be generally satisfactory, and that routine maintenance is carried out. There are no aspects of the physical condition of the building which affect the significance of the pavilion. The landscaped area of Bondi Park, including the picnic shelters and footpaths, were the subject of an upgrade in late 2003 and are generally in fair condition. There is signage over the façade and various alterations have been made. In 1994, the Icebergs' clubhouse and pool area at the southern end of the beach was in a poor state of repair including waterproofing problems and concrete cancer. In 2002, a new Iceberg's clubhouse was opened.

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## Location

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About 65ha of land and water, comprising generally the beach, surf life saving clubs, pavilion, parks, promenades, cliffs and ocean waters between Ben Buckler and Mackenzies Point; being the areas enclosed by a line commencing at the southern end of Notts Avenue then proceeding north-westerly along the easterly edge of Notts Avenue to Campbell Parade, then northerly and easterly via the seaward edge of Campbell Parade to its intersection with Ramsgate Avenue then easterly and southerly following the southern and western edge of Ramsgate Avenue to the northern boundary of 77 Ramsgate Avenue, then westerly and southerly along that boundary and the western boundaries of 77 to 111 Ramsgate Avenue to the southern boundary of 111 Ramsgate Avenue, then via that boundary to Ramsgate Avenue, then southerly via the western side and alignment of Ramsgate to the cliff top at Ben Buckler, then easterly via that cliff top to the eastern alignment of Ramsgate Avenue, then northerly via that alignment to the southern end of the road reserve on the south side of 168 Ramsgate Avenue, then easterly via the southern side of that reserve to the eastern alignment of Brighton Boulevard, then via that alignment directly to low water mark at Ben Buckler, then via low water to the most southerly point of Ben Buckler, then south westerly directly to the most easterly point at low water on Mackenzies Point, then westerly via low water mark on the southern side of Marks Park to the alignment of the eastern boundary of 25 Kenneth Street, then northerly via that alignment to the southern edge of Kenneth Street, then easterly via the southern edge of Kenneth Street to the eastern edge of Marks Lane, then north via the alignment of the eastern edge of Marks Lane to the northern side of Fletcher Street, then east via the northern edge of that road to the cliff top to the south west boundary of Lot 1/715 DP752011, then easterly and northerly via the boundaries of Lots 1/715, 714 and 713 DP752011, so that they are excluded, to the southern end of Notts Avenue.



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LEGEND

 Listed place

# Bondi Beach

National Heritage List - Inclusion

Place ID: 106009 File: 1/12/038/0010

Sources:  
Cadastral for Australia (NSW)  
RoadNet Comprehensive - Roads  
RoadNet Comprehensive - Park and Reserves  
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Produced by: Heritage Division  
Canberra, GDA94 Zone 56, 25/1/2008  
© Commonwealth of Australia, 2008.

## Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape

### Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape
<b>Other name/s:</b>	Bondi Beach, Bondi Surf Pavilion and Bondi Park, Bondi Surf Life Saving Club ar Club.
<b>Type of item:</b>	Landscape
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Landscape - Cultural
<b>Category:</b>	Other - Landscape - Cultural
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -33.8909722343 Long: 151.2767372210
<b>Primary address:</b>	Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi Beach, NSW 2026
<b>Parish:</b>	Alexandria
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Waverley

### Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
CROWN LAND				500048
PART LOT	1746		DP	726692
PART LOT	1749		DP	728661
LOT	1		DP	911546

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Queen Elizabeth Drive	Bondi Beach	Waverley	Alexandria	Cumberland	Primary Address

### Statement of significance:

Bondi Beach, Bondi Park, Bondi Surf Pavilion, and the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club building form a cultural landscape of State significance as an iconic representation of the Australian beach experience. The place is historically significant as the site of many 'firsts' and other significant events in surf lifesaving, and as the largest beach improvement scheme to be carried out in the interwar years. The place demonstrates the rapid increase in popularity of beach-going once restrictions on surf bathing were eased in the early 20th century.

The place is of social and aesthetic significance as a landmark, recognised internationally as a symbol of Australia's popular beach culture. While the Bondi Surf Pavilion has been modified over time, the relationship of the building to the promenade and beach, as well as the park and its intact features (including two concrete pedestrian bridges with standard lamps, the promenade, and numerous pathways in original locations), retains its integrity to the 1928 beach improvement design.

**Date significance updated:** 23 Sep 05

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Branch intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

### Description

**Designer/Maker:** Pavilion - Robertson and Marks (Leith C. McCredie, architect). Bondi SLSC - c.1934 Ross & Rowe.

**Builder/Maker:** Bondi Pavilion: John Howie & Sons.

**Physical description:** Bondi Beach is located between Ben Buckler Head and McKenzie Point, and is approximately one kilometre long and ranges in width from 50m at the north end to 100m at the south end.

Bondi Park is bounded by Campbell Parade to the west and Queen Elizabeth Drive and Bondi Beach to the east. The park is largely grassed, with a number of picnic shelters, walkways, and tree plantings. Situated within the park, the Bondi Surf Pavilion is the dominant architectural feature in the immediate vicinity of Bondi Beach.

The Bondi Surf Pavilion is constructed in the Mediterranean/Georgian revival style and consists of a central double storey structure fronted by a single storey arched colonnade and flanked by single storey wings at either end with colonnaded walls surrounding two internal courtyards. The walls are cement rendered masonry, the floors are reinforced concrete and timber, the roof is timber framed with concrete roof tiles, and the windows and doors are timber framed and glazed. The joinery at the northeastern end of the building is original. The Bondi Surf Pavilion currently includes a theatre, a gallery, an amphitheatre, a basketball court, several meeting rooms, a restaurant, change rooms and toilets.

Also located within Bondi Park are the Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Club and the North Bondi Surf Club buildings.

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:** 2007 - The preliminary matters of concern arising from a detailed condition report commissioned by Waverley Council include the presence of lead paint, the noncompliance with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) of the theatre in terms of egress and fire control, and the rusting of a number of major structural beams.

An external visual inspection made by Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners for the purposes of this nomination found the condition of the Bondi Surf Pavilion and the Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Club Building to be generally satisfactory, and that routine maintenance is carried out. There are no aspects of the physical condition of the building which affect the significance of the pavilion.

The landscaped area of Bondi Park, including the picnic shelters and footpaths, were the subject of an upgrade in late 2003 and are generally in fair condition.

The archaeological potential of the study area has not been assessed in detail. There is some scope for archaeological remains to provide information on earlier structures, such as the early bathing sheds, located in the area of Bondi Park.

**Date condition updated:** 20 Jul 07

**Modifications and dates:** Changes to the Bondi Surf Pavilion building included the following:

- 1931 Erection of outdoor auditorium which incorporated the caretaker's quarters in the first floor;
- c 1942 Groynes demolished as part of wartime preparation of Bondi Beach for defence against enemy landings;
- 1948 Two additional exits and stairways, emergency exit lights, additional lavatory accommodation, fire fighting equipment, and ventilation to the ballroom in order to obtain a licence under the Theatre and Public Halls Act;
- 1955 Tenders called for operation of the Bondi Surf Pavilion. Description in tender documents stated that the pavilion had been recently renovated and was in a good state of repair. Further details are not known;
- 1968 Reconstruction of walls of the Bondi Surf Pavilion for structural reasons;
- 1972-75 Former ballroom converted to theatre;
- 1977-78 Change rooms, lockers, Turkish baths, courtyard demolished and replaced by large grassed area, amphitheatre, netball court, workshops for craft classes, art gallery, child care centre, two gymnasiums, restaurant as part of conversion of pavilion to a community centre;
- Unknown date (probably in the 1970s) Reversal of auditorium (audience seating moved from west of pavilion to inside pavilion courtyard);
- 1980 Courtyard walls painted with murals along the theme of 'Bondi the Beautiful' based on 1920s images of Bondi;
- 1985 Ceramic murals installed in foyer of the Bondi Surf Pavilion; and
- 1980s Semi-circular pergola constructed to south of the Bondi Surf Pavilion.

Recent changes from 2002 to 2005 to the Bondi Surf Pavilion included the following:

- Repainting of the pavilion and construction of new forecourt;
- Glazed semi-circular addition to northern end of pavilion to house seafood restaurant;
- Building constructed in south courtyard;
- Fenestration to northern end of east faade restored;
- Stormwater pipes fixed;
- Alterations for gelato bar at southern end of east side; and
- Foundation stone relocated.

Changes to the Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Club building included the following:

- 1951 Additions to provide a gear room;
- 1970s/1980s Additional rooms constructed to south-west of original building; mezzanine level added, first floor extended to east; and
- 2003 New boat shed. Changes to the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club included the following:
  - 1950 Observation Room completed;
  - 1978 Demolition of top floor of building, to be replaced by a 'VIP room'; and
  - 2006 Development Approval granted for works which will substantially alter the external appearance of the building. (Works not yet commenced - January 2007).

Changes to the Bondi Park included the following:

- 1970s Pipe handrails along Queen Elizabeth Drive replaced; pathway paving rehabilitated;
- 1980s Pavilion forecourt area reconstructed; and
- 2003 Moulded concrete skate park (in place of earlier skate ramp in southern section of park); also landscape works including new pathways.

10/2013 Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi Pavilion closed. Waverley Council call for expressions of interest for the space.

**Further information:**

Other harbour and ocean beaches in NSW where interwar beautification and/or improvement schemes were carried out by local authorities include Balmoral, Cronulla, Manly, Nobbys and Bar beaches (Newcastle), North and South beaches (Wollongong), Thirroul, The Entrance and Foster.

Extant pavilions of significance dating to the interwar period include the following:

- Manly Cove Pavilion - Mediterranean style, two storey, tiled roof, with

colonnade and tile inlay decoration; located on the harbour side of Manly;

- Balmoral Bathers Pavilion - Mediterranean style, two storey, located on popular harbour beach in landscaped setting with associated rotunda;
- Cronulla Beach Surf Pavilion - Interwar Stripped Classical style, adjacent surf club house constructed at the same time (1940);
- Bar Beach Surf Pavilion - accommodated 600 visitors, contained surf club and kiosk, Spanish Mission and Art Deco styles, completed in 1933;
- North Beach Bathing Pavilion - Interwar Functionalist style, completed in 1938, single storey central pavilion with open-roofed dressing areas on either side;
- Newport and Freshwater Beaches - Mediterranean style pavilions with shared dressing and surf life savers' accommodation; and
- At The Entrance, a Mediterranean style surf life saving clubhouse was built in 1936 and designed as a pavilion to accommodate public changing rooms.

**Current use:** Pavilion - Cultural Centre, theatre, gallery, amphitheatre (open air cinema).  
**Former use:** Pavilion[dressing cubicles/Turkish baths/dining rooms/ballroom/shops/sunbaking]

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## History

**Historical notes:** Waverley:  
Waverley took its name from the title of a book by the famous Scottish author and poet, Sir Walter Scott. Its connection with the suburb of Waverley comes through Barnett Levey (or Levy, 1798-1837) who came to Sydney in the 1820s to visit his brother. When he saw how prosperous the city was becoming, Levey decided to settle here and set up a business as a general merchant. In 1831 he was granted 60 acres in the area bounded by the present Old South Head Road, Birrell Street, Paul Street and Hollywood Avenue. He must have occupied the land before the official grant because he built himself a substantial two story home on Old South Head Road in 1827, naming it Waverley House after the book by his favourite author. As time passed the house became a distinctive landmark and gave its name to the surrounding district, which was simply called Waverley. Levey established Sydney's first permanent theatre behind his shop in George Street. His projects consumed all his money, and when he died in 1837 he left a widow and four children in poverty. In 1837 the house was taken over for a Catholic school or orphanage, but it was demolished early in the 20th century.

Waverley municipality was proclaimed in 1859. By the 1880s trams were running to the beaches in the Eastern Suburbs and Waverley became a popular picnic spot. Waverley Park had a splendid oval, used by the established Waverley District Cricket Club.

Waverley Cemetery was established in 1877 on the site of the old tram terminus, on a beautiful site near the ocean. It houses many historically notable people.

The 1866 NSW Gazetteer described Waverley as having Clough's Windmill, Allan's Soap Works, Dickson's Soap and Candle Works and Scott's Blacking and Fireworks Factory. There were also four quarries producing excellent freestone. Today however, it is an attractive residential suburb, just west of Tamarama Beach (Pollen & Healy, 1988, 266-7)

**Bondi Beach:**  
Bondi Beach and Bondi Park were part of the Bondi Estate originally granted to William Roberts in 1810. Although the area was in private ownership, the use of the beach by the public was made permissible by the owners from 1855, and the foreshore lands became popular as a picnicking and pleasure resort.

In 1882, an area of 25 acres at Bondi Beach was dedicated as a public reserve. Early improvements following the dedication included baths opened c1889, bathing sheds were erected in 1903, and a weatherboard shed for the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club was built in 1907. The Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club and the North Bondi Surf Club were founded in 1906, and are two of the oldest surf clubs in Australia. The present clubhouse of the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club was constructed in 1934, and the present club house of the North Bondi Surf Club was opened in 1933.

A number of improvements ensued. In 1911, bathing sheds accommodating 750 men and 250 women were opened, described as the "finest bathing accommodation of any of the ocean beaches" (Sydney Morning Herald 14 February 1911, p. 9). A shed for the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club was provided in the same year. Between 1911 and 1920, the sea wall at Bondi Beach was constructed. Funded by the State Government, the work was carried out by the Public Works Department. The wall was an early attempt to control the drifting sand problem experienced at Bondi, but only met with partial success. In 1924 the sand dunes at the north of the beach caused the sea wall to fail.

In 1923, Waverley Council implemented a Bondi Beach and Park Improvement Scheme. An open competition called on designers to provide a kiosk and surf sheds, three lavatory blocks with separate accommodation for males and females, a band stand, layout of the park surrounding the buildings, increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic capacity and elimination of cross traffic over the Marine Drive and Promenade. The architectural firm of Robertson and Marks won the competition with a design which was semicircular in plan, with a circular core, and a Classical style elevation to the beach. This design, as well as improvements to the park and ancillary structures, including car parks, radiating paths, and bridges, was estimated to cost (Pounds)100,000. Encountering difficulties in funding the project, in 1926 Waverley Council instructed Robertson and Marks to revise their scheme to include fund raising elements, such as baths. The plans for the park, sea wall, and traffic provisions were further amended on the basis of recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry into the scheme held by the Department of Local Government. The Inquiry accepted the revised scheme in 1927, and Waverley Council secured a loan of (Pounds)120,000 from the Commonwealth Bank for the construction of the scheme. A further (Pounds)40,000 was borrowed in 1930 in order to complete the scheme. By the standards of the time, the scale and cost of the Bondi Beach

Improvement Schemes was a unprecedented undertaking for a local Council in NSW. The foundation stone marking the commencement of construction of the improvement scheme was laid on 26th May 1928 by the Mayor of Waverley, Alderman David Hunter. The Bondi Surf Pavilion was sufficiently complete by December 1928 to allow the public to use the accommodation. Six months later, Turkish baths and hot water baths were opened. The official opening of the Bondi Beach Improvement Scheme was held on 21st December 1929 before 160,000 to 200,000 onlookers. In addition to the erection of the pavilion building, the scheme included the layout of a Marine Drive (now Queen Elizabeth Drive), bridges, carparking, promenade, and park plantings.

The implementation of the improvement scheme required the relocation of the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club house to a point 100 yards north to where the present building is situated. Subsequently, a new club house, designed by Ross & Rowe, architects, was opened in 1934. The building was extended in the 1970s and 1980s. The Bondi Surf Pavilion offered, in addition to surf sheds and dressing accommodation, Turkish and hot water baths, retail premises, entertainment in the ballroom, cabaret theatre, and auditorium and dining. Bathing costumes, towels, lockers, and dressing cubicles were available for hire. The ground floor of the building originally held two courtyards, one for men and one for women, with individual changing booths constructed in rows in each. Tunnels leading from each courtyard led underneath Marine Parade to a pair of concrete groynes opening onto the beach. Owing to the outbreak of war in the Pacific, the two concrete groynes leading from the pavilion onto the beach were demolished in 1942, and the park area was secured by barbed wire.

In the post-World War II era, the Bondi Surf Pavilion experienced a decline as changes in bathing costumes (from heavy woollen costumes to nylon) eliminated the need for changing sheds. The rise in popularity of the motor car meant that individuals could visit any number of beaches; whereas in the pre-war years the Bondi tram ensured that Bondi Beach was a popular beach destination for the public. Although Bondi Surf Pavilion itself began to decline in its commercial prospects (Council reported an operating loss of (Pounds)17,000 for the year 1955), Bondi Beach itself was cemented in the national identity as the quintessential Australian beach, as evidenced by its selection as the location for the 1954 'Royal Command' Surf Carnival, held in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. In the 1950s and 1960s, the ground floor refreshment rooms were operated by lessees, while the main hall and auditorium were rarely used. In the 1970s, steps were taken to increase the community use of the pavilion. The theatre on the upper floor was officially opened by Gough Whitlam in 1975.

Demolition of the change rooms, lockers, former Turkish baths, and courtyard took place in 1977 to 1978 in order to create a netball court, an art gallery, gymnasiums, an amphitheatre and other facilities as part of Waverley Council's cultural program. The building was officially opened as the Bondi Surf Pavilion Community Centre in 1978 by the Premier of NSW, Neville Wran. Bondi Surf Pavilion still continues to be a community cultural centre, housing a theatre, a gallery, rehearsal, meeting and function rooms. The external arcades, change rooms and toilets continue to be used by visitors to the beach. Many arts, cultural, and film festivals take place at the pavilion throughout the year.

The Norfolk Island pine trees (Araucaria heterophylla) in Bondi Park began to die off in the late 1960s, and a Select (Parliamentary) Committee of Enquiry reviewed the problem in 1971, concluding that the death of the trees was the result of deleterious effects of off-shore pollutants introduced via the North Bondi sewerage outfall. The concrete lookout tower on the butt of the southern groyne was constructed in 1975, after the foundations of groynes were exposed during severe storms in late 1974. During the 1980s, \$4 million was allocated for improvements in Bondi Park, including the erection of picnic shelters, reconstruction of the pavilion forecourt area and entrance to carparking at Queen Elizabeth Drive, and construction of a skateboard track. The sea wall and promenade were stabilised between 1987 and 1992. Further work was done in constructing new pathways and planting trees in Bondi Park in 1992.

Bondi Park is a Crown reserve that was dedicated for Public Recreation on 28th January 1938. Waverley Council was appointed trustee for the care control and management of the reserve, on behalf of the Minister for Lands, on that date. Subsequently, the Bondi Park (D.500048) Reserve Trust was established for the management of Bondi Park, with Waverley Council appointed to manage this trust on 12 April 1996. (Information from Department of Lands, 9.1.2007).

The Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi Pavilion (which opened there in 2008) closed in October 2013, being unable financially to continue. Waverley Council have called for expressions of interest for the space, citing a tourist information centre as one of several options being considered (McDonald, 2013).

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
2. Peopling-Peopling the continent	Ethnic influences-Activities associated with common cultural traditions and peoples of shared descent, and with exchanges between such traditions and peoples.	Multi-national contacts with local communities-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment - cultural landscape-Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings	Landscapes of urban amenity-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Events-Activities and processes that mark the consequences of natural and cultural occurrences	Developing local landmarks-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national	Events-Activities and processes that mark the consequences of natural and cultural occurrences	Providing a venue for significant events-

economies		
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Urban landscapes inspiring creative responses-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Beautifying towns and villages-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Developing civic infrastructure and amenity-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Creating an icon-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Landscaping - 20th century interwar-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Building in response to natural landscape features.-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Building in response to climate - verandahs-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Creating works of art-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Architectural styles and periods - Interwar Spanish Mission-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Domestic life-Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	Holidaying near the sea-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Gathering at landmark places to socialise-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Enjoying public parks and gardens-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Going swimming-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Visiting lookouts and places of natural beauty-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Social institutions-Activities and organisational arrangements for the provision of social activities	Developing local clubs and meeting places-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Social institutions-Activities and organisational arrangements for the provision of social activities	Places of informal community gatherings-

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

Bondi Beach is of State significance for its place in the history of beach swimming, surfing, and surf life saving in Australia in the 19th and 20th centuries. As attitudes toward surf bathing changed from a restricted and dangerous activity to that of a national pastime, Bondi Beach and the area of Bondi Park were the scene of numerous events in the history of beach-going in Australia which contributed greatly to the development of Australian beach culture, including:

- Use as picnic grounds and pleasure resort from 1855;
- Establishment of two of Australia's oldest surf life saving clubs: the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club and the North Bondi Surf Club in 1906;
- First use of the surf reel in life saving, by the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, 1907;
- Location of the first Surf Life Saving Association titles competition in 1915;
- 'Black Sunday', 6 February 1938, when five people drowned at Bondi Beach and hundreds were rescued after a series of waves crashed into the beach - the largest ever rescue on one day. This is remembered as "one of the most significant and tragic days in the history of Australian life saving."

Surf Life Saving Australia history fact sheet #7) The Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club as a whole was given a Special Meritorious Award by the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia for its bravery in the rescue work; and

- 'Royal Carnival' - a national surf carnival was held at Bondi in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Other more recent events are also historic milestones, namely:

- Demonstrating the worldwide esteem held for Bondi Beach, it was chosen

as the site of the 2000 Olympics Beach Volleyball competition;

- Bondi Beach was the location of the launch of the 'Year of the Surf Life Saver' (2007) as 5,000 red and yellow flags were set out on the beach in commemoration of the centenary of surf life saving and 500,000 lives saved by rescuers; and
- Bondi Beach is also the destination of the annually 'City to Surf' fun run competition.

The Bondi Surf Pavilion and Bondi Park are components in Waverley Council's (Pounds)160,000 Bondi Beach Improvement Scheme, brought about by the immense popularity of the beach for recreation in the 1920s. The improvement scheme was an unprecedented undertaking for a local government authority at the time, and historically representative of the importance placed on bathing and the beach as a recreational amenity for the population of the state, not only the local area. The improvement scheme is a landmark in the history of urban design in NSW because of its ambitious scale.

**SHR Criteria c)**  
[Aesthetic significance]

Bondi Beach is of State significance for its considerable aesthetic appeal for its width, the gentle slope of the sand, its crescent shape, and the headlands which define its northern and southern points. The scale of the beach and its relationship with the foreshore development, including Bondi Park, Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club building and the North Bondi Surf Club, form a cultural landscape which is a landmark of not only the Sydney region, but an iconic image of Australia, recognised internationally as a symbol of Australia and the attractions of the country. Within the context of Bondi Beach, the Bondi Surf Pavilion is of State significance as the largest and most resolved example of a beach pavilion in NSW, and continues to be so to this day.

**SHR Criteria d)**  
[Social significance]

The Bondi beach Cultural Landscape is of State significance because Bondi Beach, together with the Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Park, the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club and the North Bondi Surf Club buildings, represents at a national level the culture of beach bathing which has dominated past and present the popular image of the Australian outdoors lifestyle. In this context it is an icon regularly seen in works of art and promotional material, such as the widely-known Max Dupain photographs, Sunbaker (1937) and Form at Bondi (1939).

Bondi Beach and its associated attractions are of outstanding significance to the state as one of the most popular destinations for international and domestic visitors to Sydney. Particularly amongst travellers from the UK and Ireland, Bondi Beach has attained a mythic status as the traditional place for international visitors to spend Christmas Day, when usually up to 40,000 people visit the beach ([cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/beach](http://cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/beach)). A 2005 survey of 15,000 British holiday-makers conducted by the travel company Trailfinders showed that Bondi Beach was the "favourite beach in the Pacific" (Tourism Australia, "Australia 'Favourite Country' in UK Survey"). A study carried out for Tourism NSW showed that in 1999, 34% of visitors to Sydney went to Bondi Beach, making it the most highly visited Sydney attraction outside of the CBD. ('The Sydney Day Tours Market: a sector overview', by The Staffers Group, June 2001.) Bondi Beach is held in very high esteem by the people of NSW as a place to visit and as a symbol of the Australian way of life.

**SHR Criteria f)**  
[Rarity]

The Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape demonstrates rarity at the State level as The Bondi Surf Pavilion is the largest surf beach pavilion to be constructed in Sydney, exemplifying the enormous growth in popularity of surf bathing of the 1920s and 1930s, a period during which many beachside beautification and improvement schemes were carried out by local and State authorities. The use of Bondi Beach in depictions of the quintessential Australian beach lifestyle in popular culture and works of art is unparalleled by any other beach in Australia.

The association of Bondi Beach with two of the earliest surf life saving clubs in Australia, and the important role played by the clubs in the development of the Australian surf life saving movement, is a rare attribute, matched only by Manly Beach.

**SHR Criteria g)**  
[Representativeness]

The Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape is State significant for its ability to represent all of the elements which are typical of the Australian beach: a pavilion for public changing rooms, surf life saving club(s), wide expanse of sand, grassy park for picnicking, a promenade/marine drive, and the availability of ocean swimming.


Bondi Beach, Bondi Park, and the Bondi Surf Pavilion form an excellent representation of Australian popular beach culture. The Bondi Surf Pavilion is representative of a class of buildings found frequently along the coast of NSW, and is of State significance as the largest, most resolved example of the type.

**Integrity/Intactness:**Bondi Beach: Highly intact

Bondi Park: Although pathways have been resurfaced, the layout of Bondi Park is substantially intact.

Bondi Surf Pavilion: Although modified substantially in the 1970s and the subject of recent modern additions to the east facade, the building retains its external form and, to an extent, the internal courtyards. The modifications made to the planning and use of the internal spaces detract somewhat from the significance of this component; however, the architectural scale and resolution of the exterior of the building are of sufficient strength to enable the building's aesthetic character to be understood.

Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club Building: Although added to in the 1970s and 1980s, the building substantially retains its original external appearance

**Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  [State Heritage Register \(SHR\) Criteria](#) to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.



## Recommended management:


### Recommendations

Management Category	Description	Date Updated
Recommended Management	Review a Conservation Management Plan (CMP)	
Recommended Management	Prepare a maintenance schedule or guidelines	
Recommended Management	Carry out interpretation, promotion and/or education	

### Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Heritage Act - Site Specific Exemptions	<p>(A) General maintenance and repair:</p> <p>(i) Pruning of 20 to 30% of the canopy of trees within a 2 year period as recommended by a qualified arborist and approved by Council's Tree Management Officer for the tree's health or public safety reasons.</p> <p>(ii) Minor works to improve public access, provide disabled access and to eliminate or reduce risks to public safety.</p> <p>(iii) Repair of damage caused by erosion and implementation of erosion control measures.</p> <p>(iv) Maintenance, repair and resurfacing of existing roads, paths, fences and gates.</p> <p>(v) Maintenance and repair of any building, structure, monument or work within the parkland, including temporary relocation for conservation or protection.</p> <p>(vi) Upgrade of services where Waverley Council is satisfied that the activity will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.</p> <p>(B) Maintenance of services and utilities:</p> <p>(i) Maintenance and repair of existing services and public utilities including communications, gas, electricity, water supply, waste disposal, sewerage, irrigation and drainage.</p> <p>(ii) Upgrade of services and public utilities where the Waverley Council is satisfied that the activity will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.</p> <p>(iii) Installation, maintenance and removal of waste bins to implement Waverley Council's waste management policies.</p> <p>© Management of lawns, recreation areas and plantings:</p> <p>(i) Removal and replacement of existing plantings other than trees.</p> <p>(ii) Removal of dead or dying trees.</p> <p>(iii) Removal, construction or alteration of garden beds, hard landscaping and plantings where the activity will not materially effect the heritage significance of the Bondi Beach area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.</p> <p>(iv) Routine horticultural maintenance, including lawn mowing, cultivation and pruning.</p> <p>(D) Management of interpretive, information and directional signage:</p> <p>(i) Installation, removal and alteration of interpretive, information and directional signage and labels in accordance with signage policies adopted by Waverley Council and/or Waverley Traffic Committee and/or the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW</p> <p>(E) Management of artworks, statues and monuments:</p> <p>(i) Temporary installation of artworks, statues and monuments for temporary exhibitions or events.</p> <p>(ii) Installation, relocation and removal of artworks, statues and monuments to implement Council's policies.</p> <p>(F) Activities undertaken in accordance with the Bondi Park and Pavilion Plan of Management adopted under the provisions of section 114 of the Crown Lands Act 1989, by the Honourable Kim Yeadon MP, on 24 November, 1995.</p> <p>(G) Management of temporary events:</p> <p>(i) Temporary use of sections of the Bondi Beach area, including Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and Bondi Park, temporary road closures and the installation of temporary buildings, structures, fencing, facilities, exhibitions, artworks, crowd control barriers, stages, lighting, sound and public address equipment and signage for a period not exceeding 6 months where Waverley Council is satisfied that the activity will not affect critical views to and from Bondi Beach or materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which the temporary events are to be undertaken.</p> <p>(H) Alterations of roads, pathways and fences:</p> <p>(i) Parking management measures to implement Waverley Council's Transportation policies and/or the requirements of the Roads and Traffic Authority and/or Waverley Traffic Committee that will not materially affect the heritage</p>	May 23 2008

			<p>significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.</p> <p>(I) Alterations to buildings and/or works:  (i) Minor alterations to buildings and/or works (including alterations to provide disabled access) which do not increase the area of a building and will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken  (ii) Installation, relocation, removal and maintenance of park furniture in accordance with Council's policies and Public Domain Improvement Plans.</p> <p>(J) Existing approved development:  All works and activities in accordance with a current and valid development consent from Waverley Council or the Land and Environment Court in force at the date of gazettal for listing on the State Heritage Register:  (i) Bondi Pavilion:  DA-171/2000; DA-198/2006; DA-726/2005; DA-850/2003; DA-850/2003A; DA-850/2003B; DA-810/2004; DA-172/2004; DA-484/2003; DA-477/2003; and DA-465/2003.  (ii) Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club:  DA-630/2003 and DA-630/2003A.  (iii) North Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club:  DA-190/2003  (iv) Bondi Park:  DA-808/2003 and DA-326/2003.</p> <p>(K) Alterations to existing recent development:  All works and activities for minor alterations and additions to a current and valid development consent in force at the date of gazettal for listing on the State Heritage Register for the Bondi Beach area, including Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and Bondi Park where the Executive Director of the Heritage Office, Department of Planning, is satisfied that:  (i) The proposed works are substantially the same as the development for which consent was originally granted, before any modifications to that consent, for the purpose of this exemption only; and  (ii) The proposed works will not incrementally or materially increase the impact of the original development consent on significant elements or characteristics of the Bondi Beach area, including Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and Bondi Park, such as (but not limited to) its setting, tree canopy, curtilage, subdivision and ownership patterns, remnant significant fabric, relics, landscape and natural features, current and historic access routes to significant elements, views to and from the item and its significant features, and the capacity for interpretation of its significance; and  (iii) The Executive Director of the Heritage Office has been notified in writing of the works proposed to be undertaken under this exemption prior to commencement of works, including details of the works and their location in the subject Precinct, and the Executive Director has provided written confirmation that the works are exempt.</p> <p>(L) Change of Use:  The change of use of an item located in the Bondi Beach area where Waverley Council is satisfied that the use will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area.</p>	
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS  HERITAGE ACT 1977  Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR  Minister for Planning  Sydney, 11 July 2008</p> <p>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.</p>	Sep 5 2008

 [Standard exemptions](#) for works requiring Heritage Council approval

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		01786	23 May 08	56	3998
Local Environmental Plan	Bondi Surf Pavilion	3/1 - 0240	06 Dec 96		

Heritage study	Bondi Surf Pavilion	3/1 - 0240			
National Trust of Australia register		10053			
Register of the National Estate	Nom.01/07/1979	002473	28 Sep 82	AHC	
National Heritage List	Bondi Beach		25 Jan 08	S18	1-3

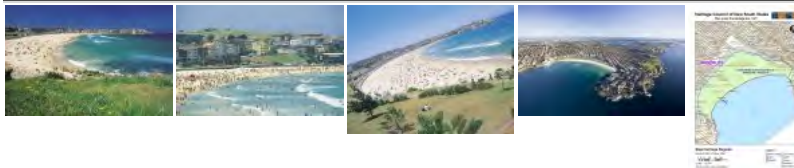
### Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Waverley Heritage Study	1990	3/1 - 0240	Perumal Murphy P/L		No

### References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Tourism	Attraction homepage	2009	Bondi Beach	<a href="#">View detail</a> 
Written	Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners	1997	Bondi Pavilion Surf Club & Surrounds, conservation analysis & conservation guidelines	
Written	Conybeare Morrison Plus	2006	Campbell Parade East Upgrade, stage 3, Urban & Landscape Design - heritage impact statement	
Tourism	Heritage NSW Tourism site		Bondi Surf Pavillion and landscape	<a href="#">View detail</a>
Written	Lawrence, Joan	1993	Eastern Suburbs Walks - Exploring the Suburbs	
Written	Mayne-Wilson & Associates	2013	A History of Bondi Park & Pavilion	
Written	Mayne-Wilson & Associates	2012	Bondi Park and Pavilion - Heritage Review	
Written	McDonald, Shae	2013	'Site Set to Guide Tourists - Underwater World Closes'	
Written	National Trust of Australia (NSW)	1985	Bondi beach Urban Conservation Area Listing Card	
Written	National Trust of Australia (NSW)	1977	Bondi Surf Pavilion Listing Card	
Written	NSW Heritage Office	2005	North Beach Precinct State Heritage Register Listing	
Written	NSW Heritage Regsiter	2000	.	
Written	Pollen, Frances & Healy, Gerald (ed.s, and contributors)	1990	'Waverley' entry in The Book of Sydney Suburbs	
Written	Spearritt, Peter	1978	Sydney Since the Twenties	
Written	Surf Life Saving Australia	2007	History Fact Sheets	
Written	Various		Reports for Tourism NSW and Tourism Australia	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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**Database number:** 5055526  
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# Heritage Council of New South Wales

Plan under the Heritage Act, 1977



## State Heritage Register

Gazettal Date: 23 May 2008

0 25 50 100 150 200  
Metres

Scale: 1:5,000

Produced by: Stewart Watters

## Legend

- SHR Curtilage
- LGAs
- Suburbs
- Land Parcels
- Water
- Roads
- Railways
- NSW Reserves



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# Bondi Beach & Park

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Bondi Beach & Park
<b>Type of item:</b>	Landscape
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Parks, Gardens and Trees
<b>Category:</b>	Other - Parks, Gardens & Trees
<b>Primary address:</b>	Campbell Parade, Bondi Beach, NSW 2026
<b>Parish:</b>	Alexandria
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Waverley

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Campbell Parade	Bondi Beach	Waverley	Alexandria	Cumberland	Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

Bondi Beach is synonymous with Australian beach culture, surfing, and the surf life saving movement. The elegant semi-circular beach, with its golden sand and safety record, is a mecca for swimmers and tourists. The pavilion and ancillary works are a rare example of urban design from the 1920-30 period. A site of State significance.

**Date significance updated:** 07 Feb 00

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Construction years:** 1891-1920

**Physical description:** Wide semi-circular beach, approximately 1.5km long and over 100m wide. Protected by sandstone headlands to north and south and enclosed by commercial and residential buildings. The gentle slope of the sand has resulted in a safe swimming beach for all age groups. The main surf pavilion dates from 1928. Extensive concrete promenade, with viewing bays and kiosks, and roadworks. Pedestrian bridges constructed of exposed formwork. Moulded pattern concrete. Impressive period details, like the bridge lighting. Single Norfolk Island pine survives in poor condition at the south west end of the reserve. The new deep ocean sewerage outfall may permit successful replanting of the reserve, much of which has a stark, open quality of somewhat forbidding scale. The general planting behind the pavilion (protected from the sea winds) is successful.

**Current use:** Beach and Park

**Former use:** Beach and Park


## History

**Historical notes:** Beachfront reserved for public recreation in 1850's. Had to be purchased from O'Brien's estate at considerable expense. Pool dates from 1881. Surf bathing not permitted until early this century. The main surf pavilion dates from 1928. The tall Norfolk Island pines, which were once an intrinsic part of the beach's character, had to be removed c.1980. Most were dead or dying from environmental pollution.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	(none)-

## Assessment of significance

- SHR Criteria a)** This item is of historical and cultural significance  
[Historical significance]
- SHR Criteria c)** This item is of architectural, natural, landmark and streetscape/landscape significance  
[Aesthetic significance]
- SHR Criteria f)** This item is of rarity value significance  
[Rarity]
- Integrity/Intactness:** Substantially intact
- Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan			06 Dec 96		
Local Environmental Plan			26 Oct 12		
Heritage study					

## Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Waverley Heritage Study	1990	L6/2005	Perumal Murphy Pty Limited		N o

## References, internet links & images

None

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

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# Bondi Surf Pavilion

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Bondi Surf Pavilion
<b>Type of item:</b>	Built
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Recreation and Entertainment
<b>Category:</b>	Other - Recreation & Entertainment
<b>Primary address:</b>	Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi Beach, NSW 2026
<b>Parish:</b>	Alexandria
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Waverley

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Queen Elizabeth Drive	Bondi Beach	Waverley	Alexandria	Cumberland	Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

Outstanding early twentieth century building. Its construction marked the establishment of the Australian beach and leisure culture. Prize winning example of the work of Robertson and Marks, architects. A fine example of the Inter-War Mediterranean style. Introduced to Australia by Leslie Wilkinson. Famous landmark. Attractively sited in the landscape, serving to understate its large scale. State significance.

**Date significance updated:** 06 Nov 99

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Construction years:** 1915-1945

**Physical description:** A very large, masonry constructed 1920's seaside pavilion. Core building is two storeys with single storey wings encircling a large central courtyard. Characterised by its colonnaded facades, featured on all four elevations. Inter-War Mediterranean style, reminiscent of the Italianate (of former Coogee Palace Aquarium and Coogee Bay Hotel). Tuscan columns to central loggia. Parapet above provides balustrade to large balcony area. Good use of mouldings on this central structure. Ornamentation otherwise restrained. Short span, hipped roof now in concrete tiles. Most openings either arched or topped by arched, rendered bands. Interior extensively remodelled with large courtyard areas retained. Well sited in the beach park landscape. Strong horizontal emphasis and partly sunken siting reduce the potential impact on the former dune landscape. Park area around is boomerang shaped, and siting creates special visual interest when viewed from high vantage points. Pivotal contribution in the surrounding townscape.

**Current use:** Pavilion

**Former use:** Pavilion

## History

**Historical notes:** Foundation stone laid by Waverley Mayor in 1928. Part of a major beach and park improvement scheme. Replaced an earlier structure. Prize winning design by Robertson and Marks, architects. Clearly influenced by the work of Leslie Wilkinson. Lengthy delays in construction. Originally provided extensive changing facilities, shops, Turkish baths, gymnasium, ballroom, dining rooms and auditorium. Still used for dressing rooms and shops, in part, together with theatres, club rooms, community centre and art gallery. Built at a time when surf bathing became a mass leisure pursuit. Although trams arrived many years earlier, it was not until the 1920's that visitors flocked to Bondi. Earlier seaside palaces, like the Coogee Aquarium, were attractions in themselves, and modelled on those in Victorian England. Here the primary emphasis is on meeting the needs of bathers. The departure from the English tradition is marked by both the styling and the use.

## Historic themes



Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	(none)-

## Assessment of significance


**SHR Criteria a)** This item is of historical and cultural significance.  
[Historical significance]

**SHR Criteria c)** This item is of architectural, aesthetic, landmark and streetscape/landscape value.  
[Aesthetic significance]

**SHR Criteria d)** This item is of social significance.  
[Social significance]

**SHR Criteria f)** This item is of rarity value significance.  
[Rarity]

**Integrity/Intactness:** Substantially intact.

**Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan			06 Dec 96		
Heritage study					

## Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Waverley Heritage Study	1990	3/1 - 0240	Perumal Murphy Pty Limited		N o

## References, internet links & images

None

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

[rez](#)

(Click on thumbnail for full size image and image details)

## Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

**Name:** Local Government

**Database number:** 2620255

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Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to the [Database Manager](#).

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Town, District, Location BONDI BEACH	Name/Identification of Classification BONDI BEACH URBAN CONSERVATION AREA	Statistical Region SYDNEY
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Local Government Authority & Postal Address

WAVERLEY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BOX 9, PO, BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022

Author(s) of Classification S BROCKWELL, T HOWELLS, J MASTERMAN	Date of proposal Original 6/2/85; amended 4/9/85	Date of approval 27/5/85, amdmnt 23/9/85
---	--	--

Boundary description (boundary line other than that along street centrelines must be accurately described)

Commencing at the intersection of Campbell Pde and Francis St westwards along the centreline of Francis St to the rear of property cnr of Francis St and Campbell Pde North then northwest along rear of properties in Campbell Pde (Lots 1-12 DP 10608) to Sir Thomas Mitchell Rd west then north following lane rear of properties fronting Campbell Pde to Lamrock Ave, thence west to eastern property alignment of Lot 13 DP 5953 proceeding north east along rear of properties east side Jaques Ave to Hall St, thence north east along Gould Lane to Roscoe St, continuing along eastern property alignment of Lots A-D F.P. 437798 thence west following northern property boundary to centreline of Gould St, thence north east along centreline of Gould St crossing Curlewis St to northern property .. /2 (see over)

Description (history, setting, form/scale, buildings, townscape, landscape, views, vistas, street furniture, unsympathetic development etc.)

The scale of Bondi Beach combined with its proximity to the city centre has made it one of the world's most famous beaches. Set in a flat basin flanked by elevated ridges leading back from the headlands at each end, the long white arc of the beach has been progressively reinforced by a succession of man-made developments. The sea wall initially defines the beach, the promenade, the bank of parkland and the curve of Campbell Parade all contribute to a distinctive sense of place. The backdrop of buildings lining Campbell Parade provides a vertical edge that completes the composition of an urban landscape embracing the beach. Historically the development of tramways around the turn of the century (See Annexure One) dramatically improved access into the area and facilitated the rapid development of Bondi Beach as a coastal resort. This development gathered momentum in the 1910s and continued into the twenties and thirties, after which a period of decline affected the area. In the post-war period the widespread availability of private motor vehicles and the changes this brought to the growth and orientation of Sydney meant a lesser role for Bondi Beach as a major urban social focus. Much of the existing significant urban fabric within the Conservation Area was developed in the "boom" period of the twenties. The buildings lining Campbell Parade create an important townscape. Predominantly composed of three and four storey parapeted buildings of the "boom" period, the general uniformity of their height and design combined with their continuous shopfronts at street level creates an important edge to the beach front in both functional and visual terms. In particular the street corners are architecturally impressive with well sited buildings such as the Bondi Hotel (1920 - Curlewis St), Ravesis Corner (1914-1920 - Hall St), the Empire Flats (c.1930 - Lamrock Ave) and the Astra Hotel (1929 - Sir Thomas Mitchell Rd) managing to turn their respective corners and act as "anchors" in the townscape. .. /2 (see over)

Reason(s) for Classification

The scale of Bondi Beach and the pronounced functional and visual interation with its historically significant foreshore development is a rare 1920s urban landscape within the context of any city in the world.

The development of Bondi Beach has significance in the historical development of Sydney. The Bondi Beach area features some typical twenties "boomtime" architecture. The two international hotels, the Bondi and the Astra, the Spanish Revival style Bondi Pavilion and the more modest flat buildings are all evocative of Bondi becoming more cosmopolitan and Sydneysiders becoming recreationally oriented towards the ocean coast.

Bibliography The History of the Waverley Municipal District, B T Dowd & W Foster, Waverley Municipal Council, Sydney 1959; Bondi, J Kent Editor, James Fraser, Sydney, 1984; Tramways of Sydney, D Keenan, Transit Press, Sydney 1979.

56802

The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) URBAN CONSERVATION Classification Card NTN 07A

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Committee References: F/UCC BONDI BEACH		Notification of Classification To: _____ Date: 20, 12 85	
Recommended to UCC/131: 6/ 2 /85 Boundary amendment recommended to UCC 138: 4/9/85		1. Local Government Authority WAVERLY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL	
		2. Heritage Council of N.S.W.	
		3. Dept. of Environment & Planning	
Adopted at UCC/132: 6/ 3 /85 Amendment adopted at UCC/138:4/9/85		4. Dept. of Main Roads	
		5. Dept. of Public Works	
Approved by National Trust Council at C/4 : 27/ 5 /85 Amendment approved NTC at CG: 23/9/85		6. Housing Commission of N.S.W. (if applicable)	
		7. Australian Heritage Commission (Nomination for inclusion on Register of the National Estate)	
		8. Local Historical Society (type in name)	
Copies _____	Date: 1. 1.	9. NSW Department of Land	
File copy _____			
Security copy _____			

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (CONT):** Please tick boxes

Please tick boxes where applicable

alignment of Lots 1 & 2 DP 218623 thence north east along western property alignment of F.P.903462 to Beach Rd. Follow centreline of Beach Rd westwards to intersection of Gould St, thence north east along centreline of Gould St to southern boundary of Bondi Beach Putlib School, follow property alignment south east projecting to centreline of Campbell Pde, follow centreline of Campbell Pde eastwards to the intersection of Ramsgate Ave, thence southeast along centreline of Ramsgate Ave to the northern property alignment of Lot 6 F.P.381954. Boundary proceeds westwards along the northern property alignment of Lot 6 then follows rear property alignments southwards to Lot J.C.7785559. Boundary turn east, south then west to include Lot J & M, returning to rear boundary of Lots 16 & 17, proceeding eastwards along southern alignment of Lot 17, D.P.501760 to Ramsgate Ave East. Boundary proceeds south along centreline of Ramsgate Ave East, then turns eastwards follow the southern boundary of allotment DP.222867 to Brighton Boulevard East. Follows western alignment of Brighton Boulevard East, south to the Mean High Water mark on the ocean coast. Boundary returns along M.H.W. mark, to include public reserves on Ben Buckler headland, the beach frontage. Thence follows the M.H.W. mark in an arc generally southwards (parallel to the beach) to the rock platform at the southern end of the beach, including the Bondi Baths. Boundary continues southwards along M.H.W. mark past Hunter Park, unnamed foreshore reserve between Wilga and Fletcher Sts to Mackenzies Point, returning along western boundary of Marks Park to the termination of Fletcher St. Boundary proceeds generally northwards to boundary of unnamed coastal reserve past Wilga St, projecting across Hunter Park to the line of Notts Ave. Boundary follows centreline of Notts Ave north then west to intersection of Campbell Pde. Following the centreline of Campbell Pde south to the point of commencement.

**DESCRIPTION (CONT):**

The major disruptive elements in an otherwise cohesive facade of buildings on Campbell 1 are the relatively recent Cosmopolitan Hotel, an eight-storey tower that is highly intrusive. The Breakers, a recent four-storey horizontally terraced development that is less disruptive in terms of height but is finished in very dark materials that detracts from the general light coloured townscape of the southern end of the area. A further disruption is the Service Station, occupying a large important site on the corner of Beach Rd. Although building is insignificant, it creates a large gap in the continuity of both the vertical "edge" and the street level shopfronts. Less importantly there have been several unsymmetrically altered facades in this line of buildings. The overall original design of Bondi Park with the central siting of the Pavilion (individually Classified) and other distinctive urban design elements lend a unity to the open space between the beach and the building. The two arched pedestrian bridges with their ornamental lamps are particularly significant. The Bondi Baths are included as an integral part of the beach front and an important piece of Australianiana, symbol of Sydney and its beach "culture".



KEY DATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BONDI BEACH

- 1810 William Robert granted 200 acres south of Beach Road including the beach frontage. J Hurd granted 40 acres adjacent to Robert's grant to the north including the Ben Buckler headland.
- 1852 Robert's Estate unsuccessfully subdivided as the Bondi Estate.
- 1854 Surveyor-General recommends beach frontage 100 ft back from high water mark be reserved for public recreation.
- 1855 Beach frontage (privately owned) used as picnic grounds and pleasure resort.
- 1859 Waverley Council agitates for creation of foreshore park.
- 1868 Bondi Estate subdivided successfully, beach frontage excluded from sale.
- 1880 Cliff House Hotel built corner of Sir Thomas Mitchell Road and Campbell Parade.
- 1882 25 acres of foreshore resumed by the Crown for public recreation along the lines of 1854 recommendation, creating Bondi Park.
- 1883 Tramline to Coogee Beach from Sydney begins operation, providing the impetus for the earlier development of that beach as resort.
- 1884 First Baths at Bondi.
- 1894 First tramway reaches southern end of Bondi Beach, limited service.
- 1894 Bondi Baths extended.
- 1902 Full time tram service from Circular Quay to Bondi Beach begins.
- 1911 Sea wall constructed and Castle Pavilion built.
- 1914 Full time tramway service from Central Station begins.
- 1919 Second tramway from the City reaches Bondi at Curlewis Street (via Bellevue Hill)
- 1920 Hotel Bondi opens (cnr Curlewis St and Campbell Parade).
- 1920 Extensive re-subdivision of Bondi Beach, pace of development quickens with new hotels, flats etc being constructed.
- 1923 Beach and Park improvement scheme adopted.
- 1926 Bondi Baths reconstructed, car park built near Curlewis Street. Astra Hotel built on the site of the old Cliff House Hotel.
- 1928 Early Pavilion demolished; replaced with large Spanish style Pavilion. Bondi Park redesigned.
- 1929 Average of 60,000 people visiting beach on an average day on summer week-ends.
- 1929 Tramway extended north of Curlewis Street along Campbell Parade to North Bondi.
- 1929 Astra Hotel opens



BONDI BEACH URBAN CONSERVATION AREA

ACTION REPORT: URBAN DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC LANDS

The bulk of the land within the Bondi Beach Urban Conservation Area is under public ownership, ie Bondi Park and Campbell Parade. Proposed major public works by the Department of Main Roads, the Department of Lands and Waverley Municipal Council may radically alter the existing fabric of the public area to the extent that its heritage significance is diminished. The Trust considers that major works such as the re-alignment of Campbell Parade, re-design of pedestrian and vehicular access in Bondi Park should be carefully considered to ensure that the essential character of Bondi Beach is retained.

1.1 PLANTINGS

The landscape of Bondi Beach suffers from a noticeable lack of vegetation. The Trust considers that future planting proposals should recognize the grand scale and historical associations of the site. The Trust recommends that Norfolk Island Pines (Araucaria heterophylla) or trees of a similar scale should be reintroduced in Bondi Beach.

It is readily acknowledged that presently there are difficulties in the growth of this species in this location due to unfavourable environmental conditions. The Trust considers that with the scheduled implementation of the M.S.W. & D. Board's proposal for an extended submarine ocean outfall sewer, the opportunity for the successful reintroduction of Norfolk Pines will be greatly enhanced. The early propagation of Norfolk Pines in nursery conditions, with subsequent climatic adjustments to enable the eventual planting on site, is strongly recommended.

1.2 BONDI PARK

Bondi Park was conceived and designed in the last half of the 1920s as an integrated whole. The Trust considers that due attention should be paid to this in the proposed rationalization of vehicular access, car parking and pedestrian routes. The provision of further car parking should not prejudice the integrity of Bondi Park as a public recreational space. The proposed realignment of Campbell Parade should not encroach upon dedicated parkland and specifically should not result in a net reduction of soft, porous park area.

1.3 BUILT ELEMENTS

Existing built elements within the public area that contribute to the townscape of Bondi Beach include the Surf Pavilion (built 1928-1930 and individually CLASSIFIED by the National Trust) and two arched pedestrian bridges built as a part of park improvement scheme in the late 1920s. The conservation of these elements is necessary to maintain the character of that period.

Further built elements to be introduced into Bondi Park should continue the existing theme of twenties style Spanish Revival buildings such as the Surf Pavilion. Architectural references to the Pavilion should be made in the design of new structures to unify Bondi Park.

#### 1.4 CAMPBELL PARADE

The existing arrangement of median strip parking in Campbell Parade is considered to be visually intrusive. The Trust would not object to its removal.

### 2.0 CONSERVATION OF CAMPBELL PARADE BUILDINGS

#### 2.1 DESCRIPTION

The Trust recognizes that the existing development on land fronting Campbell Parade between Francis Street and Beach Road forms an important part of the character of Bondi Beach, strongly relating to the foreshore area in visual and functional terms.

Visually, this built "edge" defines the Conservation Area creating a low wall of generally consistent height that serves to enclose the park and beach as it follows the curve of Campbell Parade at the southern end of the beach. The modest height of this built edge contributes to the sense of spaciousness, created by the scale of the beach and the open views to the ocean, as there are ample views of the sky beyond the beachfront buildings.

The modest architecture of the building fronting Campbell Parade largely dates from the twenties and thirties. There are a number of design features that unify this line of buildings; parapetted facades, masonry render, fenestration pattern, light-coloured finish and location on property alignment.

Functionally this line of buildings relates well to the recreational character of the area, with continuous shopfront commercial activity encouraging movement of people between the beach and the park to the western side of Campbell Parade.

#### 2.2 EXISTING PROBLEMS

Apart from the relatively superficial problems of poor maintenance, inappropriate paint schemes, brick-veneer facade treatments and chaotic signage, the existing planning controls do not encourage development that will enhance the character of the area. Under the 3(b)(ii) zoning that covers Campbell Parade allotments between Curlewis Street and Lamrock Avenue as a part of the Waverley LEP 1985, there is no quantitative height limit. There is a three storey height limit; however, the definition of storey under the LEP allows the exclusion of parking levels as they are not habitable space. This anomaly should be rectified.

Recent development along Campbell Parade is inappropriate in terms of its response to the older streetscape. Important in this regard are: scale, side and front setbacks, excessive height, colour and texture of external finish, unbroken horizontal emphasis and backward stepping facades.

#### 2.3 DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

##### 2.3.1. BUILDING HEIGHT

New buildings should have a maximum height of approximately 12.5 metres to maintain the continuity of the existing wall. The Shell Service

Station site should be redeveloped to a height between that of the Bondi Hotel (corner Curlewis Street and Campbell Parade) and the Berkeley Flats (corner Beach Road and Campbell Parade).

#### 2.3.2 BUILDING SETBACK

New buildings should be built up onto the front and side property alignments at the Campbell Parade frontage.

#### 2.3.2 FACADES

New buildings should have a full height parapetted facade at the Campbell Parade frontage. Facades should not step backwards from Campbell Parade as height increases.

#### 2.3.4 FENESTRATION

Fenestration of facades should be in a consistent pattern carried up to the parapets with a vertical rather than horizontal emphasis. Windows or balconies should be articulated in canted bays.

#### 2.3.5 EXTERNAL FINISH

The external finish should preferably be of light coloured stucco to complement existing building facades. The essential principle is that the wall along Campbell Parade should read as masonry.

#### 2.3.6 CARPARKING

Provision for internal carparking should be made at the rear of buildings fronting Campbell Parade, rather than at the front.



C

AHIMS form

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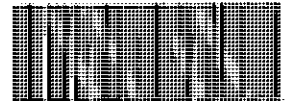
New recording

Additional Info



# National Parks and Wildlife Service

Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220. Tel: (02) 585 6444  
Standard Site Recording Form Revised 5/88



45-6-2169

1:250,000 map sheet: Sydney NPWS Code 1451

AMG Grid reference 340650 mE 6248550 mN  
Full reference - please include leading digits  
25K 25K 5/6 25K

Scale of map used for grid reference  25K, 50K (preferred)  100K  250K  
Please use largest scale available

50K, 100K map name: BOTANY BAY 9130-111-S

HEAD OFFICE USE ONLY:

NPWS Site no: 45-6-2169

Site types: open.

Accessioned by: AJ Date: 20/8/90

Data entered by: AJ Date: 20/8/90

Owner/Manager: WAVERLEY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
Address: COUNCIL

Site name: BONDI BEACH Locality/property name: NORTH BONDI

NPWS District: SYDNEY Region: CENTRAL

Reason for investigation ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF METROPOLITAN SYDNEY

Portion no:	
Parish: <u>ALEXANDRIA</u>	<u>COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND</u>
	Photos taken?
	How many attached?

How to get to the site (refer to permanent features, give best approach to site eg. from above, below, along cliff. (Draw diagram on separate sheet.)  
Situated in former sandhills at North Bondi now flattened and covered by Campbell Parade. Area next to the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club is where the site was centred.

Other sites in locality? YES Site Types include: ROCK ENGRAVINGS  
Are sites in NPWS Register? YES

Have artefacts been removed from site? When?  
By whom? Deposited where?

Is site important to local Aborigines? UNKNOWN  
Give contact(s) name(s) + address(es)

Contacted for this recording? NO  
(Attach additional information separately) If not, why not?

Verbal/written reference sources (including full title of accompanying report). Personal Investigation NPWS Report Catalogue #  
and attached newspaper and magazine clippings which are held in the Local History Section of Waverley Municipal Library

Checklist: surface visibility, damage/disturbance/ threat to site  
Condition of site: DESTROYED - by road building and commercial development however some stone flakes etc may still appear from time to time during future construction etc.

Recommendations for management & protection (attach separate sheet if necessary): Advise Waverley Municipal Council and visit area during future roadworks or building construction to recover any excavated artifacts.

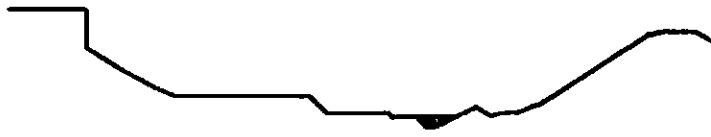
Site recorded by: MICHAEL GUIDER Date: 16th JULY 1990  
Address/institution: ROYAL EXCHANGE  
P.O. BOX R32 SYDNEY 2000

X

**SITE POSITION & ENVIRONMENT**

OFFICE USE ONLY: NPWS site no: **45-6-2169**

1. Land form a. beach/hill slope/ridge top, etc: b. site aspect: c. slope:  
 d. mark on diagram provided or on your own sketch the position of the site: e. Describe briefly:



- f. Local rock type: g. Land use/effect:

2. Distance from drinking water: Source:

3 Resource Zone associated with site (estuarine, riverine, forest etc):

4 Vegetation:

5. Edible plants noted:

6 Faunal resources (include shellfish):

7 Other exploitable resources (river pebbles, ochre, etc):

Site type:

**Aboriginal  
Workshop**

**DESCRIPTION OF SITE & CONTENTS.**

Note state of preservation of site & contents Do NOT dig, disturb, damage site or contents.

In 1900 a series of gales uncovered an old land surface which was littered with thousands of stone flakes and other tools. Mr. Whitelegge made the discovery and The Australian Museum has an extensive collection of these artifacts. Apparently the whole back section of the beach was covered in tons of stone and this must have taken many thousands of years to accumulate.

Artifacts collected included tomahawks, grindstones, a nose ornament, knives, scrapers, gravers, drills and spear points.

Unfortunately most of this site has now been destroyed however artifacts will continue to resurface during disturbance of sand surrounding the beach and where ever possible these should be collected and handed to the museum for additions to their collection or to another research establishment approved by National Parks and Wildlife service. Any future roadworks or beachside construction should be monitored by a NPWS Archaeologist so that these artifacts may be recovered.

Attach sketches etc, eg. plan & section of shelter, show relation between site contents, indicate north, show scale.

Attach annotated photos (stereo where useful) showing scale, particularly for art sites.

CHECKLIST TO HELP length, width, depth, height of site, shelter, deposit, structure, element eg. tree scar, grooves in rock.

DEPOSIT: colour, texture, estimated depth, stratigraphy, contents-shell, bone, stone, charcoal, density & distribution of these, stone types, artefact types.

ART: area of surface decorated, motifs, colours, wet, dry pigment, technique of engraving, no. of figures, sizes, patination.

BURIALS: number & condition of bone, position, age, sex, associated artefacts.

TREES: number, alive, dead, likely age, scar shape, position, size, patterns, axe marks, regrowth

QUARRIES rock type, debris, recognisable artefacts, percentage quarried.

OTHER SITES EG. structures (fish traps, stone arrangements, bora rings, mia mias), mythological sites, rock holes, engraved groove channels, contact sites (missions massacres cemeteries) as appropriate

This site update form was produced by Paul Irish of Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology (DSCA) in October 2008, based upon an Aboriginal Heritage Planning study undertaken by DSCA for Waverley Council of all lands within Waverley Local Government Area as documented in the following report:

- DSCA 2008. *Waverley Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study* (Report to Waverley Council )

It involved a review of all existing AHIMS site records within the study area, going back to original survey reports and associated plans, examining all site cards, and groundtruthing some sites. This was then plotted on council GIS to produce a database which is summarised below. In general, most coordinates were previously incorrect and have been revised and are MORE accurate but not necessarily completely exact. This additional record should therefore be seen as the most updated information for this site as of 2008. It may also include additional historical records of the site (where available) and photographs and maps. The study report should be consulted for additional information.

<b>DECC AHIMS Site #</b>	45-6-2169
<b>Name</b>	Bondi Beach
<b>Site Type</b>	Open Campsite & Burial/s
<b>AMG Map Zone</b>	56
<b>1:25000 Sheet</b>	Bondi
<b>REVISED AMG Easting</b>	340473
<b>REVISED AMG Northing</b>	6248475
<b>Location</b>	Situated in former sandhills at North Bondi and now flattened and covered by Campbell Parade. Possibly extended along whole beach. Guider's recording of site being next to the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club is based upon Plugshell's 1924 reminiscences of what was visible to him after reading of the site in Etheridge and Whitelegge's article in 1907, ie at least 17 years after that recording.
<b>Owner/Manager</b>	Waverley Council, Private Land
<b>LALC</b>	LPLALC
<b>LGA</b>	Waverley
<b>Recorder/s</b>	Etheridge & Whitelegge
<b>Date Of Recording</b>	1900
<b>Reason For Recording</b>	Accidental discovery and subsequent collection
<b>Type Of Recording</b>	Accidental Discovery
<b>Subsequent Recording</b>	"Plugshell" 1924 (private survey), Guider 1990 (private survey)
<b>Detailed Description</b>	A gale in 1900 uncovered an old land surface under the existing dunes at the back of Bondi Beach. This land surface was strewn with vast quantities of stone artefacts, collected by Etheridge and Whitelegge and many now housed in the Australian Museum. After reading their article at or after 1907, local resident "Plugshell" visited the site and found "traces, now covered and levelled off, of the "workshops" mentioned, alongside the road about 100 yards to the right rear of the spot where the North Bondi Surf Sheds are built, but I doubt that any indication could now be picked up". Artefacts were also collected from the "Bondi Sandhills" by Liversidge in the 1870s (see scanned images). Early Bondi resident Thomas O'Brien also mentions an occasion when an "easterly gale washed away the sand from the bay frontage, probably to an extent it had never done before, because it unearthed an aboriginal skull and several aboriginal tomohawks" (O'Brien 1923:364). The site was registered by Michael Guider in 1990 not on the basis of any observed physical evidence at that time but on Etheridge and Whitelegge's article and Plugshell's recollections - hence he describes the site as centred on the North Bondi Lifesavers whereas this was simply where artefacts were still

	<p>visible at least 17 years after Etheridge and Whitelegge first documented the site. Etheridge describes as follows "A very remarkable discovery was made by Mr T Whitelegge in the early part of the year, along the local sea-board. A series of heavy gales displaced the sand hummocks at Bondi and Maroubra Bays, exposing what appeared to be an old land surface.... revealing what we had never before imagined to exist, a series of aboriginal 'workshops' where for generations the blacks of the Port Jackson District must have manufactured chips, splinters and points for insertion along the distal margins of their spears and for other purposes. The old land surface at Bondi, as I saw it...was covered with thousands of these chips, some of them exquisitely made, with core pieces, chippers and rubbers. The lithological character of the material used was very varied, from pure white crystalline quartz, opaque amorphous quartz, every variety of chert and quartzite, to rocks of a metamorphic character. It is quite clear that the siliceous material derived in the great measure from the surrounding Hawkesbury Sandstone, but others were probably obtained from distant sources. I regard this as one of the most important ethnological discoveries made in New South Wales for many years'. 'The 'workshops' at Bondi were far more extensive than those at Maroubra, the whole length of the back of the beach was more or less covered with tons of stones, all of which had been taken there and put to some use. In the centre of the beach there was a kind of delta upon which the coarser materials were deposited, the sand having been washed on this area; thousands of implements, which had evidently been used, were found, and chips and flakes were few and far between. For many months the original ground at Maroubra, and also the more extended area at Bondi, yielded an abundance of implements and at each visit we invariably returned with as much as we could carry. Unfortunately the new road access to Bondi has now covered most of the sites that afforded the best ground for collecting'. 'There is ample evidence that many of the sand dunes were at one time much higher than they are now, and also that in some parts they have been covered with vegetation interspersed with native camping grounds, upon which vast quantities of shells were deposited; in course of time the vegetation was covered by sand drifts, other shell heaps formed at the summit, and the whole again buried. The period of time required for these various changes must have been very great, and it has probably required an even greater lapse of time to produce the present condition...Many instances proving the correctness of the views as above related may be seen on the coast at Maroubra and Bondi'.</p> <p>The distinctive 'backed' points collected at Bondi Beach at the turn of the century have since become the type-name (Bondi point) for an artefact type that is found in archaeological sites throughout south-eastern Australia dating from the period spanning approximately 6,000 years to 1,800 years before present. However, what these artefacts may have been used for is the subject of considerable debate. Interpretations about the use of Bondi points range from them being utilised as spear barbs for hunting spears, as small cutting implements (possibly hand-held), as hafted knives or awls (needles or points) used for working skins. It is likely that they were used in the past for a wide variety of different purposes.</p>
<b>Site Condition</b>	Assessed as destroyed (1990) though not clear what may remain beneath existing roadways and parks. It seems possible if not likely that some portions of the site may survive, especially as the full extent may not have been exposed in 1900.
<b>Date Of Last Condition Assessment</b>	2008
<b>Associated Reports</b>	Etheridge & Whitelegge 1907, Etheridge 1900, Dowd 1959:293, Plugshell 1924, O'Brien 1923:364
<b>DECC Report No</b>	n/a

carving was recorded in 'Campbell's Index' about 1890. The carving is now covered with soil, and many searches have failed to find it. Some hundreds of yards south of the ritual grounds and half way between Bondi Beach and Ben Buckler point, I, in 1951, excavated the soil from what is probably the engraving of a whale 9 feet long. Portion of the cliff edge has, ages past, broken away, taking with it part of the lower side of the whale. The engraved rock is next to the premises of a fisherman who has lived there for 40 years, and has not known of the carving's existence. Nearby at a slightly lower level on the pathway joining the upper and lower rock shelves is the deep engraving of a turtle. . . . A short distance south on a little higher level there is a shield, also an eel, deeply engraved in the rock shelf.

"I was commissioned by the Waverley Municipal Council in 1951 to retouch engravings with a preservative against the weather. At the same time I brought to its notice the need to divert the pathway around the turtle and to put up some protective fence around the carvings. This has since been carried out."

#### ABORIGINAL WORKSHOPS AT BONDI

In the records of the Australian Museum of 1907, there is an excellent article by Mr. Etheridge, the Curator. He refers to the above subject in a letter, dated December 12, 1924, to Mr. W. L. Johnston of Porter Street, Waverley, as follows:—

"A very remarkable discovery was made by Mr. T. Whitelegge in the early part of 1900 along the local seaboard. A series of heavy gales displayed the sand hummocks at Bondi . . . exposing what appeared to be an old land surface. On the latter Mr. Whitelegge found revealed what we had never before imagined to exist—a series of aboriginal workshops where for generations the blacks of Port Jackson district must have manufactured chips, splinters and points for insertion along the disal margins of their spears and for other purposes. The old land surface at Bondi was covered with thousands of these chips, some of them exquisitely made, with core pieces, shippers and rubbers. The lithological character of the material used was very varied, from pure white crystal-line quartz, opaque amorphous quartz, every variety of chert, and quartzite, to rocks of metamorphic character. It is quite clear that the saliceous material was derived in a great measure from the surrounding Hawkesbury sandstone, but the others were probably obtained from distant sources."

Further, the article continues: "After a thorough survey of the ground, all the smaller

instruments available were collected, the larger heavy instruments being gathered and duly interred, to be attended to on some future occasion. The weapons collected were very valuable, including tomahawks, grindstones, a nose ornament, knives, scrapers, gravers, drills and spear points such as were used for fighting, of death spears, and, lastly, a very peculiar lancet like a surgical knife or scarifier. The 'workshops' at Bondi were very extensive, the whole length of the back of the beach being more or less covered with tons of stones. . . . Unfortunately the new road across Bondi has now covered most of the sites that offered the best ground for collecting."

Support to this view that the blacks made and used such crude instruments is given by Professor B. Smyth in his "Aborigines of Victoria, Vol. II, 1878, p.520," wherein he wrote:—

"The Western Australians use small splinters of quartz for making the deep, long cuts which may be seen on almost every native, both men and women, across the arms. With a similar fragment stuck to the end of a stick, they dress and cut their kangaroo skins in preparing them for use as cloaks. They also stick thin splinters of quartz—broken by their teeth—to the side of a short stick to serve as a saw."

It is hard to realize that hundreds of thousands of persons who visit and enjoy this "Playground of the Pacific" at Bondi are treading on the site of the primitive aboriginal workshops of days long gone by.

#### BIG GUN ON BEN BUCKLER

As part of the Harbour and Coast Defences in 1893, the delivery at Ben Buckler, Bondi, of the first 22-ton breech-loading guns intended for the defence of the colony from invasion was effected in 1893. This event was reported in the "Sydney Mail" in November, 1893, p. 818, as follows:—

"Owing to the steepness and bad condition of the roads, the removal of the gun from Victoria Barracks was no easy task. Thirty-five (35) horses were employed and more than once the wheels of the trolley sank into the ground and the whole affair had to be helped out with cranes. It was taken along Old South Head Road towards the light house and then back towards Ben Buckler by a track leading up the rocks in a zig-zag direction. Here most of the horses were dispensed with, and the trolley was got along foot by foot by placing iron plates in front of the wheels over which it was dragged by horses, the plates were then again moved to the front and the same process repeated. . . . In this way Ben Buckler was reached in about three weeks or a month from Victoria Barracks. McMahan and Co. had the contract for the removal of the gun from the Barracks to the Fort."

regular, and produces a hard stiff and inflexible envelope for the body-trunk, two feet seven inches in height, with a girth of about four feet. The front of the ventro-thoracic shield is ornamented by a median and vertical line of black diamond-shaped figures, with three similar lines on the inside and outside of the tergal shield. Edge-Partington figures<sup>12</sup> a similar corselet with three rows on the ventro-thoracic shield. The tergal shield is high and upstanding, without any trace of a continuous circular collar as represented by Schmeltz and Krause,<sup>13</sup> in another corselet from the same islands: the latter is, however, similarly ornamented to that presented by Mr. Black. The overlap is at the left side, and the envelope appears to be kept in place simply by its own rigidity and curvature, without the aid of the lacing in front sometimes met with in these investitures.<sup>14</sup> The sleeves, separate from the corselet, are in one, with a double neck piece, through which the head is protruded. Each sleeve is terminated by a guard for the back of the hand, and this is retained in position by a thumb-loop. The knitting is large and loose, rendering the sleeves pliable, quite different from the rigid condition of the corselet. The entire length of the whole is five feet, the sleeves at about the elbows are six and three-quarter inches wide, and the neck pieces eight inches wide.

Another corselet (Plate xxii.), presented by Mr. E. Twynam, is more elaborate in every way. The ventro-thoracic shield bears two cross bars, a clavicular and thoracic, with between them a row of five elongated diamond-shaped figures, and below the thoracic bar, the venter carries two similar rows one above the other. The inside of the tergal shield is transversely divided by four cross-bars into five panels or spaces, the three upper panels containing seven diamond-shaped figures in each, the central narrow panel bears nine such, and the lumbar or bottom broad space contains three transverse rows of nine similar figures; the outside of the tergal shield, which is of the high square shape without collar, is similarly ornamented. From the arm-holes downwards the cuirass is open at both sides, with an overlap of the tergal shield forwards over the ventro-thoracic; the margins of the former having a coir loop through which pass similar strings made fast on the centre of the venter. This is precisely as seen in Webster's illustration already quoted. The height is two feet ten inches, and the girth four feet.

A very remarkable discovery was made by Mr. T. Whitelegge in the early part of the year, along the local sea-board. A series of heavy gales displaced the sand hummocks at Bondi and Maroubra

<sup>12</sup> Edge-Partington—Ethnol. Album, 1st Series, pt. 1, pl. clxx.

<sup>13</sup> Schmeltz and Krause—Eth.-Anthrop. Abth. Mus. Godeffroy, 1881, pl. xxviii., f. 2.

<sup>14</sup> Webster—Illus. Cat., 1897, 14, p. 12, f. 139.



Bays, Dee-Why Lagoon, etc., exposing what appeared to be the old land surface. On the latter Mr. Whitelegge found revealed, what we had never before imagined to exist, a series of Aboriginal "workshops," where for generations the Blacks of the Port Jackson District must have manufactured chips, splinters, and points for insertion along the distal margins of their spears and other purposes. The old land surface at Bondi, as I saw it, in company with the discoverer, was covered with thousands of these chips, some of them exquisitely made, with core pieces, chippers and rubbers. The lithological character of the material used was very varied, from pure white crystalline quartz, opaque amorphous quartz, every variety of chert, and quartzite to rocks of a metamorphic character. It is quite clear that the siliceous material was derived in a great measure from the surrounding Hawkesbury Sandstone, but the others were probably obtained from distant sources. I regard this as one of the most important Ethnological discoveries made in New South Wales for many years.

The presentation of Cáva (Ava, Kava, or Yaquona) as a gift is referred to by Mariner<sup>15</sup> in his interesting account of the ceremonious preparation of this beverage by the Tongans. The same practice seems to have existed in Fiji, for Seemann says,<sup>16</sup> "Roots of Yaquona are presented to visitors as tokens of good will, and to the temple as offerings." To Mr. James Green, of Tonga, we are indebted for an example of the root of *Piper methysticum*, Forst., in gift or presentation form (Plate xxiii., fig. 1). It consists of the leaf-stem of a narrow-leaved palm of which the mid-ribs of the pinnules are retained, and the wings stripped off. These mid-ribs then stand out as a series of skewers, and on them the pieces of Cáva root, cut into convenient sizes, are strung, each piece having a hole bored through it. The skewer-like mid-ribs are then pressed up parallel to the leafstem, and wound round with a tape of the inner bark of the *Hibiscus*. The entire length of this pleasing object is five and three-quarter feet.

Our admirable collection of Canoes received an addition from the Solomon Islands at the hands of a valued benefactor, already mentioned, Mr. P. G. Black. The Canoe is fourteen feet nine inches in length, with a beam of eighteen inches at the centre, and a remarkably flat bottom, except immediately fore and aft. It is built of rather narrow boards, stitched together with rattan, and the seams served with some kind of gum cement. The short fore and aft prows are decorated each with two tufts of feathers, the upper tufts apparently composed of those of the Frigate-bird, and the lower of Cockatoos, white in colour. The locality is Ngela (New Florida) Island.

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<sup>15</sup> Mariner—Acc. Natives Tonga Islands, ii., 1817, p. 201.

<sup>16</sup> Seemann—Viti, 1862, p. 326.

# ABORIGINAL WORKSHOPS ON THE COAST OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AND THEIR CONTENTS.

By R. ETHERIDGE, JUNR., Curator, and THOMAS WHITELEGGE,  
Senior Zoologist.

(Plates xlii.-xlv., and figs. 39-43).

## I.—INTRODUCTION.

A preliminary account of this subject appeared in the Curator's Report for 1900.<sup>1</sup> The report reads as follows:—"A very remarkable discovery was made by Mr. T. Whitelegge in the early part of the year, along the local sea-board. A series of heavy gales displaced the sand hummocks at Bondi and Maroubra Bays, Dee Why Lagoon, etc., exposing what appeared to be an old land surface. On the latter Mr. Whitelegge found revealed, what we had never before imagined to exist, a series of aboriginal 'workshops' where for generations the blacks of the Port Jackson District must have manufactured chips, splinters and points for insertion along the distal margins of their spears and for other purposes. The old land surface at Bondi, as I saw it, in company with the discoverer, was covered with thousands of these chips, some of them exquisitely made, with core pieces, chippers and rubbers. The lithological character of the material used was very varied, from pure white crystalline quartz, opaque amorphous quartz, every variety of chert and quartzite, to rocks of a metamorphic character. It is quite clear that the siliceous material was derived in a great measure from the surrounding Hawkesbury Sandstone, but the others were probably obtained from distant sources. I regard this as one of the most important ethnological discoveries made in New South Wales for many years."

Mr. Walter Howchin<sup>2</sup> appears to have discovered a large number of small weapons and implements of various kinds on the South Australian sea-board, but there is no indication as to whether these stone implements were found scattered over the surface generally or derived from "workshops." The instruments are

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<sup>1</sup> Etheridge—*Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iv., 4, 1900, pp. 148 and 165.

<sup>2</sup> Howchin—*Proc. Austr. Assoc. Adv. Sci.*, v., 1893, p. 522.

enumerated as follows:—(1) Stone points; (2) Flakes (knives), in seven varieties of single-edged, ridged, flat and polygonal, lanceolate, broad, serrated and trimmed; (3) Spearheads of a type which seems to be restricted to a narrow coastal belt; (4) Chisels; (5) Gouges; (6) Awls; (7) Scrapers, divided into eleven distinct varieties; (8) Hammers; (9) Anvils; (10) Fabricators; (11) Cores.

Mr. Brough Smyth<sup>2</sup> gave the following account as to the use of stone implements:—“The Western Australians use small splinters of quartz for making the long deep cuts which may be seen on almost every native—both men and women—across the breast and arms, with a similar fragment stuck to the end of a stick they dress and cut their kangaroo skins in preparing them for use as cloaks. They also stick thin splinters of quartz, broken by their teeth, to the side of a short stick to serve as a saw.”

## II.—DESCRIPTION OF LOCALITIES.

During the early part of the year 1899, in wandering over the northern end of the sandhills at Maroubra, the attention of one of us (T.W.) was attracted by sundry flint chips. Having found many flints of various kinds on the Lancashire and Yorkshire moorlands, these flakes were at once recognised as having been made by man. On reaching the summit of the sandhill, a strange feature presented itself, instead of the usual bare waste of sand, the whole surface was studded with butts of *Banksia* trees two or three feet high, and one or two feet in diameter. The intervening spaces were covered with a scrubby growth, consisting of the stems and roots of various plants, many of which were standing *Pandanus*-like, having the roots covered with lime from a quarter to half-an-inch thick. Whilst the interiors of the lime tubes were lined with a thin cylinder of bark, in other parts the bark cylinders were standing alone without the calcareous envelope. The whole area appeared like a miniature skeleton forest, of black and white stems and roots.

The ground between was strewn with thousands of stones that had been used by the Aborigines for some purpose or other, and had all been taken to the top of the sandhills, many of the stones being quite foreign to the district. Here would be found a patch of black flint chips about a yard in diameter, there another of red or yellow jasper, just as if the native artist in stone-working

<sup>2</sup> Brough Smyth—Aborigines of Victoria, ii., 1878, app., p. 520.

had only left the ground a few minutes before. In fact this was an aboriginal "workshop" from which the workers may have disappeared hundreds of years ago:

After a thorough survey of the ground all the smaller instruments available were carefully collected, the larger heavy instruments being gathered and duly interred to be attended to on some future occasion. The weapons collected were very valuable, including tomahawks, grindstones, a nose ornament, knives, scrapers, gravers, drills, and spear points such as were used for fighting or "death" spears, and lastly a very peculiar lancet-like surgical knife or scarificator. The latter is one of the most interesting of the finds inasmuch as instruments of the same shape have been found in America, India, England, and Ireland, and in the latter country they were met with on the tops of the sandhills just as we saw them at Maroubra and Bondi.

The "workshops" at Bondi were far more extensive than those at Maroubra, the whole length of the back of the beach was more or less covered with tons of stones, all of which had been taken there and put to some use. In the centre of the beach there was a kind of delta upon which the coarser materials were deposited, the sand having been washed away on this area; thousands of implements, which had evidently been used, were found, and chips or flakes were few and far between. For many months the original ground at Maroubra, and also the more extended area at Bondi, yielded an abundance of implements and at each visit we invariably returned with as much as we could carry. Unfortunately the new road across Bondi has now covered most of the sites that afforded the best ground for collecting. Still there are a few patches left at Bondi, which after certain gales would be well worth visiting; the same remarks apply equally well to Maroubra and other places.

The workshops exposed at Rocklily, Dee Why, and other places north of Manly, are very small and patchy, the northern end of Curl Curl Beach is generally good ground to collect on after a strong north-east wind, but otherwise there is scarcely anything but sand. During our researches one of us (T.W.) visited Newcastle, but with little result; the most likely place on this extensive beach would be the end of Stockton Beach towards Port Stephens.

A few stone implements were found at Botany Bay and at Kurnell, but there does not appear to be any extensive accumulations at these places. The northern end of Cronulla Beach is

near Farnham in Surrey, England. Levey fell on hard times and in 1830, Waverley House and several lots of land were put up and sold by the sheriff at the suit of his creditors. The house was demolished in 1904.

### HISTORY

A series of storms in 1924 revealed a workshop where the Aborigines chipped rocks for their spear heads, knives, and axes. There are some rock carvings of fish at Ben Buckler and a ceremonial rock of the Bondi Biddigal tribe on Williams Park Golf Links. Secret rituals and corroborees were held there about the early 1800s.

There are some strange rock carvings of ships at North Bondi between the ventilators of the sewer outlet. These were once claimed to be the work of Spanish deserters from the *Santa Isabel* in 1595 but, unfortunately there is no factual basis for this intriguing story.

The first European to see this part of the coast was Captain Cook as he sailed past this way when he proceeded along the coast in three open boats from Botany Bay to Port Jackson on 21 January, 1770.

About 100 hectares of land covering most of the present-day Bondi Beach area were granted to William Roberts in 1809. It was said that the grant was a reward for his part in making the South Head Road. Roberts established a cattle farm in what is now the main business area, but it is doubtful if he ever actually lived at Bondi.

In 1851, the land was bought from Roberts' heirs by Edward Smith Hall, the proprietor of the *Sydney Monitor* newspaper. Hall's son-in-law, Francis O'Brien, had the land sub-divided and put up a number of lots for sale. In 1854, Surveyor-General Mitchell became concerned that the public had no access to Bondi Beach, and negotiated the acquisition of a public reserve about 30 metres above high water mark with access from Old South Head Road, for the 'health and recreation of the inhabitants of Sydney'. It was the beginning of Sydney's love affair with Bondi Beach, which now attracts up to 50 000 surfers carrying transistor radios on a fine summer's day.

The first white surfer on any Sydney beach to be recorded was a young man by the name of Allen, who died in the surf in 1818. A. R. Stone, one of Bondi's surfing pioneers, recalled that in about 1874, he was with a party of fellows watching some Aborigines surfing off Ben Buckler. He is credited with the following remarks:

'Said one of the boys, "If the sharks do not touch them, what about us?" So you may say that was the start of surfing at Bondi.'

There have, in fact, been three recorded attacks — one in 1928 and two in 1929. Meshing, plus vigilant shark spotting, and a shark alarm have kept Bondi free of further attacks since that time.

The building of the Bondi sea baths added to the beach's attraction in 1886. The extension of the tramline in 1894, first for steam and then for electric trams, brought the public rattling down the hill. Trams were finally phased out in Sydney in 1961, and the expression, 'shot through like a Bondi tram' is no longer relevant.

In the early 1900s, bathing was prohibited between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. In 1902 two locals, Frank McElhone and the Reverend S. McKeown, deliberately flouted the law by venturing into the surf at high noon. The police, faced with a large crowd of onlookers, refused to act, and from then on sea bathing was allowed at any time of the day without risk of prosecution.

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*Kennedy, Brian and Barbara. Sydney and suburbs. A history & description Frenchs Forest, NSW. Reed, 1982*

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# Aboriginal Workshop at Bondi

Tomahawks, Grindstones, Nose Ornaments, etc. LIBRARY

LOCAL STUDIES  
COLLECTION

("By Plugshell.")

LOCAL STUDIES  
COLLECTION

When I was a lad the boys of the district used to bathe in the comparatively calm water at the north end of the Bondi beach, with less than the traditional fig leaf for a costume. Constable Gray, the solitary policeman for Bondi at the time, had an unsportsmanlike habit of keeping a look-out for offenders in this respect, but if we happened to be caught the penalty was generally a cuff on the ear and the information imparted, "no bathing on the beach between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m."—he had this extract from the borough by-laws off pat. But if we sighted him stalking us, we would leave the water, grab our clothes, and skeddaddle off over the sand hills to the lagoons—not losing a moment in dressing, but doing "under evens" in our bare belts.

One day, whilst flying from justice, I noticed amongst the sand some sharp flint chips, which were pointed enough to cut my feet. I gathered a few of them, because the material seemed different from the stones about the place, in order to show them to a boy friend who was a bit of a geologist. I forget now what his explanation was. I kept the chips of flint (and still have them), but time had almost erased the circumstance from my memory until one day, on looking over a pamphlet issued by the Museum ("Records Australian Museum," Vol. VI, No. 4, 1907), I was interested to read in an article by Mr. Etheridge, the Curator:

"A very remarkable discovery was made by Mr. T. Whitelegge in the early part of 1900 along the local seaboard. A series of heavy gales displaced the sand hummocks at Bondi exposing what appeared to be an old land surface. On the latter Mr. Whitelegge found revealed what we had never before imagined to exist—a series of aboriginal workshops where for generations the blacks of Port Jackson district must have manufactured chips, splinters and points for insertion along the distal margins of their spears and for other purposes. The old land surface at Bondi was covered with thousands of these chips, some of them exquisitely made, with core pieces, chippers and rubbers. The lithological character of the material used was very varied, from pure white crystalline quartz, opaque amorphous quartz, every variety of chert, and quartzite, to rocks of metamorphic character. It is quite clear that the siliceous material was derived in a great measure from the surrounding Hawkesbury sandstone, but the others were probably obtained from distant sources."

Further the article continues: "After a thorough survey of the ground all the smaller instruments available were collected, the larger heavy instruments being gathered and duly interred, to be attended to on some future occasion. The weapons collected were very valuable, including tomahawks, grindstones, a nose ornament, knives, scrapers, graters, drills and spear points, such as were used for fighting, or death spears, and, lastly, a very peculiar lancet like a surgical knife or scarifier. The "workshops" at Bondi were very extensive, the whole length of the back of the beach being more or less covered with tons of stones. . . . Unfortunately the new road across Bondi has now covered most of the sites that offered the best ground for collecting."

That the implements found at Bondi were those used by the primitive aboriginals is borne out by Professor Brough Smyth in his "Aborigines of Victoria 2," 1878, p. 520, wherein he describes similar implements: "The Western Australians use small splinters of quartz for making the deep, long cuts which may be seen on almost every native, both man and woman, across the arms: With a similar fragment stuck to the end of a stick they dress and cut their kangaroo skins in preparing them for us as cloaks. They also stick thin splinters of quartz—broken by their teeth—to the side of a short stick to serve as a saw."

After reading this article I visited the locality and found traces, now covered and levelled off, of the "workshops" mentioned, alongside the road about 100 yards to the right rear of the spot where the North Bondi Surf Sheds are built, but I doubt if any indication could now be picked up.

I wonder how many of the joyous surf bathers and sun bakers that now throng Bondi Beach on warm days, know that within a few yards of their playground the primitive abo., perhaps thousands of years ago, laboured, without any tools of trade except those made by himself from stone, in fashioning the implements of the chase by which he lived and the crude instruments necessary for the tribal customs and usages?

Very few, I fear. Most of them, in all likelihood, thinking more about the modern workshop that would call them on the morrow, with its scientific and up-to-date machines working at high pressure, than of the ancient old fellow-countryman who lived and worked in his prehistoric "shop" in the, literally, "stone age" of Australia.

LOCAL STUDIES  
COLLECTION



Most of the implements from Sans Souci and Bondi were obtained by me from the few blacks who, some twenty years ago, used to camp at these places.

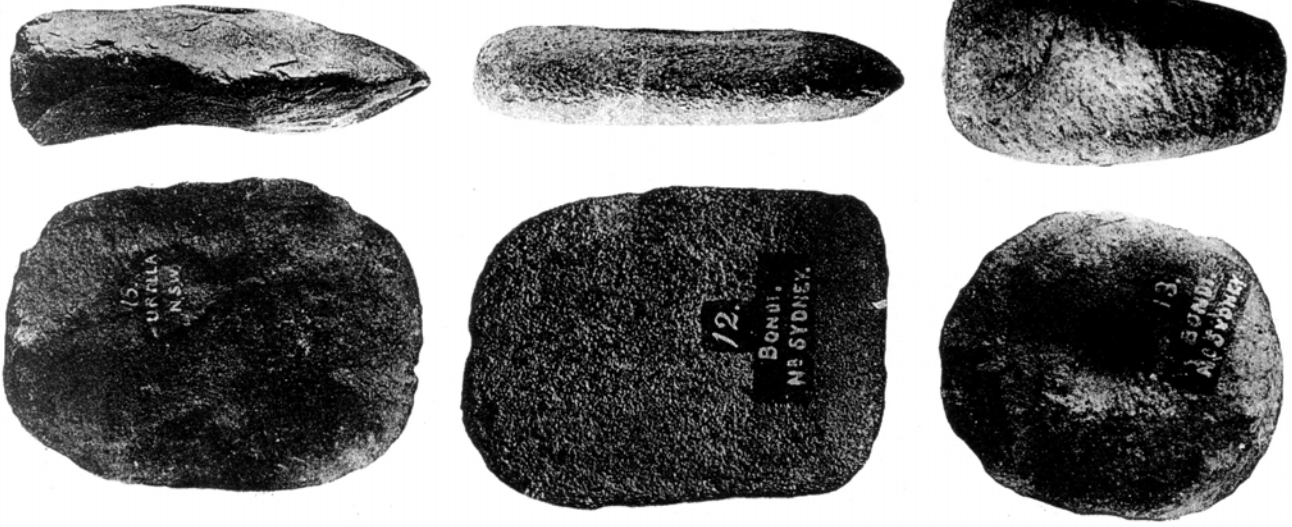
NATIVE IMPLEMENTS.

- 1.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
Of dolerite; the cutting edge is fairly well ground, but the half or upper part is merely roughly chipped into shape. Weight 10, 12½ ozs. Dimensions  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{3}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$ . (Plate 3.)
- 2.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
Of diorite: the whole of this has been worked into shape, except the top end: in general make and appearance it is very like No. 68, from Niagara, America. Weight 10, 14 oz. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{3}{8}''$ . (Plate 4.)
- 3.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
A flat pebble of spotted altered claystone, with ground edge. Weight 12½ ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 2\frac{5}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ . (Plate 4.)
- 4.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone; much worn. The cutting edge of this is so blunted as to be practically non-existent. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{3}{8}'' \times 1''$ .
- 5.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone; an attempt has been made to form thumb and finger pits. One side has been flattened, as if it had been rubbed down on a rock or used as a rubber or grinder; from the appearance of the ground surface this seems to be of much more recent origin than the implement itself; probably it was used as a grinder after it had become useless as a tomahawk. This is not well shown in the plate. Weight 13½ ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 3\frac{3}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$ . (Plate 5.)
- 6.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone; the shape is unusual, it is apparently merely a flat pebble with a ground cutting edge

at one end. Weight 12 ozs. Dimensions  $4'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$ . (Plate 16.)

- 7.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone; edge much worn and blunted, roughly formed finger pit on one side; evidently old and weathered. Weight 13 ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1\frac{3}{8}''$ .
- 8.—TOMAHAWK. The Blacks' Camp, Sans Souci, Botany, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone; much pitted, of smaller size and thinner than usual; the cutting edge is in fairly good order, but, like the rest of the implement, is much pitted from the action of wind blown sand or weathering. Weight  $4\frac{3}{4}$  ozs. Dimensions  $3\frac{3}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{3}{8}''$ . (Plate 14.)
- 9.—TOMAHAWK. From the Sandhills, Bondi, near Sydney, N.S.W.  
Of dark quartzite. The cutting edge is in fairly good order; there is a finger pit on one side, this pit is just above the figure 9 on the implement, but it does not show well in the plate, and is apparently of comparatively recent date. Weight 10½ ozs. Dimensions  $3\frac{3}{4}'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{16}''$ . (Plate 17.)
- 10.—TOMAHAWK. From the Sandhills, Bondi, near Sydney, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone. Evidently a flat pebble ground to a cutting edge at one end. Weight 1lb. 5½ ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{16}''$ . (Plate 18.)
- 11.—TOMAHAWK. From the Sandhills, Bondi, near Sydney, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone; old and much weathered or corroded by wind borne sand, even on the cutting edge; with thumb and finger pits on both sides. Weight 7¾ ozs. Dimensions  $3\frac{3}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1\frac{1}{16}''$ . (Plate 16.)
- 12.—TOMAHAWK. From the Sandhills, Bondi, near Sydney, N.S.W.  
Of spotted altered claystone, which is rather more schistose than some of the preceding. Old and weathered or corroded by wind borne sand. Outline of implement more rectangular than usual, cutting edge in fairly good order but much pitted from weathering. Weight 7½ ozs. Dimensions  $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''$ . (Plate 19.)

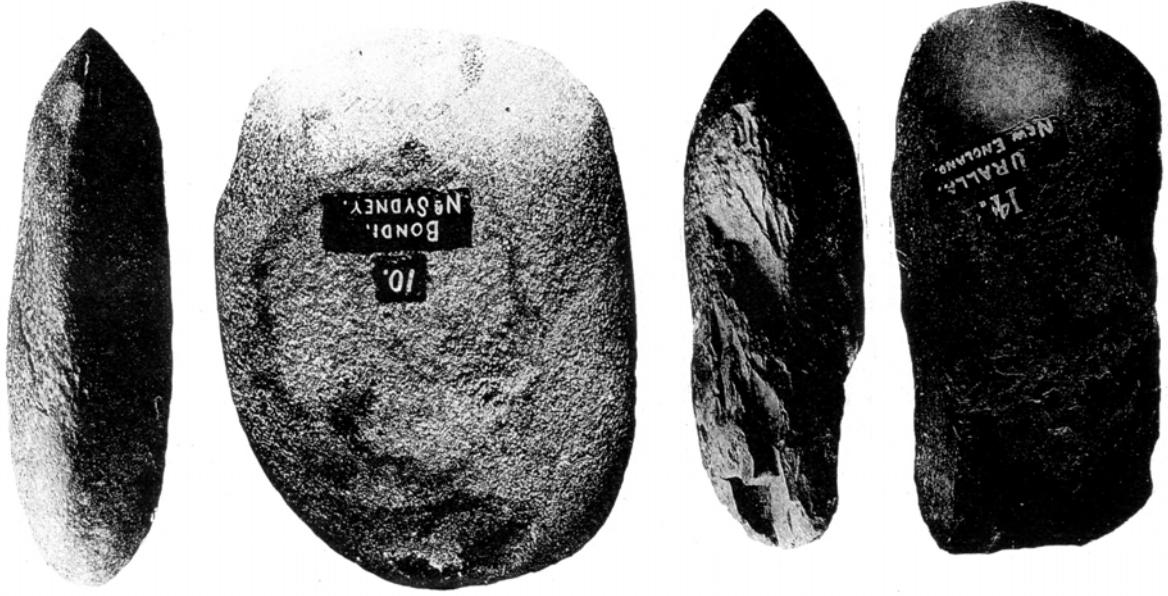




Australian and Other Stone Implements.







- 13.—CIRCULAR STONE IMPLEMENT. Bondi, near Sydney, N.S.W.  
Of quartzite; with deep thumb pit on one side and shallow one on the other; this was originally a tomahawk which has evidently been used as a hand hammer (*i.e.*, without a handle) until the original cutting edge has been entirely worn away. Weight 7½ ozs. Dimensions  $2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{3}{8}''$ . (*Plate 19.*)
- 14.—TOMAHAWK. Uralla, New England District, N. S. Wales.  
Indurated black claystone. Cutting edge in fairly good order; the upper part is merely roughly chipped into shape. Weight 12 ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{7}{8}'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ . (*Plate 18.*)
- 15.—TOMAHAWK. Uralla, New England District, N.S.W.  
Basalt; weathered to a brown colour, even on cutting edge, hence the implement is doubtless of considerable age. The original dark colour of the basalt is shown by the freshly fractured surfaces. This, together with the other Uralla specimens, was obtained by Mr. Cleghorne, J.P., of Uralla, and presented to me by him. Weight 8¼ ozs. Dimensions  $3\frac{3}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1''$ . (*Plate 19.*)
- 16.—TOMAHAWK. Victoria Park, near the University, Sydney, N. S. Wales.  
An elongated pebble of the spotted altered claystone; worn and blunted at both ends; it is very much heavier and larger than usual; it was turned up in trenching the ground of Victoria Park, near the University, the soil of which is derived from a patch of the Waiamatta shale. Weight 4 lbs. 7 ozs. Dimensions  $9\frac{1}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}''$ .
- 17.—TOMAHAWK. Fairfield, Southern Railway Line, eighteen miles from Sydney, N. S. Wales.  
A large flattened pebble of spotted altered claystone; of unusual size and weight; the cutting edge in very good order; this in common with Nos. 16, 18, 19, and 20, was dug up from a clay soil, free from stones or pebbles, derived from the Waiamatta Shale. Weight 4 lbs. 9 ozs. Dimensions  $9\frac{1}{8}'' \times 4\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{3}{8}''$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}''$ . (*Plate 20.*)
- 18.—TOMAHAWK. Fairfield, as above.  
Of spotted altered claystone; this is a pebble ground down at one end; the cutting edge is almost obliterated. Weight 1 lb. 7 ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{7}{8}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}''$ .
- 19.—TOMAHAWK. Fairfield, as above.  
Of spotted altered claystone. A flat pebble ground to an edge, much weathered; the weathered skin is about  $\frac{1}{8}''$  deep. Weight 1 lb. 4½ ozs. Dimensions  $5'' \times 3\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$ . (*Plate 17.*)
- 20.—TOMAHAWK. Fairfield, as above.  
Of spotted altered claystone. This was evidently a rounded pebble which has been split in half longitudinally. Much weathered, the original structure of the rock is shown by the chip from the upper left hand corner. Weight 11 ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{5}{8}'' \times \frac{7}{8}''$ .
- 21.—TOMAHAWK. Long Bay, near Sydney, N. S. Wales.  
Of weathered spotted altered claystone; with finger and thumb pits; the cutting edge in fairly good order but pitted from weathering. Weight 14¼ ozs. Dimensions  $4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 5\frac{1}{8}'' \times 1''$ .
- 22.—TOMAHAWK. Uralla, New England District, N. S. Wales.  
Of black indurated claystone. An unusual form, being elliptical in section and much more symmetrical and highly finished than is usual with the New South Wales aboriginal implements. Weight 1 lb. 8¾ ozs. Dimensions  $5\frac{3}{8}'' \times 2\frac{5}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{8}''$ . (*Plate 15.*)
- 23.—TOMAHAWK. Metung, Gippsland Lakes, Victoria.  
Of mica schist; cutting edge much blunted and weathered. Weight 1 lb. 1½ ozs. Dimensions  $6\frac{3}{8}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$ . (*Plate 21.*)
- 24.—MOUNTED TOMAHAWK. From Queensland near the borders of N. S. Wales.  
Of diorite; this is mounted in the original vine handle but without gum or resin, the vine is cut away as usual, to a flat surface inside, *i.e.*, next to the stone head. This example is very much like a modern steel tomahawk in form; the

Bondi View Oct-Nov, 2003

• Aboriginal comm. -  
local history  
• O'Brien family

# Bondi skull

## Skull found on Bondi Beach!

In the days when Bondi was owned by Francis O'Brien, his son Thomas Ormond O'Brien loved to wander the sands of Bondi Beach and one windy day discovered a skull.

In his writings, titled "Reminiscences of Bondi" he described how a strong easterly wind had uncovered a skull. He also found stone axes. He wrote, "One easterly gale washed away the sand from the bay frontages, probably to an extent it had never done before, because it unearthed an Aboriginal skull and several Aboriginal tomahawks".

Around the same time, between 1876 and 1880 a skull of an Aboriginal male aged between 30 and 40 years was handed to the

Museum of Sydney. Dominic Wykanak, Greens councillor on Waverley Council has been researching the link between Thomas's findings as evidenced through his writings, and the skull in the Museum. Although he has not discovered a direct connection, Dominic has had thorough talks with descendants of the O'Brien Family.

"We have not yet established the connection, but the skull in the museum was labelled 'Bondi' with the date and details. We suspect Thomas brought the skull to the Museum," said Dominic.

The skull of the Aboriginal man was buried last year in Botany Park in a traditional ceremony.

Caroline Cass

### In memory Bali October 10, 2002

The Byron family of Bondi, whose daughter Chloe was a victim of the Bali bombing, have had some joy. A baby girl was born to Chloe's aunt, on Chloe's birthday, in August of this year. Randwick Council has commissioned a sculpture to commemorate local residents who died in the Bali tragedy. The sculpture will be installed at Dolphin Point, Coogee. THE BONDI VIEW wishes all families and friends peace and condolences on the first anniversary of this sad occasion.

# D

## Archaeology Reports

Two reports are included by the same author. They contain much similar material but the Aboriginal Heritage Values Review has covers a broader area including information about Aboriginal sites outside the SHR listed area but in the vicinity.

### Aboriginal Heritage Values Review

Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape

Bondi Beach, New South Wales

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology (DSCA)

28<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment

Bondi Pavilion

Bondi Beach, New South Wales

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology (DSCA)

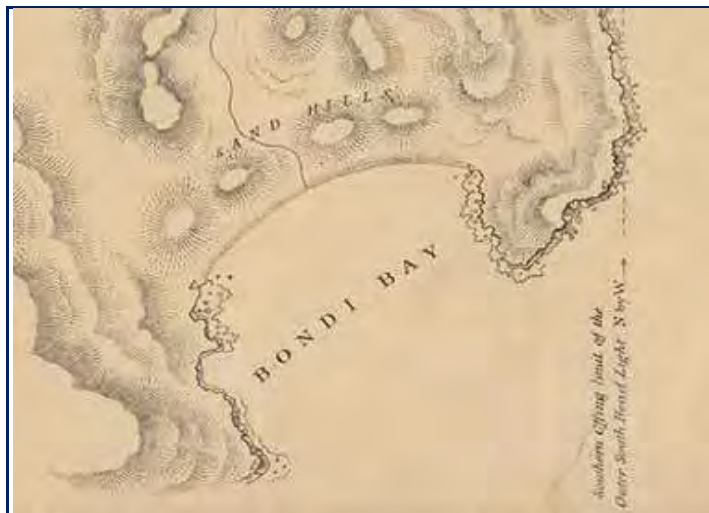
24<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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# Aboriginal Heritage Values Review

Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape, Bondi Beach,  
New South Wales



Report to  
**Waverley Council**

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology  
28 November 2017

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background to this study

Bondi Beach is a significant place and this is reflected by its inclusion on the National Heritage List (NHL) and listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR). The beach and its immediate surrounds are also listed on Waverley LEP and the place is managed by *Waverley Council*. A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is currently being developed by Council for the *Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape* (BBCL) and the study area is outlined in red below. This report has been prepared for Council to inform the CMP and presents an overview and evaluation of Aboriginal archaeological, historical and environmental heritage sites and values that have been identified for management within the BBCL CMP study area and its immediate surrounds.

Figure 1.1: Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape CMP study area (Waverley Council)



This report builds-upon research previously compiled in 2008 in an Aboriginal heritage study prepared for the whole of Waverley (DSCA 2008) that established the nature, extent and significance of recorded and potential Aboriginal heritage resources across the LGA. The BBCL became a necessary focus of that study because of the Aboriginal heritage sensitivity of the coastline and headlands (see below) and also by virtue of the high number and variety and relatively close spatial proximity of the archaeological sites contained within it when compared with any other locality on the Sydney coastline nearby. Aboriginal heritage values brought to light in 2008 were reflected tangibly by a range of prehistoric archaeological sites, but also found embodied in historical records that offered glimpses of continued ('post Contact') Aboriginal occupation of Bondi until at least the late nineteenth century. Also evident is an underlying layer of environmental values that are intrinsic to Bondi and also fundamental to understanding the Aboriginal history and heritage of the place.

## 1.2 Objectives and scope of this study

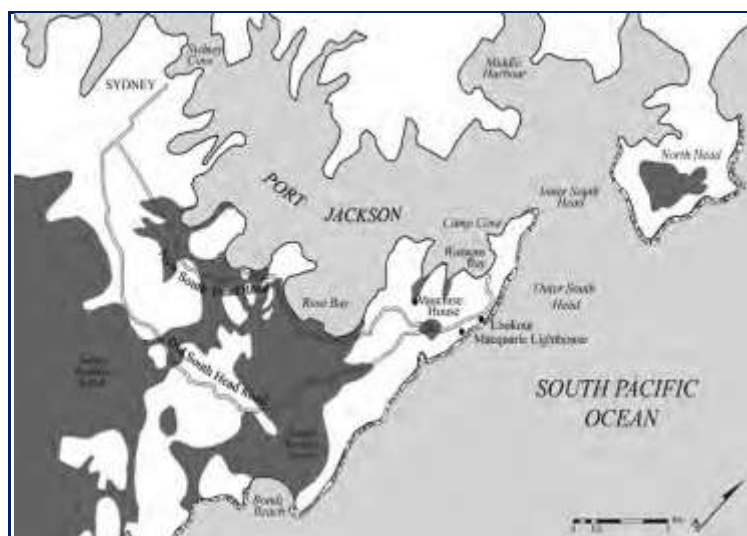
The following sections initially 'compartmentalise' through description and discussion individual but also closely related aspects of Aboriginal archaeological, historical and landscape heritage sensitivity that are evident and relevant to the BBCL. Bondi sustained long-term Aboriginal occupation, and evidence for this landuse history occurs in the form of (undated) rock engravings on the headlands and is reflected by what was described in 1899 as one of the '*most important ethnological discoveries made in NSW for many years*' (Etheridge and Whitelegge 1907:233). Storms exposed a series of old land surfaces and living floors '*at the back of the beach*' that contained extensive '*workshops*' spread over '*two acres*.' It is possible some of this archaeology was created by Aboriginal people during periods when environmental conditions at Bondi were different than today. Of the countless thousands (or potentially millions) of artefacts that were exposed on the sand dunes, the '*most important instrument from an Ethnological point of view*' (ibid:235) was an artefact type called at the time '*chipped back surgical knives*' and which are now called a 'Bondi point' which is a distinctive type of 'backed blade'. It was the first time these artefact types had been seen in Australia (although some backed artefacts may have been in contemporary private collections) and Bondi was to become the '*locus classicus*' for these microlithic, asymmetrical backed blades (Mulvaney 1977:265).

Mulvaney (ibid:264-265) also notes that in realising that the exposed archaeological land surfaces were prehistoric '*from which the workers may have disappeared hundreds of years ago*' (ibid:235) there was also on implicit a conclusion that prehistoric and 'Contact' period tool types may have differed. Bondi points have been historically central in the development of eastern Australian stone tool and technology classifications and 'culture phase' descriptions since their discovery at Bondi at 1899. Archaeologists currently use terminology derived from Bondi when early (Pleistocene) occupation is described as being 'pre Bondaian' and where this is followed by three younger time periods that comprise 'Early', 'Middle', and 'Late Bondaian' prior to 1788. More recently, backed blades and their technology have also become

critical to theory and model development in archaeological research within the context of prehistoric climate change. Different environmental conditions structured how Bondi allowed for the continued occupation of Bondi by Aboriginal people until the 1870s and possibly until the early 1920s. It is possible that some of the Aboriginal people who were living at Bondi in the late nineteenth century were distant descendants of the people who created the old living floors and tools that were exposed at the beach and quickly reburied at the turn of the century.

With this type of context, the following sections provide a brief description and evaluation of each of the identified Aboriginal archaeological and historic and landscape heritage sites and their values contained within and adjoining the BBCL. To avoid repetition and duplication with other recently completed studies (see below), details about the local and regional archaeological contexts for the BBCL are not repeated here. However, sufficient background explanation and context is provided to show where and how for example the Bondi Beach prehistoric archaeology, along with aspects of the recorded Aboriginal history of Bondi 'fit' into the broader Aboriginal heritage story of the place.

*Figure 1.2: Our understanding of Aboriginal historical movements and connections between different places in Port Jackson, the coastal strip between South Head and Botany Bay, and the hinterland in between is increasing from recent research (see for example Irish 2017). The shaded area below marks areas of sandy deposits (Derricourt 2011:8) and the extensive 'sand corridor' that exists between Bondi and Rose Bay*



Likewise, the early history explaining the process of post 1788 Aboriginal land displacement at Bondi, an aspect of the place-history which is not very well understood in the first place, is not examined here. However, the comparatively scant historical records that document continued Aboriginal camping in the 'Bondi Sand Hills' (BSH) throughout the 'settler period' deserves emphasis simply for documenting a presumably unbroken historical record of Aboriginal occupation extending back into prehistory. Making connections between the archaeological and historic records is not hard in the case for example of some of the Aboriginal objects (artefacts) that are illustrated in this report, and which had been most likely used by the Aboriginal people living in the BSH in the late nineteenth century before they were collected

by 'ethnographers'. The Aboriginal objects and their relationship to a number of broad historical and landscape contexts allows for some informed but hypothetical reconstructions to be made about the possible nature of Aboriginal visitation and use of the country at Bondi. Two notional time periods are considered; during the occupation of the O'Brien Estate and 'Homestead' from the late 1840s, and prior when the coastal strip and hinterland at Bondi was sparsely settled (by Whites), was distant from Sydney Cove, and was largely unaltered 'Aboriginal country' with multiple attractive and predictable landscape attributes, elements and resources.

*Figure 1.3: Lagoons and sand dunes and drainage at Bondi*



Finally, reference to a number of Aboriginal archaeological sites, places, people, events and dates that relate to the local landscape but are outside of the BBCL are necessary to give a good account of the archaeological and historical stories about Bondi that can be told on the basis of the available evidence. 'Landscape attractors' that seemingly encouraged repeated prehistoric Aboriginal occupation that continued into the historic period are also discussed in a number of different contexts. These included a complex network of drainage and freshwater lagoons at the back of the BSH and which were also present in and amongst the sand hills and sandstone topography that extended back from the beach and into the 'hinterland'. The landscape position of Bondi also had geographic advantages (including 'sightlines' from the headlands) that provided Aboriginal people living there with multiple options for travel to visit other Aboriginal people and places present along the inner and outer harbor network of bays and hinterland gullies. The BSH formed part of large 'dune fields' that in turn formed part of a larger still 'sand-corridor' that stretched from Bondi to Rose Bay.

### 1.3 Supporting studies

In addition to the 2008 Aboriginal heritage study, the following documents have been reviewed as part of this study:

- Tanner Kibble Denton Architects. October 2017 (in prep). Bondi Pavilion and Surroundings. Conservation Management Plan. Report to Waverley Council.
- DSCA. October 2017. Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Historical Archaeological Assessment. Bondi Pavilion. Bondi Beach, NSW. Report to Waverley Council.
- Comber Consultants. October 2017. Aboriginal Heritage Assessment. Bondi Pavilion. Report to Waverley Council.

In addition to a general literature review (primary and secondary historical and archaeological sources), research has also included online searches of the following sources and visits to the following libraries:

- NSW State Library (Mitchell Library and State Reference Library)
- Caroline Simpson Library (Sydney Living Museums)
- University of Sydney Fisher Library
- Waverley Local Studies Library
- (OEH) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System)
- National Library of Australia (Trove online)
- State Heritage Inventory (online)
- State Heritage Register (online)

### 1.4 Report limitations

This report has involved informal consultation with the *La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council* (LPLALC). A copy of this report is recommended to be forwarded to the LPLALC Senior Cultural Heritage Advisor, Mr David Ingrey, for review and comment.

No formal Aboriginal community consultation has been undertaken for this report. Likewise, detailed research and analysis of mid to late twentieth century historical Aboriginal attachments to the place as potentially evidenced by Aboriginal cultural events held at the Pavilion and on the beach has not been completed at this time. These values are recent and would be more appropriately addressed during a formal community consultation framework. Future Aboriginal consultation would identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values relevant to the BBCL and complementary but additional to the archaeological and Aboriginal historical values described in this report. This would further enable Council to establish how potential Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the BBCL can be effectively managed.



## 2.0 Heritage listed Aboriginal sites

### 2.1 AHIMS registrations

The *Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System* (AHIMS) is a database that is operated by the *Office of Environment and Heritage* (OEH) and regulated under s.90Q of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended). AHIMS contains information about registered Aboriginal archaeological sites, objects, and declared Aboriginal Places as defined under the Act. Searches of the register (appended) to establish what and where Aboriginal heritage sites have previously been recorded within and adjoining the BBCL (and within the AHIMS search parameters) have identified seven registrations.

These comprise four rock engravings that are situated on the northern and southern headlands that bookend the beach respectively, and two sandstone rock shelters ('caves') with shell midden on the sandstone cliff-line topography of the southern headland. The final site is a retrospective recording and registration of the 'Aboriginal workshops' exposed at Bondi in 1899. Two rock engravings (comprising AHIMS #45-6-0720 and #0750) and one rock shelter with midden and the (1899) open beach archaeological site are located within the BBCL, and the remainder of the sites adjoin the study area.

Table 2.1: Aboriginal sites registered on AHIMS within and adjoining the BBCL study area

AHIMS Site	AHIMS Site Name(s)	Site Type
45-6-0718	Bondi; Hugh Bamford Park	Rock Engraving
45-6-0719	Bondi Golf Links	Rock Engraving
45-6-0720	Bondi Bay; Ben Buckler	Rock Engraving
45-6-0750	Marks Park; Mackenzies Point	Rock Engraving
45-6-1947	Tamarama Beach Cave	Shelter with Midden
45-6-2060	South Bondi Cave	Shelter with Midden
45-6-2169	Bondi Beach	Campsite & Burial(s)

No new Aboriginal heritage sites (or specific areas of sensitivity) have been discovered within or nearby the BBCL and registered with AHIMS since 2008. However, one engraving site (AHIMS #45-6-0718) has not been re-located since that time (and not seen in 2008), and one shelter with midden (AHIMS Site #45-6-2060) was not seen in 2008 but has been re-located by this study. Although the current study has not involved a detailed re-inspection and re-recording of these sites and their surrounding contexts, in most cases the existing conditions at each location appears to have remained largely unchanged (but with some exceptions as discussed shortly) since 2008 when the pre-existing AHIMS records for each item were last updated and/or supplemented.

In this respect, the majority of known and anticipated short and long-term threats (current land use and future development) to the ongoing conservation of these sites (especially the engravings and potential archaeology associated with the Bondi Beach camp site) have also remained unchanged in a general sense. The majority of the heritage management recommendations that were provided for each of these sites in 2008 therefore remain valid in one form or another, and these existing heritage management and mitigation strategies are updated in this report and are also provided along with additional new conservation policies for each item as may be required.

## 2.2 Non-heritage listed Aboriginal historical sites

The following Aboriginal historic 'sites' and 'places' and 'values' relevant to the current study were originally flagged by the WACHS in 2008 to warrant further research. The objective of the figure below was used in the WACHS to encourage a wider perception of the Aboriginal heritage landscape setting of the place, which is useful when used for example to refer to the BSH, freshwater lagoons, beach and rocky headlands, and its associated archaeology. The place comprised a series of inter-connected 'site favourable' locations with high 'amenity' values to Aboriginal people in the past. Bondi continued to be important to Aboriginal people following settlement where a relatively sparse white population enabled Aboriginal people to continue to travel to and from, and also 'occupy' ('camp') for varying periods of time, coastal and inland environments close to traditional fishing spots and engraving sites. Obed West's (Morrison 1888: 416-417) recollections of Sydney in the c1810s-1820s captures the essence of other first-hand accounts of Aboriginal people fishing (in their frail looking bark canoes), and West had often seen them out near Wedding Cake island in Coogee Bay and '*carrying their canoes on their heads when travelling to Coogee, Bondi and Maroubra*'.

Figure 2.1 Aboriginal historic 'sites' within and nearby the BBCL (DSCA 2008: Figure 4.2)

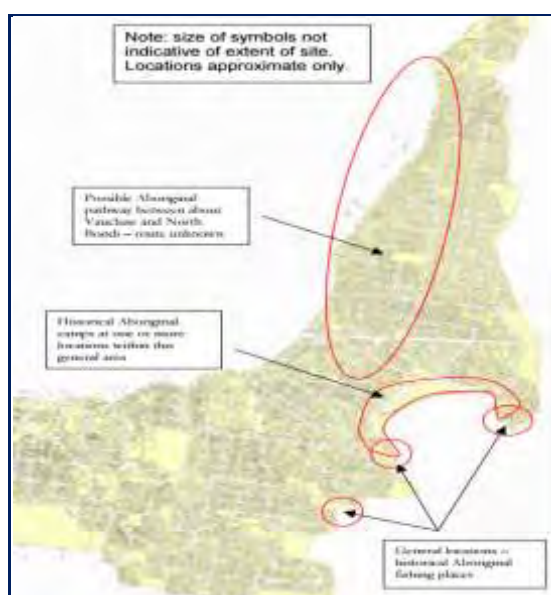


Table 2.2: Aboriginal historic 'sites' and 'places' within and nearby the BBCL study area

Name	Description
Bondi Pathway	Ross (1988) map based on unspecified sources of a north-south pathway between Bondi and Vaucluse. If confirmed, it could provide some insight into how people moved to and from important coastal and hinterland resource zones in the past.
Ben Buckler Fishing Place	This location is historically described as being an important Aboriginal fishing place. Further details would be required to properly interpret its nature and significance.
Tamarama FP	As above.
South Bondi FP	This location is historically described as being an important Aboriginal fishing place. As above. In combination, these coastal locations bear testimony to the importance fishing (and other resource gathering activities) played in the lives of Aboriginal people in the past.
Bondi Camp	Aboriginal people camping at Bondi in the 1870s and up to the 1920s at various places from the south to the north. Some individuals are named in the historical records. Further research could be undertaken to develop a more detailed history of this/these camps.

## 3.0 Archaeological heritage site and values

### 3.1 Bondi Beach camp site (AHIMS #45-6-2169)

#### 3.1.1 AHIMS registration

This campsite was accessioned onto AHIMS (AHIMS Site #45-6-2169) in 1990. The recording is based entirely on the original (1907) historical descriptions of the site and not due to any currently observed or observable physical evidence of the site itself. The extent of the archaeological materials exposed in 1899 was estimated to cover about a hectare and to occur primarily at the 'back of the beach' which probably refers to the land strip taken in today by Campbell Parade. The archaeology was also observed associated with a 'delta' situated in the 'centre of the beach'. This is likely to be referring to a former lagoon drainage outlet that was flowing across the beach and discharging into the ocean a few hundred metres to the west of Bondi Pavilion when the building was constructed. Although the 1990 AHIMS recording suggests the area next to the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club was the 'centre' of the site it is more probable the archaeology extended between and beyond these points, and was more likely to have been centred at the beachfront on the area occupied the Pavilion.

In this respect, a separate study to this dealing with Bondi Pavilion specifically (DSCA October 2017) has recently concluded it is probable Aboriginal objects and deposits were originally present before they were dispersed by large-scale sand-movement associated with the constructions of the first seawall and promenade-related foreshore works, and then again as a result of the subsequent and more widespread constructions for the Pavilion. The Pavilion study also concludes that is a possibility redeposited Aboriginal objects may already be incorporated within the Pavilion building construction deposits, service-lines and within surrounding landscaping fills. It is also likely that archaeological evidence that forms part of this significant Aboriginal heritage site continues to survive below roadways and buildings with either no basements or shallow (excavated) construction footprints along the Campbell Parade beach front, and under its parallel and perpendicular cross streets.

#### 3.1.2 What do we know about the site?

The following overview of the Bondi beach archaeological site anticipates some of the types of questions people are likely to ask if unfamiliar with the story of the discovery, how important it was at that time, and what role Bondi points in particular have played in prehistoric Aboriginal archaeological research since 1899. These questions (in no particular order) may include - where the site was found? - how big was it/ - how old was it? - what did it contain? - who made it?, and is there any more of the site left? The answer(s) to a number of these questions (if not most) continue to remain a relative mystery, but some of the questions are potentially within reach of answering with the development of new lines of thinking and modern techniques of analysis. This overview is also partly guided by what has been published and illustrated definitively about the site and its contents, rather what has been reported,

conjectured or interpreted in secondary sources. It has also been possible by doing this to avoid being distracted by the ubiquitous reference to 'Bondi points' in the literature because the importance of these types of Aboriginal artefact types has changed (see below) as result of ongoing research that has progressed our understanding of these distinctive implements since they were first found at Bondi.

Figure 3.1: Etheridge and Whitelegge (1907:238) commented that the most remarkable feature in connection with the 'instruments' from Bondi was their more or less uniform shape (irrespective of size) where the thick worked back was generally curved, and in section was either cuneiform or triangular in shape. The cutting edge was most often sub-crescent, sometimes straight but rarely convex (ibid:238). The items below are backed artefacts (mostly Bondi points) with various amounts of backing due to pre-form size and desired shape from Bondi (Flenniken & White 1985:145)



This discussion is however constrained by the comparative brevity of the only published source about the discovery and contents of the site (Etheridge & Whitelegge 1907). The account is seventeen pages long (followed by four pages of illustrations with captions). Much of the text is also dedicated to descriptions of the vast numbers of the 'new' stone artefact type now called Bondi points that were seen (and partly collected), and excluding reference to other coastal places like Maroubra and Cronulla (all important nevertheless), the descriptions of the site at Bondi itself amounts to only a few pages. There are a few 'modern' published references scattered in the literature about some of the stone artefacts that have been looked at from the collection(s) held at the *Australian Museum*.

However, the Bondi material as a whole has not been examined in detail to date. Flenniken & White (1985:141-142) describe and illustrate a sequence of flakes, blades and cores from the collection that represents '*the Australian flaked stone tool reduction system*'. This has use because it places the Bondi archaeological evidence within an established theoretical framework within which it can be compared with and 'tested' against other coastal Sydney sites, but at the same time it also tends to understate the considerable research value the full Bondi beach archaeological collection is likely to possess.

Details drawn from the original site description when viewed through contemporary eyes illustrate where the museum collection(s) can potentially contribute to current and future archaeological and Aboriginal community-driven cultural heritage research. The original records can also be used to revisit

aspects of the now well established significance of the site as a whole and its various component parts, and most obviously the artefact type that has become known as ‘Bondi points’. There was no Aboriginal voice, or contemporary Aboriginal cultural heritage significance value in modern parlance to attach to the finds when they were discovered in 1899, or at least not along the frames of understanding we use today, or for the objects that were collected thirty years before from the Aboriginal people living at the BSH as described and illustrated shortly. The changing scientific importance of Bondi points is reviewed below to assist in identifying where and how future research and analysis of the collection(s) held by the *Australian Museum* will prove useful.

### 3.1.3 Discovery and description

The earliest scientific (and published) investigation of a coastal Aboriginal site occurred when two ‘kitchen middens’ at Forty Baskets Beach in Sydney were excavated (David & Etheridge 1889a). Prior to the discovery at Bondi, Etheridge had also been involved in three other Sydney excavations (Long Bay, Dee Why and Sheas Creek). Few stone tools (excluding a small number of axe heads) were reported at either site. By historical coincidence, the Bondi site was exposed the year that W.D. Campbell published his work on the extensive ‘rock carvings’ on the headlands at Bondi at the two ends of the open-beach site-complex. *Five years before the discovery and its contents were published, the NSW Naturalists’ Club* were shown 1,000 specimens and drawings of the artefacts collected (*Northern Star*, February 1902).

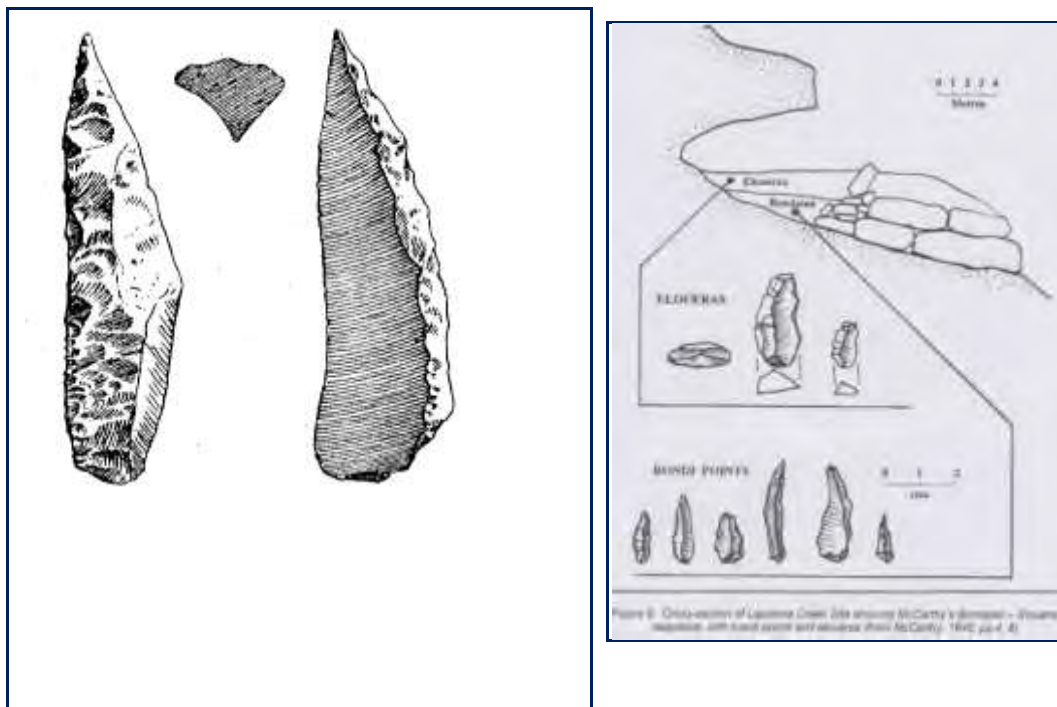
Figure 3.2: Stormwater drainage crossing the beach in 1972. This general location, at the southern end of the beach, may be within the vicinity of the delta seen in 1899 (Mayne Wilson & Associates 2012: Figure 57)



The 1907 report describes the whole length of the back of the beach was more or less covered with tons of stone, all of which had been taken there with the purpose to be put to some use (ibid:233-235). The stone was seen exposed both on the tops of sand hills and in the ‘centre of the beach’ where a kind of delta had formed and thousands of larger stone implements were found. Mayne Wilson & Associates 2012) note the stormwater outlet for the original creeks and lagoon(s) on the former O’Brien Estate ultimately drained across the beach into the ocean opposite Lamrock Avenue.

Although the discovery of the Bondi archaeology and the first formal recording of Bondi points in Australia coincided with the efforts by Etheridge and others to establish the antiquity of Aboriginal occupation and a chronology and sequence for Australian implements, a suitable site with a stratified assemblage was not identified in the Sydney region until the excavation and analysis of stone material from Lapstone Creek rock shelter (Emu Cave) located on the Nepean River in the Blue Mountains in 1936. On the basis of the changes in stone tools observed over time and through depth by McCarthy of the *Australian Museum* (McCarthy 1976: 96-98) at this site and by other researchers elsewhere and over time, what is now called the 'Eastern Regional Sequence' was developed to classify and sequence excavated stone artefacts. The image to the right below shows how artefacts such as Bondi points were used at Lapstone Creek where the lower layers of floor deposit excavated within the rock shelter had significant numbers of Bondi points which gave way to chunky adze flakes called eloueras. McCarthy called the stone 'industries' Bondaian and Eloueran respectively, and an underlying earlier stone assemblage different to the Bondaian were labelled Capertian.

Figure 3.3: Bondi point from Bondi (left) and stone tools from Lapstone Creek (right) that were used as 'cultural markers' to help develop stone tool archaeological chronologies (Stockton and Merriman 2009: Figure 6)



The tradition of interest in stone tool classification centred on the *Australian Museum* during the first half of the twentieth century and culminated in the publication *The Stone Implements of Australia* (McCarthy, Bramell and Noone 1946) which reviewed artefact typological classifications and presented a descriptive typology (see Mulvaney 1977). It was suggested by Wright (1975) in the mid 1970s that it was an archaeological truism that the most simple division of the Australian stone tool sequence was into an earlier phase of large stone tools and a later phase of small ones (the idea had begun to receive

solid empirical verification by stratigraphic excavations in the 1960s) and for a time a larger and assumed older 'core tool and scraper tradition' was believed to have given way to a 'small tool tradition' (microlithic) that was dominated by backed blades such as Bondi points.

McCarthy's sequence was generally found to be applicable to other excavated sites in southeast Australia, and has set the framework for Aboriginal prehistoric research since that time. It has been progressively refined as new archaeological sites have been excavated and old assemblages have been re-analysed and reinterpreted, and a modified prehistoric Aboriginal landuse framework has also been developed to explain the broad phases of Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney region (JMCHM 2002a:475). It presently comprises a 'pre-Bondaian' phase (the old 'Capertian' phase, dated to before c.9,000 BP) followed by three Bondaian phases (Early, Middle, Late) and to a certain (but unintended) extent 'ends' at 'Contact' in 1788 in so far as no 'post-Contact' Aboriginal archaeological phase is recognised by this schema to provide a link to the Aboriginal people who were continuing to live in the BHS throughout the nineteenth century, and for example, their artefacts that were collected from them during the 1870s.

The character of the stone that was described to have been extremely variable with quartzite, fossil wood, white chert, black flint, red and yellow jasper and other siliceous materials that were in some cases probably sourced from places '*remote from the metropolitan district*'. Few details about the nature and form of this raw material (pebbles, cobbles, ready-to-go 'portable cores', 'macro-flakes') are given. However, the authors describe that 'smooth pebbles' that had been '*found in abundance especially on the various shell heaps*' were described as having been clean cut flakes made from pebbles with one flat side and the other convex, and consisting of the original surface of the pebble, where the thin edge was mostly smooth but in some cases was finely notched (Ibid:49).

Figure 3.4: Bondi points from the 1899 Bondi beach archaeological site held at the Australian Museum and possibly amongst the 1,000 objects shown to the NSW Naturalists Club in 1902





Bondi points are a dominant component of the Museum collection and these items may have been collected at the expense of other artefact types and lines of evidence. Mindful of the authors frequent use of the term 'workshop', although it is not explicitly defined what is intended or implied by its use, it may be noteworthy that by far the most abundant stone objects observed on the surface of the BSH were described to be '*flakes resembling those formerly, and still, used for making one form of barbed spear*'. These flakes had no trace of secondary flaking and usually had a very definite character when well made irrespective of size or exact contour. They were described to be 'very neat' and triangular in outline and may refer to backed blade 'pre-forms'. Etheridge and Whitelegge (1907:237) summarise their observations at Bondi (and Maroubra and Cronulla) by concluding there was ample evidence that many of the sand dunes were once much higher than they were when they were inspected in 1899. Remains of the former dune vegetation were interspersed with '*native camping grounds*' upon which vast quantities of shells had been deposited which over time were covered by sand drifts, and other shell heaps that formed at the summit of the hills and were again buried. The authors speculated on the period of time required for these various changes to have taken place and concluded it would have to have been very great, and will have required a still greater lapse of time to produce the present condition in 1899.

#### 3.1.4 What is missing from the museum collection?

It is only apparent towards the end 1907 article that the many tonnes of stone evident as individual camps sites and 'workshops' were also associated with shell heaps. It is not clear if the shells were related to the exposed (prehistoric) archaeology and/or if the food remains related to more recent time periods. None of the shell materials appears to have been collected in any case and discussion remains firmly 'stone-centric' and framed by issues revolving around stone technology and raw material accessibility and trading from 'distant sources'. Most of the information about people's economy and the environment encoded in the Bondi shell heaps is now lost, but it is reasonable to conclude the extensive midden materials described in 1899 will have been able to accumulate and been 'supplied' by an abundant or quickly regenerating and stable environment. It is also likely the midden materials included rock oyster and Sydney cockle, and other rock platform species available nearby around the headlands because the open beach has few suitable habitats.

The authors (ibid:235) report at Maroubra for example, that all of the smaller artefacts were collected, and the larger and heavy instruments gathered and '*duly interred to be attended to on some future occasion*'. It is not clear if these items were later collected or if the same method was employed at Bondi. The artefacts collected at Maroubra included '*tomahawks, grindstones, a nose ornament, knives, scrapers, graters, drills, and spear points*'. From a very brief visual inspection of the Bondi collection which has some axes and possible grind stones, the assemblage appears to be dominated by the presence of backed blades, flakes, cores and miscellaneous 'waste materials'.

### 3.1.5 Bondi points

Bondi points are one form of backed artefact and are backed along all or part of one lateral margin to form a longitudinally asymmetrical point with a triangular or flat trapezoidal cross-section. In the Sydney region, Bondi points generally range in size from 10mm to 30mm long, but can be up to 80mm (McCarthy 1976:44). The term 'Bondi point' distinguishes them from other backed artefacts, such as geometric microliths and eloueras.

An extensive archaeological record demonstrate that backed artefacts, of which Bondi points are one form, 'appeared' (but probably not suddenly) in southeast Australia around ~8,500 BP, 'proliferated' around ~3,500 BP, and then disappeared or declined (regionally variable) about ~1,500 BP. By 1788, backed blades were either not being used at all by Sydney coastal Aboriginal people, or were using them to such a limited that extent that no White settlers recorded their manufacture or use. However, a small number of what are believed to be 'traditionally' backed artefacts made of glass are reported in Sydney. The glass Bondi point from Kurnell has been used as evidence to support an argument that backed artefact technology was still known to Sydney's Aboriginal people well after it is believed to have fallen out of use (Dickson 1971). Alternatively, the small number of glass Bondi points found at Kurnell may reflect their use continued infrequently along the coast or that they were re-introduced from the 'hinterland' (Cumberland Plain) after British colonisation (Attenbrow, 2010:102).

One of the first recordings of Aboriginal glass artefacts in Sydney was by Rolfe in 1931 at Quibray Bay (Kurnell) where several pieces of flaked bottle glass (all of the '*scraper type*') were found on a small midden. Two military buttons and an 1820 Half Crown were also recorded (Goward 2011). Decades later, while collecting clay pipe fragments from an extensive midden in the same area, Dickson (1971) recorded further glass artefacts made of two varieties of glass. The first was French and dated to the late eighteenth century, and although not specified whether it was worked or not, Dickson speculated the bottle was leftover from the '*La Perouse to Botany Bay Expedition*'. The second glass type was of British manufacture and dated to 1810-20, and Dickson noted several flaked pieces as well as one '*crude point which has been worked upon the back after the fashion of a Bondi*' (Dickson 1971:60).

Some of the earliest archaeological dates and details of data reported for the presence of backed blades are often debated, but the antiquity of the implement type and its technology is generally accepted. As a result, an older model that persisted for some time ('sudden appearance model') is now untenable (see Hiscock 2003) that saw the artefacts as forming part of the 'small tool tradition' that emerged around 4,500 years ago and gradually replaced the pre-existing (Capertian) technologies that produced larger and heavier tools. But there is no consensus about why, how and under what climate conditions it is believed the new and smaller stone technology evolved and was seemingly successful during its main 'proliferation event' (Hiscock 2008:156) although it is recognised that in most places this 'proliferation' often occurred rapidly, lasted a relatively short time and was over quickly (White 2011).

There is also a continued resistance to the idea that Aboriginal knowledge and understanding of traditional stone reduction methods (such as making Bondi points from glass) could have 'survived' the massive social fragmentation and erosion of traditional customs that followed White settlement, and then persisted into the historic period to the extent that some people could still make the 'old-fashioned' but distinctively looking tool types in the same way as they were by the old people.

Many researchers see backed blades and their proliferation in terms of representing a response to climate change during a period that was drier and cooler than any other time in the Holocene that combined with intensified El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climatic patterns. In this environmental context, it is argued that backed artefacts helped alleviate 'foraging-risk' that it believed to have accompanied the cooler and drier climate conditions that are recorded to have prevailed during the last 4,500 years. It is further argued that Aboriginal people responded to climatic change by emphasising the manufacture of backed artefacts. These arguments are based on chronological similarities between the start of the 'proliferation' and the onset of changed climatic conditions, and the increased reduction and retouching of other kinds of flaked stone tools when the 'proliferation' commenced. However, these models don't in themselves explain the ways in which a greater emphasis on backed artefact production assisted in the adaptive shift (Attenbrow et al 2009:2768).

A number of studies have approached the fundamental question of what backed blades (including Bondi points) were used for via use-wear and residue analyses. Functional analysis of a collection of backed artefacts from excavation levels associated with altered mid-late Holocene climatic conditions from an archaeological rock shelter site (Mussel shelter) in Sydney's central coast revealed wood-working was the commonest task (29%) followed by cutting (32%) and incising (21.3%) with scraping, drilling and thrusting/projectile damage occurring on far fewer specimens. The evidence from this site suggested that the backed artefacts had been most often used for domestic and production purposes such as making or repairing organic tools, and some specimens (invariably) had more than one use; about one-tenth of the artefacts examined showed evidence of being multi-functional.

*The question...is why, during the period 4000–3500 cal BP to 1500 cal BP, did Aboriginal people in south-eastern Australia emphasise the production of backed artefacts for use in multi-functional hafted tools? Earlier models propose the timing of the backed artefact proliferation probably indicates a climatic trigger – the period of cooler–drier conditions combined with the altered ENSO pattern that occurred in the mid to late Holocene. It has been suggested that variations in resource levels associated with reduced effective precipitation and dramatically increased climatic variability, combined with patchier and less predictable resource availability, was a context in which multi-functional tools would have been valuable as a technological way to reduce foraging risks and consequent social uncertainties (Attenbrow 2009:2769).*

### 3.1.6 Comparative contexts - Kurnell

Dickson (1973) has noted that Bondi points have often been found in remarkably large numbers and because no other implement was made in similar quantities, this alone was enough to put Bondi points in a special class. Dickson collected about 3,000 Bondi points from the Kurnell sand dunes, replicated their potential manufacture methods (that also applied to smaller backed blades and geometric microliths), and concluded that Bondi points were easy to make and if one had the technique for making these it was even easier to make the other backed blade forms.

The most often used stone raw materials at Kurnell were silcrete, quartzite, chert, silicified wood, and a variety of volcanic stones. One of the features of the shell middens on the Kurnell dunes recorded by Dickson was the large amount of tool making stone debris found, where fire was used to crack open pebble and cobbles that had been transported to the dune-fields from elsewhere. Kurnell pebbles were between 100mm and 120mm in maximum dimension, and most were considerably smaller. In this regard, Dickson (ibid:14) notes if the production method for Bondi points and other tools that utilised these small cobbles was not highly efficient, it is difficult to see how so many points could have been made without leaving much more stone waste than was found.

### 3.1.7 Linking environmental and archaeological evidence

A 'strange feature' exposed at the summit of the sand hills at Maroubra in 1899 appeared 'like a miniature skeleton forest, of black and white stems and roots' (Etheridge and Whitelegge 1907:234) and appears to have been related to the 'old land surfaces' and 'Aboriginal work shops' that were also exposed and observed here and at Bondi (and Cronulla). The authors describe that 'instead of the usual bare waste of sand' at the top of the sand hills:

*'the whole surface was studded with butts of Banksia trees two or three feet high, and one or two feet in diameter. The intervening spaces were covered with a scrubby growth, consisting of the stems and roots of various plants, many of which were standing Pandanus-like, having the roots covered with lime from a quarter to half-an-inch thick. Whilst the interiors of the lime tubes were lined with a thin cylinder of bark, in other parts, the bark cylinders were standing alone without the calcareous envelope'.*

The interpretation of these observations (ibid:237) is informative and probably describes the likely ways the Bondi beach archaeology deposits were created:

*'The shells, probably owing to the rainfall, have in many instances been dissolved and the constituent lime deposited around the roots and stems of the plants which lived on the surface. Many instances proving the correctness of the views as above related may be seen on the coast at Maroubra and Bondi, but more especially at Cronulla and Bellambi. In other spots the beds of shells are still visible, but in various stages of decay, either having been accumulated more recently or protected by thick layers of black soil and covered with vegetation. The edges of some of the sand cliffs at Cronulla, Maroubra and Bellambi afford many sections illustrative of the above remarks. These cliff's are gradually being denuded by the action of the wind, and constant falls are taking*

*place, leaving the shells and stones either at the foot of a cliff or around the base of some large mound on which vegetation, soil and other shells and stones are still in situ. The sand and soil are then rapidly blown away, leaving the shells and stones scattered about the surface'.*

The previous description of 'lime envelopes' or calcareous root tubes (rhizoliths) at Maroubra is interesting because the aeolian (wind-blown) sand and underlying marine sands at the Maroubra (or Bondi) are not calcareous, and no comparable details to those describing the lime encrustations on the Banksia tree roots and trunks at Maroubra have been sourced from coastal Sydney. Elsewhere in the world, rhizoliths have been used for environmental reconstruction in desert studies that suggest the presence and formation of root tubes (in China) coincided with periods with relatively humid conditions (Li et al 2015). It is tempting to speculate the 'lime' described by Etheridge and Whitelegge accumulated as a result of the decomposition of shells brought onto the tops of the sand hills by Aboriginal people. The northern end of Cronulla Beach had extensive mounds of oyster and other shells, some of which were nearly a hundred feet in height, where the whole surface displayed shells and artefacts but '*many of the best*' were found on or near the base of the oyster mounds (ibid:235-236).

### 3.1.8 Stone raw material diversity at Bondi

Excavation at Balmoral Beach rock shelter which produced a significant collection of Bondi points along with other backed artefacts and waste materials, also raises a range of 'topics' that will most likely have direct relevance to future using the existing Bondi archaeological collection(s) held at the Museum. One of the first would be to establish the true 'lithological character' of the assemblage which until examined is largely embedded in the seeming diversity and 'foreign looking' stone-types and their implied procurement or trade from 'distant' sources.

Attenbrow et al (2008:104) note that Sydney is 'stone-poor' environment in a general a sense and suggest if there was a fundamental link between the availability of stone and the way it was worked, then this should be apparent in stone artefact assemblages in coastal Sydney using the relatively limited availability of suitable stone materials in coastal Sydney as the background starting point. Research at Balmoral Beach examined issues concerned with distances to stone sources, access and abundance mindful that there are few sources of suitable stone known to exist close to Balmoral Beach (or Bondi), and each of these types of research angles appear ideally suited to Bondi.

The irregular morphology of many of the Bondi points and their small size suggested a need for people at Balmoral to economize and improvise due to the limited availability of suitable stone materials available (Attenbrow et al 2000:112). Creative backing of flakes in several different ways to produce Bondi points with standardized width and thickness (where length was seemingly not as important) and evidence for broken Bondi points having been re-worked (repaired and reused) are also reported. Flenniken and White (1985:142) report from a seminal stone-tool and technology publication of the period that exhausted cores, of any type, were employed as tools if the core had the necessary

attributes required and illustrate an exhausted bipolar core from Bondi as an example that had been employed as a tool (after it had been made to produced flakes to make items like points), and in doing so comment that recycling further supported the thesis of the opportunistic nature of Australian technologies. Likewise, the evidence for blanks being made for the creation of Bondi points at Balmoral Beach would warrant comparison with Bondi.

Despite the restrictions of the collection in its ability to ask certain questions and be compared with other archaeological sites in certain ways, the material is nevertheless important for future research. Identifying the limitations that will be encountered during future analyses of the Museum collections(s) is a first step. Namely, the archaeological collection(s) represent only a fraction of the huge 'two acre' site exposure seen in 1899'. However, it is only possible to give any estimation of what is likely to be 'missing' from the collected sample by hypothetically comparing its contents what would have been retained if the site had been archaeologically excavated. Small and unremarkable looking stone materials are most likely to have been overlooked during the 1899 searches for finds for collection, and also possibly the largest and heaviest components of the site evidence other than some ground stone items that were collected. The latter component could have also included large but uninteresting looking waste materials, and un-worked raw materials in the form of large cobbles and pebbles discarded before use or cached for future use. The museum assemblage is also likely to have an overrepresentation of 'points', blades, and cores similar to the items previously shown from the site that illustrate 'the Australian reduction sequence' and other artefact types with similarly distinctive forms.

It may be possible in the future to examine the apparent diversity of the stone materials and their sources when research into known and possible sites and sources has sufficiently progressed, and by reference and comparison to other excavated and surface collections from coastal Sydney. It may also be possible to look 'in reverse' at some aspects of the tool-stone (as opposed to 'stone-tool') management and supply strategies that produced the stone that ended at Bondi Beach.

Brown (2015) identifies four potential strategies for managing tool-stone supply where in this schema *expedient use* takes advantage of abundant tool-stone supply to produce sharp edged implements with little need for conservation. *Waste minimisation* and *tool conservation* aims to preserve stone supply through the movement and maintenance of cores and flakes respectively, and of potential relevance to Bondi, the fourth category described, trade, would employ standardised production techniques to create recognisable products.

## 3.2 Rock engraving sites

### 3.2.1 Introduction

The following discussion of the rock engravings that are located within and/or adjoin the BBCL provides a brief description of each item drawn from the original recordings made by Campbell in 1899).



natural rock elements, and examine at a site-specific level what the causative agents may be as a means to developing effective future conservation measures.

Finally, discussion has also been guided by a number of unresolved issues that developed from consultation undertaken with local residents during the preparation of the WACHS in 2008. The main issues of interest were:

- The former and possibly ongoing survival (buried) of an Aboriginal rock engraving of a whale at South Bondi, as noted by two long-term local residents.
- The former and possibly ongoing survival of undocumented Aboriginal engravings at Mackenzie's Point that may have been covered by footpaths constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. It may also be that these engravings which are also discussed in a local history of the area (Atkins 1989:52) are the same.
- A taped interview of a long-term resident who spoke of seeing Aboriginal people living around the rocks at North Bondi around 1928 and that they continued to live there until the area was progressively developed for residential housing. The interviewee recalled seeing Aboriginal men dressed in football jumpers and shorts spearing lobsters around the baths (at South Bondi). As discussed shortly, there are other mentions of Aboriginal people who camped in the BSH during the mid to late nineteenth century, and this recollection appears to be the most recent.

### 3.2.2 AHIMS #45-6-0718 (Bondi, Hugh Bamford Park)

The original description of the locality of this engraving was that it was situated on small patch of rock *'forty-six feet from the edge of the sea-cliff, twenty chains (400m) north from the Bondi Sewer Tower, and on the east side of an old foot-track'*.

Figure 3.6: 'Figure of a man in a warlike and energetic corroboree posture' to the left (Campbell 1899: Plate II, Fig. 13 (pair these) and suspected location of the engraving to the right



The location today forms part of a recreational reserve and the engraving has not been relocated and it assumed it has been destroyed. However, a local resident reported the engraving had been recently sighted (in 2008) but this has not been verified by the identification of the engraving or the confirmation



that it has been destroyed. Because the area has been filled, and it is unknown to what extent now buried sandstone has been cut or filled, the location retains potential archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity at this time.

### 3.2.3 AHIMS #45-6-0750 (Marks Park, Mackenzie's Point)

When first described, the historical landscape context of this engraving was recorded to be on the southern side of the 'Government Reserve, on the point between Bondi and Dixon's Bays, near the Aquarium Grounds, on a ledge or a step in the main sea-cliff'. It includes a 6m long shark (or large fish according to more recent advice from the LPALC) with a fish inside the shark and another fish outside. The site was re-grooved by Council in 1964 under the same process discussed for site #45-5-0719 where in that case a rock art specialist (Ian Sim) was asked by Council to trace the Bondi Golf Course engravings as a template for the re-grooving as he was 'in the area'. Sim was asked to likewise trace the Marks Park engravings in preparation for re-grooving.

Rosemary Taplin (1971), a respected amateur archaeologist who recorded a very large number of Aboriginal heritage sites in Sydney during in the 1960s and 1970s, makes the following comments (in the AHIMS site card) about the Marks Park engraving:

*Cadigal lived from Long Bay, west of Balmain, Leichhardt - to South Head, while the rock art is characterised by unity, apparent even despite the intrusion of the City and its inner suburbs. This unity is marked by large, important and numerous rock carving sites seen or recorded from Murriverie, Ben Buckler and Marks Point – which is aberrant...South Head, Macquarie Light House, 3 sites in Vacluse, 1 in Watsons Bay, Point Piper, Shark island, Woolloomooloo and Moore Park...The figure at Marks point is aberrant in having large round eyes, uncharacteristic of Cadigal art, but very typical of their southern neighbours.*

Figure 3.7: 'The figure represents a shark with large eyes and gills, and a line across the middle of the body. There are also two small fish, one inside and another outside the shark; a portion of another fish, or a partial re-cutting of the tail, is beyond the sharks tail to the left (Campbell 1899: Plate II, Fig. 13)



Figure 3.8: Grooves 'lost' or not observed, and grooves not previously recorded (AHIMS site card for AHIMS #45-6-0750)



Some of the engravings that had been re-grooved did not appear to have deteriorated when inspected in 1990, but the original character of engravings had been largely destroyed by this process but it was noted that some of the original features at the site had not been re-grooved. Some of the shark, one fish and the tail of the shark had weathered away by 1975.

Figure 3.9: Northeast view of the site in 2008



### 3.2.4 AHIMS #45-6-0719 (Bondi Golf Links)

Campbell was told of the engravings in 1888. An entry on the AHIMS site card for this engraving notes that 'Mr O'Brien, old resident said carvings just the same when seen by Campbell as it was 40 years ago'. The site consists of two groups of engravings. Group 1 includes a seal, shark, large and small fish and a boomerang. The WACHS identified that in 1930 the engravings were brought to the attention of Council that part of the engravings had been used to mix cement or concrete on, and Council paid for rope and post boundary fence to be erected around the site (in 1933).

Many of the engravings in this group were re-grooved in 1951 (Dowd and Foster 1959:293) and in 1963 Council contacted Fred McCarthy at the *Australian Museum* who suggested the 'application of a preservative' to help preserve the engravings (but how is not specified) or the erection of a shelter over

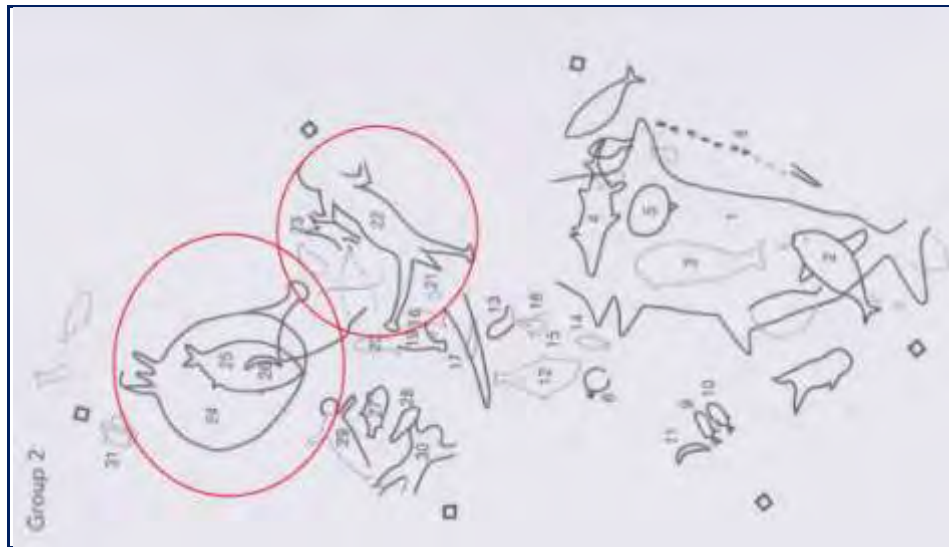
the site. Re-grooving of the engravings was proposed by (then) *Cumberland County Council* and advice was also sought from the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies* who confirmed this as a good approach as long as it was done by professionals and acknowledgement of the re-grooving on site by signage (to avoid future confusion). Re-recording and re-grooving of the engravings was completed in 1964 by an unnamed person (possibly McCarthy) at the request of Council who also recommended the same year the only way 'restore' the fading engravings would be to have an expert trace the figures, consult Campbell's recordings and re-engage or deepen them by a stone mason. In mid-1964 the engravings were traced by Ian Sim of the *State Planning Authority* (and also an amateur but highly renowned rock engraving expert) and Council's employees re-grooved the outlines determined by Sim. A plaque was erected to this effect. In 1985, a NPWS survey (Brookhouse 1985) recorded additional figures not seen by Campbell, and one description of the site prior to re-grooving (Griffiths 1970:52) by a visitor in the 1940s described the engravings as enclosed by rope and the carvings were practically indecipherable and required a '*great deal of imaginations to follow the worn lines or to trace any coherence in the drawings*'.

The Group 2 set of engravings consist of a whale, porpoise, many large and small fish, human figures, two boomerangs, mundoes and more. It is not clear whether this group has been re-grooved but photos from this time clearly show only Group 1 exposed. A newspaper report (Eastern Herald, 2 February 1989) described that several truckloads of rubble and paint had been dumped adjacent to the Group 2 engravings that had drifted onto the figures and exemplifies the threats the site is exposed to in its public location.

Taplin (1971) has suggested the large round eyes engraved at Marks Park are uncharacteristic of central Sydney but typical of Tharawal art to the south. She also suggest the huge emu figure with head shown in semi profile is 'almost certainly' depicting Culture-Hero Daramulan, and in all probability the large man close to him is Baiame and the diminutive figure beside him, and not among the re-cut figures, is shown his wife Guriguda. McCarthy (195:213) describes and illustrates an engraving representing the great All-rather hero Baiami from Devils Rock in Maroota and another culture hero depicted nearby that probably represents Daramulan (the son or brother of Baiami) and in this case with his shield and with his totem the emu. The author states that the presence of both heroes in the one group '*demonstrates its immense importance in the rituals of the tribes*'.

Some of the engravings in Group 1 that were re-grooved did not appear to have deteriorated when examined in 1990 but the potential damage from pooling water was noted. Not all of the Group 1 engravings are currently exposed (visible) and of those that are, most appear to be in relatively good condition but also substantially less clear than when first re-grooved. The Group 2 engravings are covered and their condition is unknown.

Figure 3.10: Some of Campbell's figures recoded at this site (Group 2) rotated 90 degrees with the figures interpreted by Taplin (plan from Attenbrow 2012)



### 3.2.5 AHIMS #45-6-0720 (Bondi Bay, Ben Buckler)

Campbell was told of this site in 1893 and recorded a large figure of probably a whale but not before one side of the engraving had been destroyed by cliff erosion. Nine feet from the head of the whales at a lower level was a well preserved turtle (the outlines of both figures were cut broad and deep) and at a rather higher level there was also deeply cut eel or shield engraving.

Figure 3.11: The site at Ben Buckler has been extensively damaged by natural processes and recent landuse

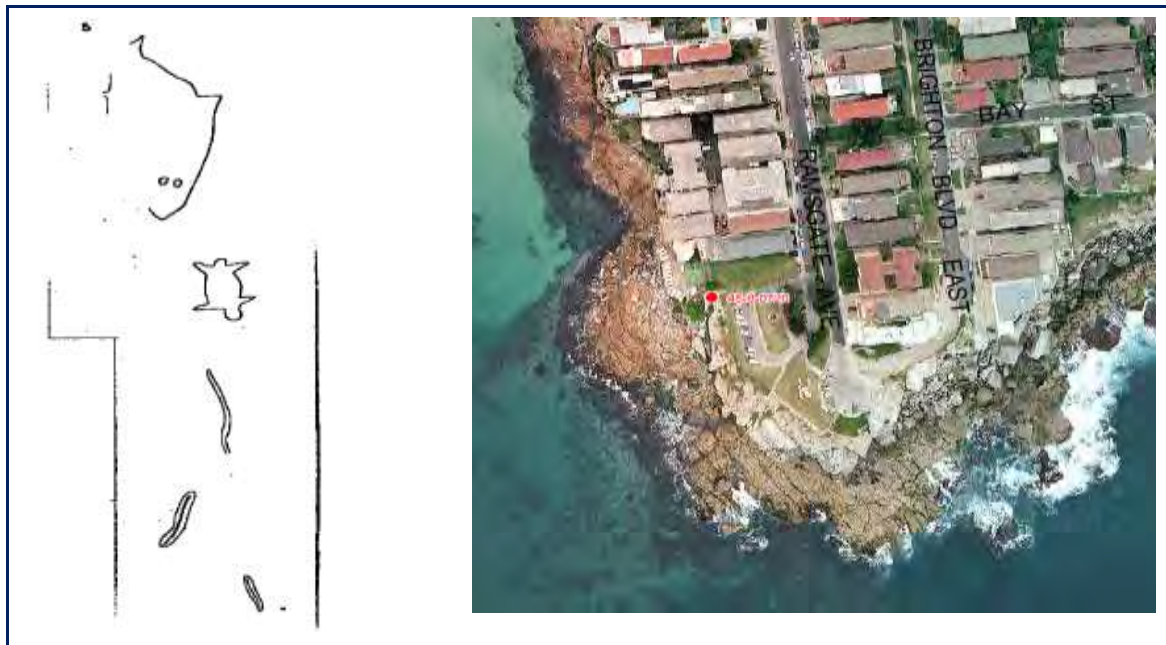
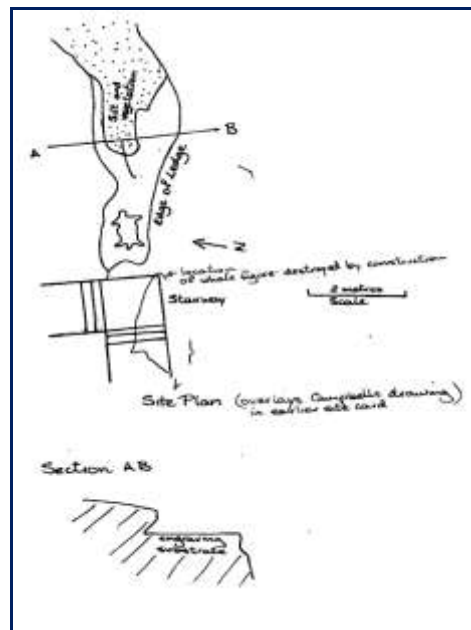


Figure 3.12: The whale was being destroyed by erosion in the 1890s and was completely destroyed by 1977, the turtle was re-grooved by council in 1964 and has been subsequently vandalised and the eel has eroded and was barely visible in 1985) and the shield(s) were not seen in 1977, 1985 or 2008 and may be obscured by silt and vegetation (AHIMS site card)



### 3.2.6 AHIMS #45-6-2060 (South Bondi Cave)

This north facing rock shelter was first recorded in the mid 1980s and described to occur on the 'south side of Bondi Beach and below the start of Hunter Parade about 8 feet above the rock platform at the rear of the Bondi Icebergs Clubhouse'. The 'cave' was reported to have had a fire blackened ceiling and floor deposit containing shell midden in a sandy grey soil including cockle and tapestry shell, but no art.

Figure 3.13: This rock shelter has not been located and may have been destroyed



### 3.2.7 AHIMS #45-6-1947 (Tamarama Beach Cave)

This south facing rock shelter with smoke blackened ceiling (but no art) measures approximately 18m in length by 3m in height and 4m in depth and contains archaeological occupation remains consisting of midden with common rock platform species, animal bones, some charcoal and one quartzite flake.

Figure 3.14: Location of the rock shelter at Tamarama with archaeological deposit



## 4.0 Historical sites, evidence and values

### 4.1 Historical Aboriginal occupation & historic landuse models

The following discussions show Aboriginal people continued to live autonomously in Bondi after 1788, and probably throughout the nineteenth century until at least the 1870s on both vacant and settled land where the absence of racial hostility, space and lack of competition for resources permitted. A recent book, *Hidden in Plain View* (Irish 2017) details Aboriginal people and places in nineteenth century coastal Sydney and provides a timely Aboriginal historical framework within which to examine and evaluate the Bondi historical evidence.

Figure 4.1: Extract from an Aboriginal settlement and movement plan for mid-1840s coastal Sydney – Key: a. Domain (1846), b. Woolloomooloo (1844), c. Double Bay (1845), d. Vaucluse (1846), e. Camp Cove (1845), f. Mahroot's Land (1840s), g. Botany Head (1845), h. Kurnell Headland (1840s), i. Goggey's Land (1840s) + 3. European hunting party with Aboriginal people to Kurnell (1845), 4. Sydney tribe fishing from Botany Head to the Illawarra and up to Vaucluse (1846), 5. Trip to Sydney town to announce beached whale near Bondi (1845) from Irish 2017 (Figure 2.9)



Many 'autonomous camps' as defined by Byrne & Nugent (2005) were chosen to be a strategic distance outside of direct settler surveillance and direct interference, and in this regard the country beyond the beach and lagoons at Bondi was rugged sandstone and extensive dune-field that was not easily crossed by settlers. For the eastern Sydney Aboriginal population it was a landscape that was easily linked by the foreshore and coastal gullies with lands to the north, west and south. The Aboriginal occupation of the BSH throughout much of the nineteenth century is likely to be explained by the drainage and freshwater lagoons that will have provided fish, birds and eels, land animals attracted to the water and fringing grasslands, rock overhangs for shelter (and art), sandstone platforms for engraving, and the proximity of sandy beaches and rocky shores for fishing and shell fish gathering.

## 4.2 Modelling historic Aboriginal spaces and places in a settler landscape

### 4.2.1 Preamble

Bondi Beach had more and more reliable landscape ‘attractors’ in close spatial proximity to each other than in most other places in the local landscape. These would have made Bondi a ‘low-risk’ and attractive camping stop that was used for probably intensive occupation and use in prehistory, and also saw the continued Aboriginal occupation until late into the 1870s (and persisting possibly into the inter-War years). The attractors included a wide open sandy beach (shore & shallow water spear fishing/deep water canoe fishing, possibly netting) with rocky foreshores at both ends (shellfish), multiple freshwater sources, a network of connected bays and possibly inland paths (travel, communication, and camping), sand dunes for shelter and camping, freshwater lagoons for fishing, birding, eels, and hunting macropods, sandstone headlands as lookouts and for engraving, a sand corridor (travel) between Bondi and Rose Bay, and possibly accessible, workable (and tradable) basalt at Murriverie before it was quarried by O’Brien.

If space was available, and O’Brien did not object to Aboriginal people camping or crossing his land, people are likely to have continued to stay close to the place and its important engraving sites and fishing spots, possibly burial places, and other former assets (Murriverie basalt, ochre etc). Continued Aboriginal occupation of the wider BSH during the historic period may reflect this. In this context, the history of progressive ‘taming’ and ultimate ‘transformation’ (removal) of the formerly enormous sand hills also allows for a number of natural history and environmental impact and historical heritage values to be each explored together via proxy through an examination of the main subdivision and road works that necessitated the draining and filling of the lagoons and the total levelling of the sand hills for the creation of the current streetscapes.

For example, in 1892 approval was granted for the draining of the ‘Bondi Lagoon’ (Australian Town and Country Journal, 27 February 1892 p.18) and stormwater and sewer construction was in progress at the lagoon by mid 1894 (SMH, 8 May 1894 p.8). In 1902 sand hills in the Crown Lands portion of the BSH had been lowered by 30 feet (SMH 26 June 1902) and by 1910 levelling in the O’Brien Estate was ‘done’ and the sand hills between Curlewis Street and the tramway terminus were next to go (The Sun 23 September 1910). In 1912, a ‘*big task had been achieved*’ when it was reported the previous year the greater portion of the beach had been fronted by towering sand hills, but now the place was almost as ‘*level as the proverbial billiard table*’ (Evening News 10 July 1912). However, many were (rightly) sceptical about the ability of brush matting and planting to stop the sand blowing back, and it wasn’t until the mid 1920s that levelling of the last sand hills at North Bondi (Bondi Public School was at the foot of the BSH in 1925) was undertaken (SMH 13 October 1925).



It is possible to chart some of the ways the identity of Bondi was incrementally transformed from Aboriginal country to a co-habited and increasingly settled landscape by the late nineteenth century, and model how and where Aboriginal people fitted into this settler landscape. Byrne and Nugent (2004) offer a framework that may be applicable to Bondi, and a way to examine what historical and archaeological correlates may be associated with the types of nineteenth century Sydney Aboriginal landuse history that is suggested by the previous overview and as discussed below.

#### 4.2.2 Autonomous camps

These locations would have been chosen by people for possibly occasional or cyclical use, and may have been remote from white settlement. As such, these camps will have been chosen at least partly in order to get away from white 'interference and surveillance' and will have been located in the same sort of places Aboriginal people had always favoured rather than being located in relation to white settlement. These sites tend to describe the nature of the 1870s Aboriginal camping at Bondi reviewed here, and the contemporary Aboriginal camps at Kogarah Bay and Sans Souci.

It is highly probable Aboriginal people were regularly using the land before and after James Meehan surveyed the original 200 acre grant at 'Bundi Bay' in 1809, and also subsequently continued to visit and use the place after the O'Brien Estate came into being from the late 1840s when the 'Homestead' was constructed.

#### 4.2.3 Farm camps

Aboriginal camps located on or adjacent to estate farms would potentially reflect interdependence between Aboriginal and white people. It is probable there was enough space for Aboriginal people to continue to use the sand and sandstone hinterland contained within Robert's/O'Brien's grant for a comparatively much longer time than many places in Sydney that were settled by c.1850.

There is no historical evidence to indicate that Aboriginal people had established any form of relationship in this regard about land access with O'Brien, but it is conceivable that Aboriginal people were regular visitors and may have occasionally been employed in agricultural field work on the estate when required. It can be speculated that Murriverie for example, as a (potential) Aboriginal land asset in the form of basalt (or ochre, or both) which was a probably a sought after trade items in stone poor districts which may have been another reason to establish some form of mutual alliance with O'Brien. As discussed shortly, basalt for the manufacture of ground stone implements appears to have been available at North Bondi as it described by early resident Ormond O'Brien who hypothesised the basalt was used by Aboriginal people for this purpose.

#### 4.2.4 Pocket camps

These camps would be independent of specific white farms, with their locations being determined by the availability of 'pockets' of vacant land existing within the mosaic of white settlement. Examples Byrne and Nugent (2004) provide include town/village commons, travelling stock routes, and reserves for roads not yet constructed or in use. In the late nineteenth century in parts of Sydney some of these types of lands were designated as Aboriginal Reserves, acknowledging their existing use by Aboriginal people.

A number of Crown Land parcels (including water reserves and dune dunes) remained vacant at Bondi while development proceeded around them at Bondi from the mid to late nineteenth century that would fit this bill.

#### 4.2.5 Fringe camps

The term 'fringe camp' is commonly used to describe Aboriginal camping historically located on the edges of towns and in places out of sight of the main (white) centres. These places may also have been located on land reserved for other purposes.

The Aboriginal camping at Bondi in the 1870s continued to be spatially and was probably socially positioned on the fringes of town life at Bondi at the time, and was very much on the fringe of Sydney and continued to be isolated for much of the nineteenth century.

### 4.3 Nineteenth century Aboriginal camping at Bondi

The 2008 Waverley Aboriginal heritage study asked a rhetorical (and ironic) question - *'What happened to Aboriginal people after the arrival of Europeans?'* This was partly in response to contemporary newspaper accounts that created a complete disconnect between the Aboriginal people who were living in Sydney (and Bondi) but as the 'last' of their 'tribe' or part of a 'vanishing race', and the thousands of flaked stone artefacts exposed at Bondi in 1899 that had been brought onto the sand dunes and used by the same people's forebears. The artefacts below were *'obtained... from the few blacks who, some twenty years ago, used to camp at these places'*. They were amongst a collection of *'tomahawks'* from various parts of coastal Sydney with a few from further inland. Most were made from *'pebbles of spotted altered claystone'* (hornfels) and single items from dolerite, diorite and quartzite.

It is unknown what is meant by the *'comparatively recent'* age for the 'dark quartzite' item; namely whether it was made or traded-in by the people living at Bondi themselves at the time or by them or others in the recent past, and/or at some prior time during the historic period (as opposed to during prehistory). The other worn and weathered items may have been recycled 'prehistoric' objects. The claystone pebbles may have been brought from the old riverbed at Lapstone Hill at Emu Plains near Penrith (ibid:233) and Corkill (2005:43) reports this material is present in the exposed gravels.

Figure 4.2: Aboriginal artefacts collected from Aboriginal people living at Bondi in the 1870s. The top left item is an 'old and much weathered or corroded by wind borne sand, even on the cutting edge', and the bottom left item is a 'dark quartzite tomahawk, and is of comparatively recent date' (Liversidge 1894: Plates 16 and 17)



#### 4.4 Camping at south Bondi (the Boot?) in the 1870s

A group of Aboriginal people (including men named James Friday and Johnny Baswick) who camped at (presumably) southern Bondi, and perhaps around Hunter Park or 'The Boot' near where Waverley Street originally approached the coastline, are cited in a coronial enquiry following the drowning of a man last seen by Baswick fishing off rocks close to their camp. He had been seen fishing in Sydney the previous week, and the death was not considered suspicious.

Presumably to gauge the truth of the testimony, the Coroner had asked Baswick whether he ever went to church, and whether he believed in God. He went to the 'English church' (sometimes) and his faith 'was the same as other black fellow' (SMH, 16 December 1873).

Figure 4.3: 'Cross-cultural interactions in the eastern suburbs during the 1850s – 1870s (Irish 2017: Figure 4.5) – a. Richard Hill rowed to Lane Cove by Aboriginal people (up to 1850s), b. W.C. Wentworth and Daniel Cooper looking after William Warrell (1850s – 1860s), c. Bobby working for Wentworth family (1860s), d. Aboriginal people visiting Edward Smith Hill (1860s – 1870s), e. Johnny Baswick visiting E.L. Clarke, befriends son Bonus (1870s), f. Aboriginal people supplying seafood to Woollahra House (1870s), g. "Johnny" (Baswick?) visiting Vacluse House (1870s), h. Johnny Baswick visiting W.B. Dalley (1880), i. Johnny Baswick dies at E.L. Clarke's house (1880)



Nothing more is known of James Friday but Irish (2016:126) reports that Sydney/south coast man Baswick (1820s-1880), also known as 'Bankie' or 'Bankey' lived in the area in the 1870s with his wife Rachael, their three children and others and regularly moved between settlements at Bondi Beach and Rose Bay. As illustrated below he is also recorded to have visited the Clarke family at their dairy on the ridge above Rose Bay, William Bede Dalley at Vacluse, Edward Smith Hill at Point Piper, and also supplied the residents of Woollahra house with fresh fish and oysters.

#### 4.5 Camping at north Bondi (Ben Buckler) in the 1870s

A fleeting glimpse is provided by recollections of R J Stone, a Bondi surfing pioneer, who reported in 1924 that about 50 years before (1874) he and a party had stood on Bondi Beach watching the '*Blacks who were camped at Ben Buckler enjoying the ocean waves, with their wives and children*'. Stone recalled the names of a number of the Aboriginal people living at Ben Buckler (Dowd 1959:138). It is possible these are the same group of Aboriginal people who passed on the stone artefacts collected by Liversidge in the 1870s from Aboriginal people camped at Bondi.

#### 4.6 The Homestead

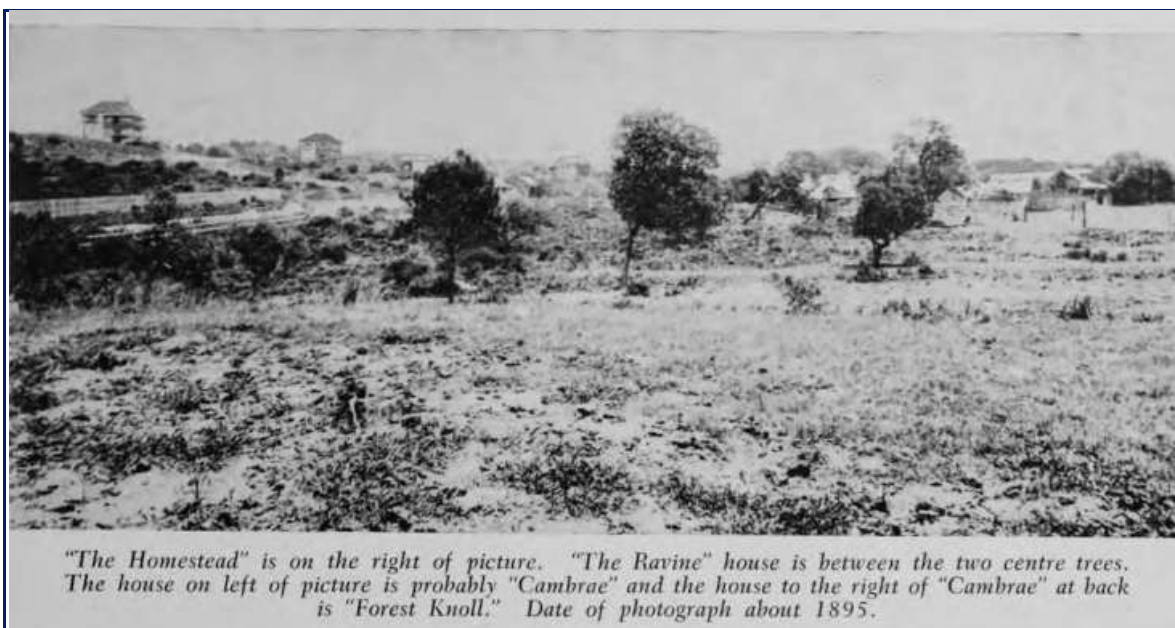
The image of The Homestead below is in a romantic and idealised style, but provides a good perspective of the country at the back of the beach in 1847 where lagoons feature prominently. The second image shows the (realistic) nature of the scrub and stone away from the beach

Figure 4.4: The O'Brien's homestead in c.1847 (SLNSW)



Dowd and Foster (1959:4) note in the early 1850s one main creek ran through a stone quarry just north of Forest Knoll Avenue, and was joined to the east by another from the south near the (later) 'Mausoleum' (Forest Knoll Avenue). The main freshwater stream meandered first through swampy land at the back of the Homestead (part of which was cultivated) and terminated in a fresh water lagoon at the rear of the beach. O'Brien (1923) adds there was a garden in the then flat terrain about the tram-line between Hall Street and Lamrock Avenue and by virtue of the extent to which sand was being driven inland by frequent southerly gales (that also exposed Aboriginal bones and stones) the locality was regarded as a 'no man's land'.

Figure 4.5: 'Brien's homestead in c.1919 (Dowd &amp; Foster 1959: Figure 9)



A newspaper account in February 1888 (*Gippsland Farmers' Journal 16 February 1888*) reported 'another corroboree at the Bondi Aquarium' (actually Tamarama and is still illustrative) had occurred overnight where 147 Aboriginals from eight different 'tribes' who had been induced to travel down from the Hunter Valley and Queensland and across from western NSW were subsequently 'encamped on the banks of a freshwater lagoon in O'Brien's paddock, near the Bondi beach, where they arc comfortably housed in gunyahs formed of boughs and sheets of galvanised iron'. The previous night about 2,000 people had assembled to see the group mustered at the foot of the rocks on the southern side of the gorge abutting on the beach (Fletcher's Glen) where 'the scrub scene' played out under a weird electric light and that thrown by two large bushfires (*Gippsland Farmers' Journal, 16 February 1888*). This description (minus the iron sheeting) is likely to capture the domestic essence of longstanding Aboriginal camping that routinely took place on the same spot at Bondi prior to the alienation of the land, and possibly before and after the fulltime occupation and improvement of the estate by the O'Brien's.

#### 4.7 Bondi Aquarium

The 'corroboree' in O'Brien's paddock had been organised by R.H. Willis and C.E. Reuben, and predates Archibald Meston's 'Wild Australia' that featured prominently at Bondi Aquarium in 1892 and 1893. Meston portrayed Aboriginal people as 'primitive savages' untouched by European influences and made some financial gain from these performers. Meston continued to promote himself over the next decade as an expert in regard to Aboriginal people and following this failed business venture he managed to position himself as one of the most influential advisors to the Queensland Government on Aboriginal issues and was influential in the introduction of Queensland's first Aboriginal protection policy in 1897 (Aird and Mapar July 2015).

Figure 4.6: Visiting Aboriginal people performed 'traditional' shows on the lawn and in the rink at the Aquarium in a modified and controlled 'setter space' but within a broader Aboriginal landscape setting that had been probably used regularly by local Aboriginal people for travel and camping two decades previously



## 5.0 Aboriginal oral history sources and values

### 5.1 Background

The following examples of Aboriginal oral history (the term is used in its widest sense) are not specifically related to the BBCL, but they each include or potentially include in the case of the third example, people, places and historical events that are directly relevant to the Aboriginal history of Bondi. They are briefly described below because it is a potentially a very important but under used 'value' in a general sense, and because it illustrates the way different data sets and sources can 'interact' with each other, and over time this coupling and often simple juxtaposition of what appear to be incongruous evidence or lines of inquiry can progressively increase our understanding of coastal Sydney in prehistory and following white settlement.

### 5.2 Prehistoric climate change (and sea level rise)

Nunn et al (2016) present evidence for Aboriginal memories (stories) of inundations at 21 locations around the Australian coast that each appear to tell the time and often recall the effects of postglacial sea-level rise on their stretch of coastline dating to more than 7,000 years ago, including a story from Botany Bay. The nature and strength of the evidence and the arguments supporting a connection of the stories to empirical corroboration of postglacial sea-level rise appear sound, and as such the claim that the method of dating Aboriginal stories shows that they appear to have endured since c.7,250 cal. BP is also plausible.

Botany Bay marks where the Georges River (south) and Cooks River (north) enter the sea. Dharawal stories suggest great landscape changes had occurred here prior to the descriptions of the place provided by Cook in 1770. The authors cite a story that tells of the time when the Georges River, but then known as Kai'eemah, joined with the Goolay'yari (Cooks River) and flowed through the swamps that once were Botany Bay. Together they then flowed out through Kurunulla (Cronulla). The story recounted by Bodkin and Andrews (2012) continues that one day a great storm 'came up' and huge waves crashed into and washed over Kai'eemah and inland destroying much of the swampland that was used by people for food. They fled inland to escape the flooding and returned sometime later to the coast at the mouth of Georges River and found instead of swamps, a great bay, and where the Kai'eemah had before the flood met the sea, there was high mountains of sand (Nunn et al 2016).

The authors note postglacial sea-level rise must have had a massive impact on the social and economic lives of Aboriginal people living on the coast and conclude that generation after generation of coastal Aboriginal people are likely to have had to renegotiate land tenure arrangements with inland neighbours, and make stay-or-go decisions about island/lowland clan estates and explain some of the reasons why sea-level rise stories remained 'in circulation' after the sea level stabilised.

### 5.3 Captain Cook at Kurnell

Goodall and Cadzow (2014) provide a *Dictionary of Sydney* entry for Bidy Giles that explains she was born in about 1820 into the Gweagal group of the Dharawal language and managed to live on her people's country for her whole life. Around 1860, Bidy moved to the Georges River where she lived on the western bank of Mill Creek in a farmhouse built earlier (where they had a garden and goats) and during this time she acted as guides for shooting and fishing parties and these trips ranged from Mill Creek east to the ocean and south into Dharawal country as far as the Shoalhaven. In the mid-1870s, Bidy moved along the river to live at Joseph Holt's property at Sylvania and also visited and camped at the Aboriginal settlements at Kogarah and Botany Bays, and on the eastern side of the peninsula at Sans Souci. The latter location (or Kogarah Bay) may be the camp that Liversidge collected the artefacts from during the 1870s that are illustrated in this report. Bidy died at Sylvania in the 1890s.

The same authors (Goodall and Cadzow 2009:88ff, 102ff) note that an ageing settlers memories that were recorded in 1905 included a meeting at Kurnell in the 1830s a thirteen year old Bidy who told him about her uncle's memories of witnessing cooks landing there. Although what her uncle told her of events at 1770, and told the witness in 1905 are not known, the stories will be have been shared in all of the Aboriginal camps and preferred gathering places that dotted the Sydney coastal landscape throughout her long and widely travelled life, and these stories will have been probably coupled with 'newer' stories about the British and French at Botany Bay in 1788. The latter appear to have been followed closely by Aboriginal people all away along the coast in the journey of the First Fleet north that sailed past Bondi on the way to Port Jackson. It is likely that other Aboriginal stories about the history of the country and the people at Bondi are still told by some of the more senior members in the Aboriginal communities living today in the Botany and La Perouse areas and also on the south coast.



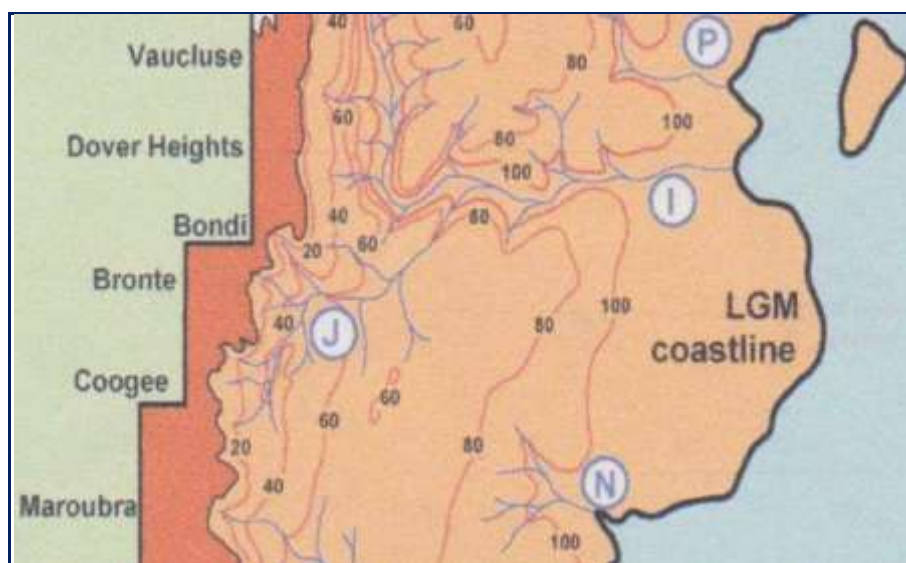
## 6.0 Environmental sites, evidence and values

### 6.1 Changes at Bondi over time

It is possible the archaeology exposed at Bondi in 1899 related to when sea levels and the location, nature and configuration of the coastal strip was different than today. Geophysical survey of the inner continental slope off Sydney during the late 1970s and 1980s aimed to establish the subsea-eastward extent of coastal paleo-drainage lines, the end-Pleistocene coastline of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), and the distribution of sedimentary sequences on the shelf (Albani et al 2015: 681-682).

At the LGM sea-level is believed to have been -120m lower than present, where the innermost part of the shelf to extend from the shore to about -60m, the mid-outer continental at depths between -60m and -140m and the upper continental slope is east of the shelf break at -140 to -150m. The western edge at -120m is interpreted to mark the LGM sea-level low-stand, and thus the -120m bedrock contour is inferred to have been the coastline at that time (c.20 ka). In addition to numerous small-scale Paleodrainages on the shelf itself east of the present cliffed coastline, and within the modern estuaries (where they constitute second and lower-order channels), the bedrock morphology of the inner shelf and adjacent hinterland is dominated by four first order drainage lines that are delineated sequentially from north to south as the Hawkesbury (B), Parramatta (I), Botany (L) and Georges (M) paleo-watercourses. Of relevance to the current study is the valley of the Parramatta paleo-watercourse (Port Jackson) which is a narrow symmetrical gorge that opens seaward at -100m. Its path is sinuous east of South Head and it turns abruptly south and continues to the northeast of Bondi where it turns sharply to the east, and 4km off shore it is joined from the south by the northeast trending gorge of the small Bondi paleo-watercourse (J).

Figure 6.1: Bedrock geomorphology of the shelf at the time of the LGM (ca 20 ka) showing the paleo-shoreline at -120m below the present sea-level and the drainage features that were active at that time (Albani et al 2015: Figure 3).

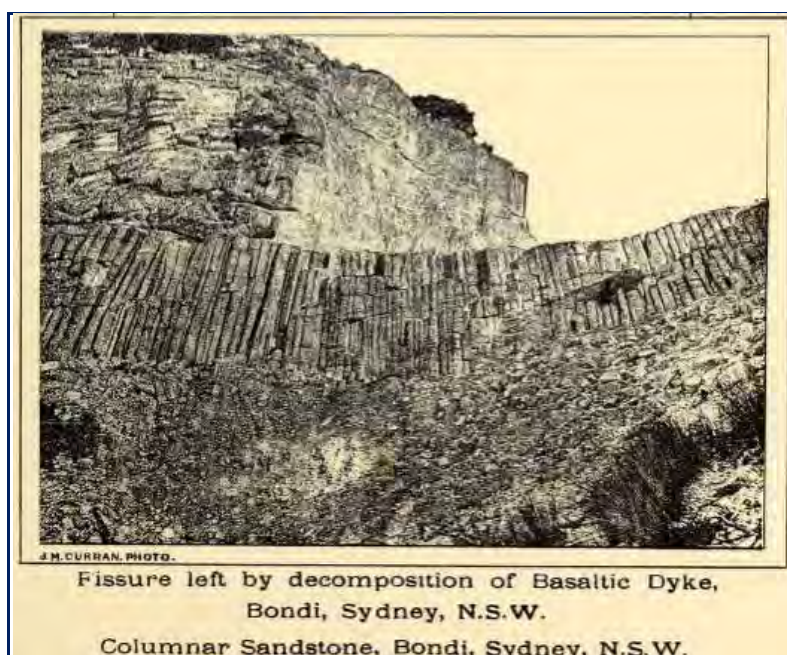


## 6.2 Murriverie

Milne Curran described the structure and composition of the basalt and its associated ('baked') columnar sandstone at 'Murriverie' in north Bondi in 1894, and in the same year Liversidge published his account and illustrations of the artefacts he had collected from Aboriginal people living at the BSH two decades before. Milne Curran could only find one other contemporary reference '*to the rock I am dealing with*' (Milne Curran 1894:219), presumably because of the comparative rarity of this coastal geological feature. However, the Lapérouse expedition had seen similar columnar sandstone in the vicinity of the La Perouse Monument at La Perouse after the French had moored at Botany Bay on the day the First Fleet was completing its move from Botany Bay to Port Jackson. The long narrow prismatic sandstone columns, with between three and five sides and standing perpendicularly on end, were shown to Captain Hunter. Some of these blocks of sandstone had been loaded onto the *Boussole* before it left Botany Bay, after which it sank in the Solomon's Islands. Salvage of the wreck in the 1980s recovered some sandstone blocks and tests in 2003 suggested they came from Botany Bay. Rickwood et al (2011:11) concluded it was probable the local Aboriginal community were aware of the columnar sandstone but seemingly did not relate it to the new arrivals.

The basalt at Bondi is described to have formed an irregular mass surrounded and intermixed with shattered fragments of Hawkesbury Sandstone, and of an intercalated bed of carboniferous shale. The mass was in places about a chain (20m) wide and several chains in length, and sent of horizontal sheets and vertical dykes into the surrounding sandstone.

Figure 6.2: Basaltic dyke at Bondi (Milne Curran 1894)



Murriverie may have been a source of basalt that was used in the past by Aboriginal people. O'Brien suspected this was the case. The basalt O'Brien saw had been completely quarried-out but elements of the light coloured and tessellated and columnar shaped sandstone survives, and Dowd (1959:290) noted in the late 1950s that much of the basalt had been altered to form 'soapy clay' known as 'Kaolin'. The locality is now a protected geological site:

*Murriverie'....is mostly a perpendicular cliff over one hundred feet deep and about a quarter of a mile long. 'Mud Island', a rock in the sea a few yards to the east of the main mass is basalt. Another most attractive feature of the this formation [are] several columns of heat-hardened freestone several feet long, the outer ones of which you could remove from the mass. Unfortunately, much of the beauty was spoiled, as my father put a tramway from the Old South Head Road, and carted away and broke up the stone for metalling the Old and New South Head Roads...I found blackfellow's skulls and tomohawks there [Murriverie] and it seems to me 'Murriverie' is the only basalt formation showing the basalt that the tomohawks must have come from'. (O'Brien 1923:364-5).*

In the same year Milne Curran described the Bondi basalt and columnar sandstone, Mathews (1894) made comment on the barter, trade and movement of raw materials such as basalt and Aboriginal objects such as axe/hatchet heads:

*Hatchets, and the stone for making them, as well as sharpening stones and millstones, were amongst the articles of barter at the great meetings which were held for the initiation of the youths of the tribes. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, before people dispersed, a kind of fair was held, when natives in whose country stone was plentiful would barter these things with other people for reeds when making spears, rich plumage of birds, &c, usually found in the level country where suitable stone is scarce – or for any other articles brought by the various tribes for the purposes of exchange.*

Future research and analysis of the diverse lithological character that appears to be in evidence within the collected and described Bondi archaeological materials is likely to show that some raw materials or finished items will have travelled long distances to get to Sydney, and probably some Sydney raw materials were traded and exchanged over long distances in return. Attenbrow et al (2012:47-52) for example report the material, method of manufacture and modification of a ground-edged hatchet-head found at Vaucluse provides evidence for the movement of stone tools from west of the Great Dividing Range to the coast that adds new knowledge about social relationships between different groups and patterns of exchange that existed in the past. Another study cited in this report (Grave *et al.* in press) also reports that an implement found at Botany Bay (AM Reg. No E.57826) was shown during a pilot PXRF (portable x-ray fluorescence) study was made of basalt probably from a source near Mangrove Mountain in the NSW Central Coast.

### 6.3 Ochre

There are many early reference to Sydney Aboriginal people routinely using ochre, and not only for just ritual and ceremonial purposes, and was probably a widely sought after raw material, and also a highly tradable commodity to groups whose territories had no or few plentiful sources. Watkin Tench

(1979:47,104) noted the Aboriginal custom of daubing themselves with white earth was frequent amongst both sexes, and 'white paint' was strictly appropriate to the dance and red seemed to be used on numberless occasions (Ibid:166). David Collins wrote the red colour was used when preparing to fight and the white colour was for when dancing (Collins 1802:552).

The only traces of ochre that usually survive in cultural contexts are pigments used for painted and stencilled art, but the evidence suggests it was also variously used by both sexes for personal body painting and hair adornment, for staining and colouring skins (shields etc) and weapons, and for cooking bases (kaolin) in canoes. Bursill et al (2001:20) confirm Sydney Aboriginal women and men regularly used highly prized, local white clay for decoration or ceremonial purposes (Dharawal clan designs were mainly geometric with secret or symbolic function) and that '*it was a very valuable commodity so was traded across other language groups by the older women*'. It is possible that high quality ochre-clay was obtained regularly from around volcanic dyke pipes such as Murriverie and further afield as clay beds in the swamps and lagoons that were distributed across the local land.

#### 6.4 An example of a 'sheltered bay' with landscape & resource 'attractors'

Gordon's Bay is a 'secluded' and deeply incised bay sided with steep sandstone headlands and a cliff that extends around the length of the inlet, and has a small beach at its head that is about 500m long between the heads and narrows to 250m in the middle. The sandstone that forms the shore rock platforms is at sea level, but there is greater protection from wave action within the bay by large boulders from rock-fall, and it is also protected from the south by a shallow sub-tidal shelf and bombora that runs from the southern headland. Both the steeply incised shape of the bay and bombora create a narrow surf zone that dissipates wave energy in the bay creating a generally smooth water surface and 'reflective beach'. The depth of the bay at its head is 10m and shelves gradually towards the beach.

The geology of the sandstone is medium to fine grained with minor shale and laminite lenses, and a potential Aboriginal resource has been recorded (but not for the purposes of heritage) that comprises an area of deep white clay located behind the retaining wall at the head of the bay and under the northern walking path. There is also described a natural source of running water that emanates from a point within a reed bed (*Phragmites australis*) growing in the fresh water behind the fishing club. Local knowledge is that the water comes from seepage from Centennial Parklands.

The deeply incised and narrow form of Gordon's Bay is characteristic of a number of other bays that occur between Bondi and Botany Bay. Most of the area known now as Gordon's Bay formed part of a land grant made to Lewis Gordon, a government architect, who built a house at the place in the 1840s. Until this time the bay and its resources (below) were still available on 'vacant' and unchanged land, and in any case the bay was distant from most other 'settled' places in the area, and could be accessed and exited by land and water in multiple directions.

Figure 6.3: Gordon's Bay is a secluded, sheltered and shallow watered inlet with an open beach, bombora, sandstone gully with freshwater at the gully head and potentially ochre. It may have provided suitable conditions for beach and shore fishing, gully hunting, and travel options along the coast and into the hinterland via the drainage and network of swamps and lagoons leading to today's Centennial Parklands.



It is likely that this bay continued to be used by Aboriginal people up to the 1840s and beyond, however no trace of this has been detected to date so our current understanding of this place is limited at present, but it is worth noting that *local resident Obed West was adamant that the Aboriginal origin for the name 'Coogee' (Kudjee, Coojee, Kooja, Koojah) was the name that belonged to Gordon's Bay and that 'Bobroi' was the name for Coogee.*

## 7.0 Museum collections

The *Australian Museum* is the default repository for Aboriginal cultural heritage (Aboriginal objects) and has historically received artefacts from Bondi on a number of occasions outside of and pronominally prior to the donations made by Etheridge and Whitelegge following the discoveries at the BSH in 1899. Francis O'Brien made a few of these during his occupancy of the 'homestead':

- 'Master Francis O'Brien - A 'Mogo' or stone tomahawk, found in an aboriginal burial-place, near Bondi beach' (Empire 5 February 1886).
- 'Portion of a female aboriginal skeleton, found exposed by the sand drift at Bondi Beach. Presented by Francis O'Brien, Esq' (SMH 5 march 1855)

Another early local resident, Thomas O'Brien, also recollected a time when an 'easterly gale washed away the sand from the bay frontage, probably to an extent it had never done before, because it unearthed an aboriginal skull and several aboriginal tomahawks' (O'Brien 1923:364). It is not clear when this occurred, but it is unlikely to be the same gale described by Etheridge and Whitelegge in 1899, although the latter make no mention of Aboriginal skeletal remains.

Aboriginal bones suspected to be of Aboriginal origin ('tribes were In the habit of burying bodies In the sand near the coast') were unearthed in 1929 during excavations for a tennis court in the rear yard of Walter (Wally) Weekes' home 'The Lawns' in Ramsgate Avenue. A human skull (missing the lower jaw) and seven smaller fragments of bones (all yellowed with age) were located about five feet under the ground that were suspected to be of Aboriginal origin and to have been buried for around seventy years (SMH, 31 August 1929). *The Sun* (30 August 1929) reported it was 'Mr. Weekes belief is that it is the skull of a white woman, and that it has been in the sand about 60 years'.

Figure 7.1 Records indicate Weekes owned two adjacent properties on Ramsgate Avenue. The image below shows the suspected location of 'The Lawns' (77 Ramsgate Avenue) and the red outline indicates original lot size during Weekes' ownership of 'The Lawns' and the blue outline indicates adjacent properties owned by Weekes at least from 1916-1925



## 8.0 Conclusions

### 8.1 BBCL Aboriginal heritage resources - summary & significance

Bondi Beach was originally positioned within a resource rich coastal landscape that featured a wide variety of resources and amenity that encouraged repeated Aboriginal visitation and use of the place in the past. Favourable landscape attributes included a surf zone with rock platforms at both ends for fishing and shell fishing, elevated headlands with commanding sightlines and flat sandstone platforms for engraving, and dune fields with creeks and freshwater lagoons for shelter and food and (probably) occasional use for burial. Bondi Pavilion occupies a central position on the current beachfront and this location will also have been used frequently and repeatedly by Aboriginal people in the past. In a similar fashion, but enlarged in scale, the BBCL was located in the middle of a long coastal strip, notionally extending between South Head and La Perouse and back from the coastline to the harbour. The 'hinterland' between the two shorelines and behind Bondi Beach in particular, was dominated by a long and wide sand 'corridor' that linked Bondi to Rose Bay. Few other coastal embayments in Sydney have a comparable range of resources and allied 'site-favourable' landscape characteristics within as close proximity to each other as at Bondi Beach, and fewer still also have comparable prehistoric archaeological and historical records of site occupation.

Prehistoric (and probably Holocene) Aboriginal occupation of Bondi is reflected by an extensive series of archaeological 'workshops' and associated 'living floor's' that were exposed by storm on former land surfaces in 1899, by headland rock engravings, and also by historical records that document continued Aboriginal occupation of Bondi Beach into the late nineteenth century. The Bondi Beach archaeology has been registered retrospectively with AHIMS (as site #45-6-2169) but has not been dated and the descriptions of its contents are limited. However, one of the standout features was the very high number of backed blades including Bondi points that were present. These tools were economical and reliable and not difficult to manufacture in a standard way once you knew the technique. Their distinctive shape and form persisted for over 9,000 years on the Australian east coast, and these artefact types may have continued to be made using traditional methods but with modern materials (glass) during the historic period.

The Bondi points discovered by chance at Bondi were the first seen in Australia and Bondi was to become the type site for these types of backed blades. Archaeologists historically used Bondi points and backed blades as cultural markers to help organise and interpret increasing archaeological evidence about Sydney Aboriginal life that became available through sporadic scientific excavation during the 1890s to the 1930s and which then rapidly accelerated from the 1960s, and researchers currently use 'Bondaian' terminology when describing and classifying stone artefacts and sequencing archaeological evidence of change through time. Backed blades and their technology (and embodiment of economy)

continue to be also pivotal to many topics in current theory development in archaeological research dealing with prehistoric life and climate change.

The Bondi Beach archaeology and rock engravings and nineteenth century historic records individually and in combination have relevance to many current stone artefact and rock art chronological, typological and analysis frameworks. Future analysis of stone artefact collections held in the *Australian Museum* is likely to contribute significantly to our understanding of past stone raw material trade and exchange patterns within Sydney. Evidence for Aboriginal occupation of Bondi during the historic period and archaeological links to prior occupation that extends back in time into prehistory also has particular relevance to contemporary Aboriginal communities and provides a 'connection' between this Aboriginal history and the archaeology at Bondi.

Finally, the Bondi rock engravings display a high degree of creative and technical achievement in the choice of subjects and the way they are depicted. Their positions in the landscape also show aesthetic placement and probably embody different ways Aboriginal people may have sought to depict aesthetic characteristics significant to them in the complexity of motifs at the North Bondi sites for example. The engravings also form an important part of a wider network of Sydney coastal and inner harbour headland art sites. Although the sites are undated (and are also likely to have been added to/maintained over time), the engravings can be generally placed into existing chronological research frameworks, and future recording and analysis of the more extensive engraved rock platforms adjoining the BBCL for example may reveal new insights into Sydney coastal motif and imagery depictions and stylistic characteristics

## 8.2 Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the BBCL

### 8.2.1 Preamble

The following summary explains the rationale behind the development of the Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity map that has been developed for the BBCL (below). This discussion provides the basis for the majority of the Aboriginal archaeological heritage management recommendations that are presented at the end of this document.

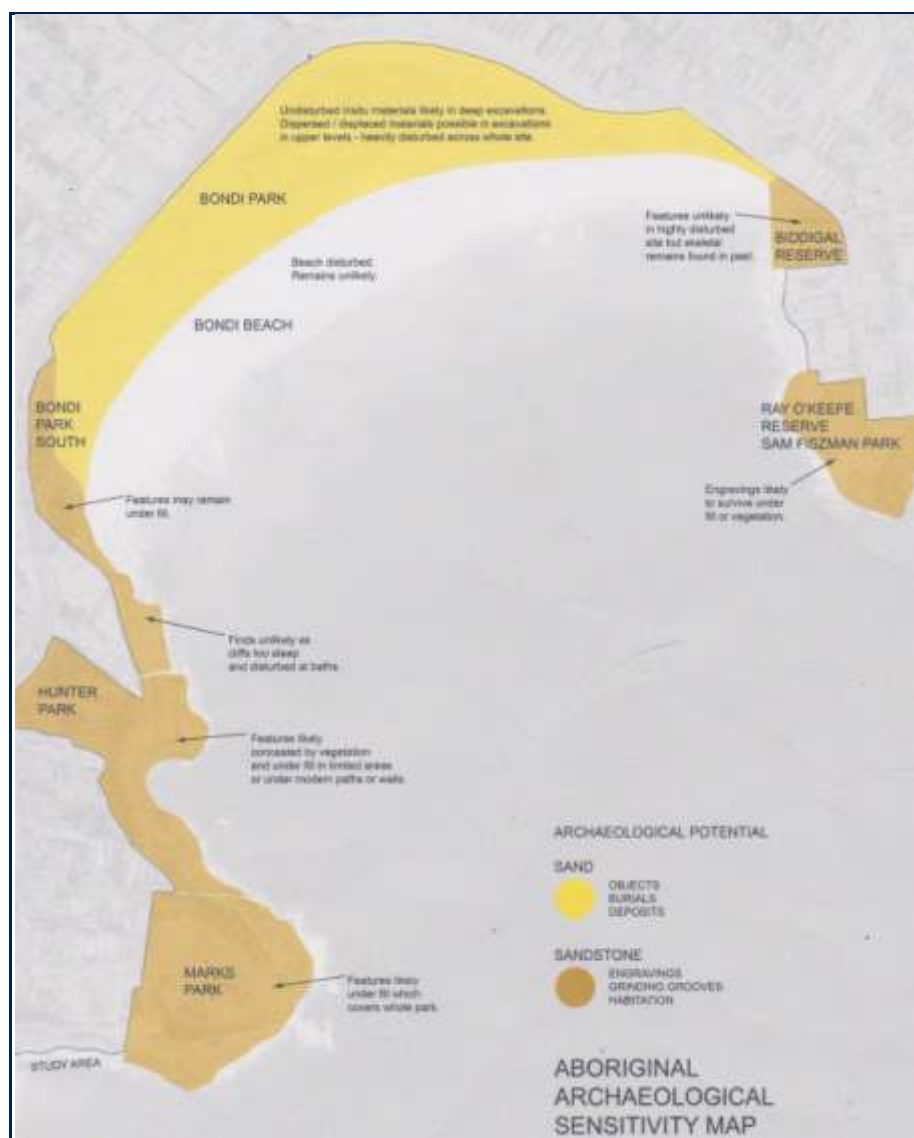
The following discussion initially deals with general archaeological expectations for the BBCL as a whole that are largely based on findings from recent assessment of proposed changes to Bondi Pavilion (DSCA October 2017, Comber Consultants 2017). Management recommendations provided by these studies reflect the potential Aboriginal archaeological sensitivities that exist on the beach front, and relative to the extensive archaeological evidence exposed in this general locality in 1899. These conclusions can also be extrapolated to Bondi Park because deep sand profiles sealed beneath modern hard surfaces and landscaping may occur that may also contain Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits. This discussion is followed by an overview of the remaining reserves and parklands within the BBCL that are



situated at the two edges of the beach. In addition to sand profiles that may contain Aboriginal artefacts and/or archaeological deposit, these locations also include sandstone that was formerly exposed at the surface and is now filled that may potentially retain engravings. A small number of historical burials have also been reported within or in close proximity to the reserves at the northeastern end of the beach. The 'risk' of further burials being present cannot be discounted.

Finally, recommendations are made to Council concerning the future management of two Aboriginal heritage site locations that are situated outside of but immediately adjoining the BBCL to the north and west respectively. These concern the golf course rock engravings and potential archaeology that may be sealed beneath the Campbell Parade streetscapes. Both recommendations require a short preamble which is also provided below.

Figure 8.1: Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the BBCL study area



### 8.2.2 General observation (Bondi Pavilion and Bondi Park)

As a consequence of widespread historical modification to the original beach front it is not expected that in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits potentially associated with AHIMS #45-6-0179 will survive in most locations within this part of the BBCL unless buried deep and 'safely' below former impact zones. This general likelihood can also be applied to the remainder of the BBCL study area along the beach front. However, discrete pockets or lenses or even extensive layers of former humic top soil that may occur amidst the sands and which developed contemporaneously and were associated with former lagoons as evidence or past 'land surfaces' in a general sense have a potential to survive and to contain Aboriginal objects. It is possible some of the former lagoons or part of them were simply filled-in and covered over with sand after draining, and these deposits and any materials that were associated with the lagoons and drainage networks prior to filling and burial may have been incorporated within this broad site formation process and in places survive.

Figure 8.2: Bondi Beach sand dunes – c.1900 – (windswept) Ti trees and scrub to the left and 1890s view of a large lagoon at the back of the beach (Waverley Image Library)



An enormous quantity of stone materials associated with former 'work shops' in close proximity to the future Pavilion were exposed in 1899 before the artefacts were reburied by sand or 'destroyed' by road works and beachside improvements inclusive of the extensive changes brought about by the construction of the current Pavilion and Promenade. However, it is unlikely that all of this site evidence will have been entirely removed or 'destroyed' (permanently lost). A proportion of the archaeology was probably moved and dispersed rather than removed. Along the same lines, the formerly towering sand dunes were reduced and flattened by cutting down the high hills and using the sand to fill low points in the terrain such as in drainage gullies and lagoons before the filled land was graded level prior to road and housing and infrastructure constructions.

Figure 8.3: A geotechnical profile drawing from the courtyard in Bondi Pavilion showing a buried dark brown loam layer below fill and separated above and below by natural sands (Douglas Partners 2015). This deposit may reflect the presence of former drainage or land surface and may contain Aboriginal objects

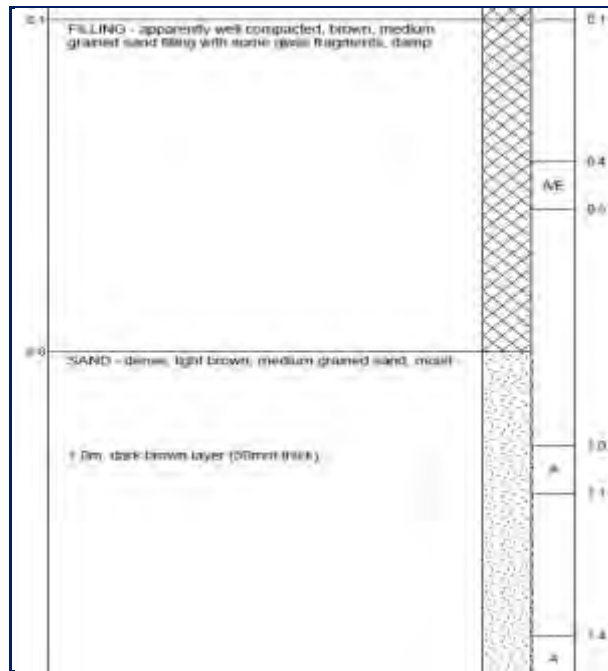
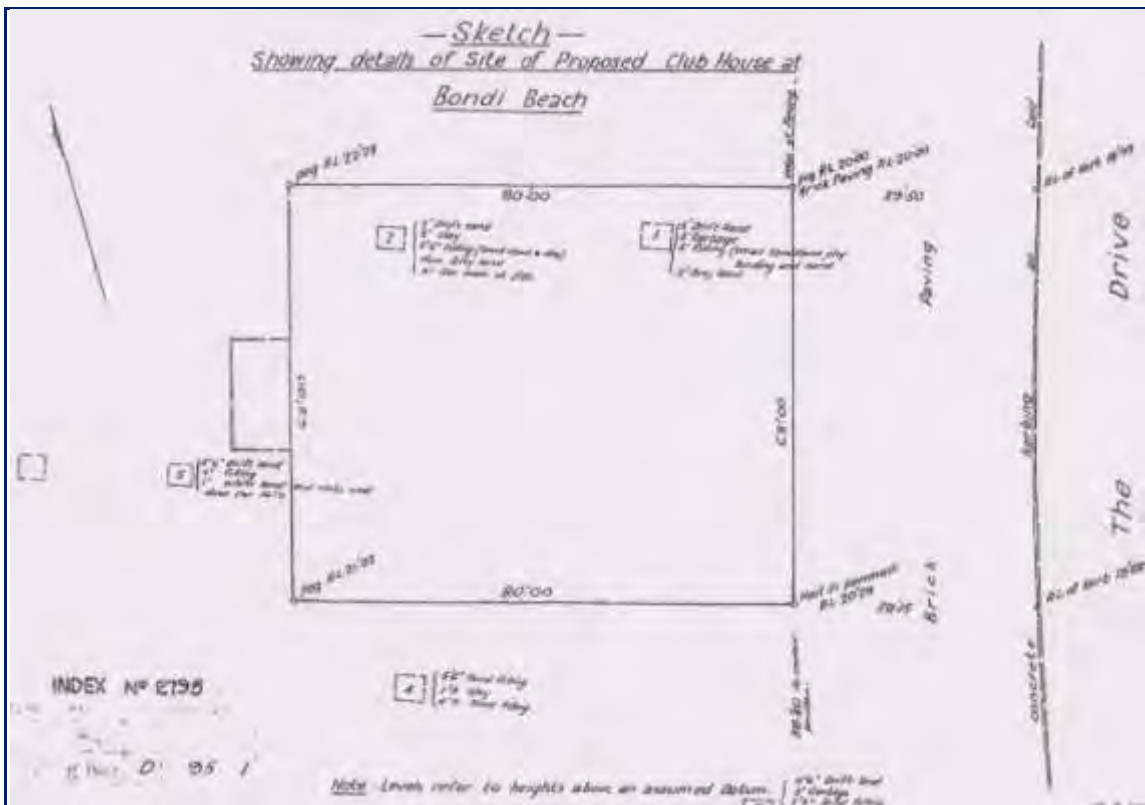


Figure 8.4: A 1932 subsoil investigation sketch plan for the Surf Club below provides an indication of the depths of 'drift sand' and fills observed. The bottom right excavation ('3', number cut-off) was approximately halfway between the Surf Club and Pavilion and had 11'6" of drift sand over 3' of 'garbage' over 5'3" of sand filling and the water-table was reached at 19'9"



It is likely 'isolated' Aboriginal objects will be found in many potential historic contexts, including within building construction deposits, within footing and service trench fills, and incorporated within large-quantity sand deposits used to fill beachfront parks and reserves. These Aboriginal objects, even with no secure archaeological provenance, will nevertheless potentially possess archaeological (scientific) value, and will also have high Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

### 8.2.3 Parks & reserves

The original sandstone topographies in Hunter Park and Marks Park to the west of the BBCL have both been historically changed to various extents through quarrying for example but both also have been filled and unmodified sandstone surfaces below fills may retain rock engravings or grinding grooves. There may also be dispersed Aboriginal objects inter-mixed within overlying landscaping fill. The prominent foreshore locations and aspects of these open spaces overlooking the bay, the prevalence of rock engravings found in comparable landscape positions on the Sydney coast in general, and the fact that one engraving occurs in Marks Park (AHIMS #45-6-0750) increases the potential for engravings to potentially remain undetected in these locations. The same rationale applies to the reserves to the east. In addition, they are also in proximity to the locations of an early twentieth century burial discovery and there is a possibility further burial or dispersed skeletal materials occur in these parklands.

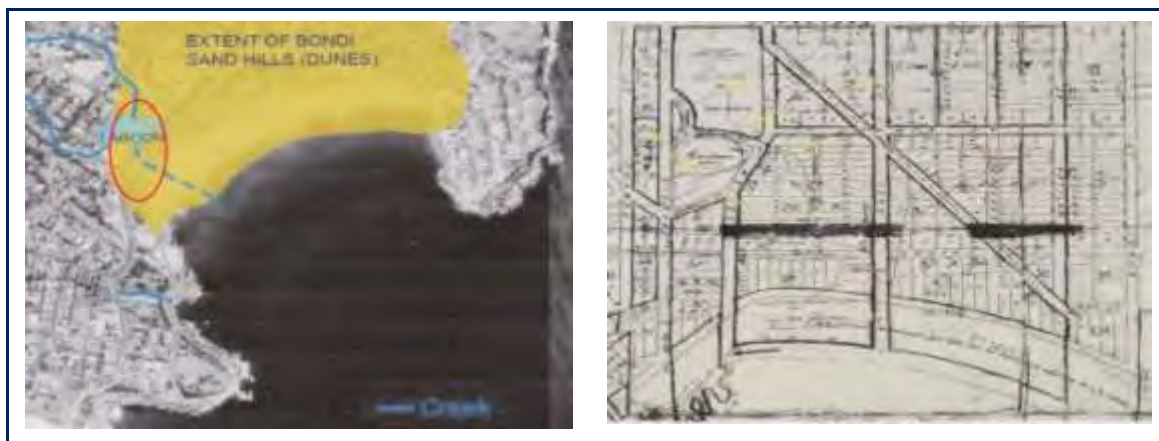
The recent Pavilion archaeological assessments have recommended a number of future actions to enable mitigation of potential Aboriginal archaeological impacts that may result from proposal changes. These include standard (OEH 2010) Aboriginal community consultation to identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values specifically relevant to the Pavilion. This scope of that consultation could be extended to include the BBCL study area and the outcomes would potentially complement the archaeological and historical values as described here.

### 8.2.4 Campbell Parade

Campbell Parade and its adjacent streetscapes was historically the site of former dune-fields with freshwater drainage running down from the higher topography to create freshwater lagoons at the back of the beach and amongst the lower terrain in the dunes. These same types of dune and lagoons also probably existed in some form in prehistory. These environmental features or similar will have provided food and water and a wide range of raw materials useful to the Aboriginal people who had created the extensive archaeological 'workshops' at Bondi Beach as seen in 1899. Marine resources from the bay and those provided by the foreshore and dunes and lagoons may have combined to create an abundant and stable resource locale (when conditions were favourable) that had more variety and reliability than other places in nearby coastal positions.

With this in mind, another archaeological truism is that not all places in a landscape were visited or used equally by people in the past (as also for today but for different reasons) in terms of type of visit or use or frequency in terms of one-off or repeat use. Schlanger (1992:97) coined the term 'persistent place' to describe landscape locations *'that were repeatedly used during long-term occupations of regions'*. Features of the environment that may have attracted occupation cited included freshwater, swamps and waterholes that are not dissimilar to those drainage related resource elements at Bondi. Frequent and repeated use and/or longer term occupation of Bondi appears reflected by the 1899 archaeology that was formerly associated with the back dunes and lagoons. Archaeological evidence of this former use of the place may survive below the carriageway of Campbell Parade and its fringing pedestrian promenade surfaces and nearby street alignments, and disturbance to this potential archaeology resource may occur as a result of future changes to the existing road conditions and commercial and residential development of adjacent streetscapes. Predicting where potential archaeology may be located is not attempted here but could be progressed by future study including consideration of the types of issues that are briefly explained and then put into a potential but hypothetical context below.

Figure 8.5: Predicting the location of Aboriginal archaeology on the basis of the former location of drainage and lagoons within and adjoining the BBCL (Waverley Image Library)



Not all of the buildings along the immediate frontage of Campbell Parade have basements, and in the back streets there is a high frequency of inter war and post WW2 housing that has in most cases not changed significantly since construction. However, this housing has been built on reworked sand that is (presumably) over in situ (buried) sand profiles. Building platforms of sand may contain dispersed and isolated Aboriginal objects or may bury more concentrated finds or archaeological deposits. This assumes people repeatedly visited and used the lagoons (and probably camped around the margins). Another assumption is that archaeological evidence is more likely to have been created close to the lagoons. In this respect it is noted that in one or two locations the BBCL adjoins what are suspected to have been former lagoon sites, and on this basis should be considered to possess Aboriginal archaeological potential.

In future development circumstances in such locations, bore logs could be used to identify evidence of buried surfaces and soils in otherwise 'clean' windblown sand whereby their occurrence would also increase the likelihood for the presence of Aboriginal objects. The previously noted geotechnical profile at the Pavilion (**Figure 8.3**) shows 'filling' of mixed sand and soil and could include reworked Aboriginal objects. Below is natural sand. However, at a depth of 1.0m is a 'dark brown layer' (50mm thick) below 20cm of dense, light brown, medium grained sand and the brown layer is well within the sand profile and is stratigraphically separated from the overlying fill above. This discrete deposit may represent a natural humic soil layer associated with former drainage within a channel or inter-dune swale or evidence of a former land surface with a potential to retain Aboriginal objects.

An approach to managing this type of PAD would start with the development of an archaeological research design and excavation methodology through consultation and with support by the Aboriginal community to investigate the site under an AHIP. An appropriate method would be required first to excavate and sample-screen the sand deposits overlying the humic sand layer. Manual test excavation using standard Code of Practice type methods if conditions allowed, followed by machine clearance of remaining overburden if the fill is sterile and/or very deep, required to clear sufficient horizontal space to allow investigation of the layer when reached. When the full nature and boundaries of the deposit is exposed, the PAD could then be subject to test and/or salvage excavation as needed and according to standard procedures and protocols if Aboriginal objects are encountered.

#### 8.2.5 North Bondi rock engravings

The BBCL CMP identifies that Bondi is the only Australian beach that has been given national listing to date and as such the place deserves to be maintained at a high level. The rock engravings contained within the cliff top golf course at North Bondi (AHIMS #45-6-0719) are in particular a very important component of the Aboriginal history and heritage story of Bondi. The style and composition of the diverse range of marine animals and possible 'culture heroes' that are depicted and their dramatic visual setting, along with elements of 'mystery' the engravings embody (because we don't know when or who made them or what they mean), are in many respects symbolic of Aboriginal Sydney coastal life and these heritage values are significant contributors to the national listing of the place. These engravings are well known in Sydney and also internationally to an extent by virtue of high tourist visitation that is also aided by their clarity (because they have been partly re-grooved) and conspicuous position with panoramic views.

However, no accurate plan of the engraving site as it exists now is available and we are largely reliant on 1899 drawings to establish what was once there compared to what is there now. It is presently difficult to identify with precision exactly what images or motifs have been lost (by erosion or development) or remain but are obscured by changing vegetation/grass cover. It is recommended below that Council prepare an archaeological management plan for the site, in its current constraints and within its current

landuse constraints (frequently used golf course) to identify current threats and future management options. The plan would digitally document and permanently preserve by proxy the engravings, provide advice on deterioration issues and conservation needs, and guide how they can be cared for into the future. Until adequate mapping and analysis is done, there is uncertainty about how that site can be used 'safely' in the long term. Future recording may require an approval (AHIP) under the NPW Act 1974, and in this respect it is noted that significant non-Aboriginal engraved images created during the nineteenth century that may constitute 'relics' in their own right under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* and thereby may require a dual heritage management approach to the ongoing and future conservation of this important site. The two Aboriginal rock engravings contained within the BBCL require management under the NPW Act.

## 9.0 Recommendations

### 9.1 Basis for recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended) and the outcomes of this heritage values review. These recommendations are for convenience separated to apply to two general types of locations within the BBCL and two specific locations that immediately adjoin it. The former consist of Bondi Pavilion (and immediate surrounds), and Bondi Park and other reserves in the BBCL, and the latter localities are Campbell Parade (and adjoining streetscapes) and North Bondi golf course (and its significant rock engravings).

The potential Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the Pavilion has been recently assessed and the recommendations for that site are adapted from those recently developed to inform future upgrades proposed for the building and its surrounds.

The recommendations for the parks and reserves contained within the BBCL largely derive from the findings of the Pavilion assessment but are also mindful of specific land use histories and potential heritage sensitivities (potential for burials etc).

The recommendations for the rock engravings are commensurate with their very high significance and best practice approaches to conservation and management of open rock engraving sites, and the implementation of the recommendations for Campbell Parade provides an opportunity for Council to detect early in the DA assessment process whether the property has potential subsurface deposit ('soil' as opposed to sand) that may also contain Aboriginal objects, and manage the development accordingly.

The general recommendations for 'unexpected finds' and burials apply to the whole of the BBCL.

### 9.2 Bondi Pavilion

The following recommendations are for Bondi Pavilion and immediate surrounds (DSCA October 2017):

- An Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Assessment (AACHA) be prepared for the proposed for the Bondi Pavilion improvements and be used to support an application to the *Office of Environment and Heritage* (OEH) for an *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit* (AHIP) under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to manage potential Aboriginal archaeological objects or (less likely) deposits contained within the study area and may be harmed by the proposal. The AACHA and AHIP application should follow the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).
- As a general recommendation, if human burials or bones are exposed, standard stop-work procedures and protocols to contact appropriate authorities should be followed, and if suspected to be of Aboriginal origin, the OEH and the LPLALC will need to be notified of the discovery immediately.



- The LPLALC be invited to participate in future heritage site inductions with site contractors to ensure on-site personnel are aware of their obligations and requirements in relation to the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* about unexpected finds.
- The Aboriginal history and archaeology of the place should be interpreted in an appropriate way within the upgraded Pavilion. Some Aboriginal themes and 'story-lines' that add to our understanding of the history and significance of Bondi are mentioned in this report and future decisions about interpretation should be developed in consultation with the LPLALC.
- A copy of this report should be forwarded to the LPLALC.

### 9.3 Bondi Park & other reserves

Future works within the various parkland within the BBCL that may disturb the ground beyond anything but superficially should be guided by the findings and recommendations of an Aboriginal archaeological assessment that follows current due diligence guidelines and is undertaken in association with the LPLALC. Alternatively, Council could prepare similar assessments for all of the parks and reserves in the BBCL individually or in one go to provide in combination with recent studies of Bondi Pavilion and Park a full assessment of the immediate coastal strip defining the waterside perimeter of Bondi Bay.

A general caveat that would apply in all works circumstances where an AHIP is not in place for the project or site, is that if Aboriginal objects are exposed anywhere in the BBCL, then that work is required to immediately cease and be redesigned to avoid impact where possible and practicable and in the meantime be relocated elsewhere, and the OEH and LPLALC are to be contacted for management advice for the find.

### 9.4 Campbell Parade

Council should prepare a baseline Aboriginal archaeological zoning plan for the section of Campbell Parade and its cross streets that adjoin the BBCL in consultation with the LPLALC. The assessment would employ historical research, available geotechnical records (if held by Council), landscape evaluation through contour/historical maps and visual inspection and aim to identify broadly where Aboriginal archaeology may survive.

### 9.5 North Bondi engravings

Although the North Bondi golf course rock engravings are located outside the NHL it is recommended that Council should nevertheless manage the site with the same care as if the site did part a of the NHL and thereby Council should prepare an Aboriginal archaeological management plan (AMP) for these very significant engravings. The AMP should aim to digitally document the engraving site and make recommendations on the ongoing management of the site including non-invasive methods for assessment and monitoring of vulnerabilities and deterioration of the engraved motifs.

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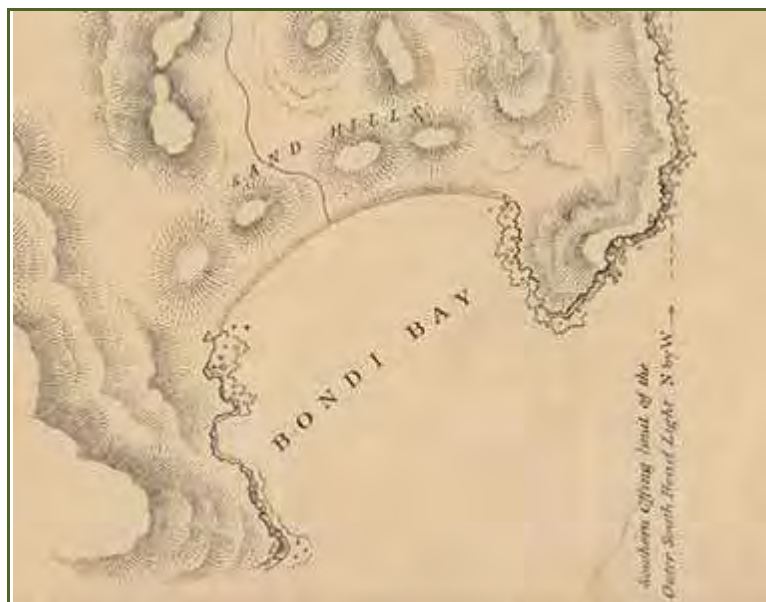
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# Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment

Bondi Pavilion, Bondi Beach, NSW



Report to  
**Waverley Council**

Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology  
24 October 2017

Document control

Project Name	Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Historical Archaeological Assessment. Bondi Pavilion. Bondi Beach, NSW
Client Name	Waverley Council
Recipient	Roy Lumby (TKD Architects)
Status	Final Report (draft 18 May 2016)
Issue Date	24 October
Prepared by	Dominic Steele
Approved by	



### Report summary

*Waverley Council* (Council) proposes to upgrade Bondi Pavilion and its facilities. This Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal (European, and historical) archaeological heritage assessment has been prepared for Council to identify and assess potential archaeological constraints of all periods and types that may exist for the proposal, and recommend how future archaeological heritage impacts can be avoided or mitigated according to the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

No Aboriginal sites or objects have been previously identified to occur within the Bondi Pavilion study area, and none have been located by the current study because no natural ground is exposed. All areas are covered by hard surfaces or landscaping. However, AHIMS records for one archaeological site exposed by storms at Bondi Beach in 1899 (AHIMS #45-6-2169) describe a very large and highly significant Aboriginal archaeological site, and it is possible (if not very likely) that archaeological evidence related to that site originally extended into the area that is now occupied by Bondi Pavilion and its surrounds.

It is understood that the redevelopment proposal will not involve any large-scale subsurface excavation or disturbance of previously undisturbed ground. However, future works may affect pre-existing building construction deposits or bedding fills beneath hard surfaces such as path and courtyard paving or fills making up existing landscaped open-spaces that may also contain redeposited Aboriginal objects originally displaced by widespread sand movement during the construction phases of the Pavilion and been subsequently incorporated into these types of historic-period archaeological contexts.

This report therefore concludes that there exists a possibility that redeposited and out-of-context Aboriginal objects may already be incorporated within the Pavilion building construction deposits, service-lines and within surrounding landscaping fills. Where these deposits are exposed by future work, there is the potential for Aboriginal objects that may be contained within these archaeological contexts to be harmed by the proposal.

Actions to mitigate potential Aboriginal heritage impacts that may result from the proposal include the completion of further Aboriginal community consultation to a level that is beyond the scope of that undertaken with the LPLALC for this due diligence assessment. Wider Aboriginal consultation would identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values that are specifically relevant to the Pavilion study area and complement the identification of the archaeological, and to some degree the Aboriginal historical values described in this report. This would result in the preparation of an Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage assessment (AACHA) for the proposal that will enable Council to both establish how

potential Aboriginal cultural heritage values may be affected by the proposal and to also effectively manage these values on this basis.

This report identifies that Bondi Pavilion is within the State Heritage Resister curtilage of the ‘Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape’ and the works proposed for the upgrade are beyond the extent of works permissible under exemptions issued under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. However, no specific areas of historical-archaeological sensitivity have been identified on the basis of the site history. Namely, no specific activities or long duration use of the site prior to the Pavilion, and likely to have created an archaeological signature, are apparent. Thereby, there are no specific expectations that any significant archaeological features or deposits, either of State or Local significance associated with the history of use of the Pavilion, or landuse activities that predate the construction of the Pavilion, will be exposed in the future either intact (in situ) and/or in highly disturbed archaeological contexts.

It is recommended (in summary) that:

1. An Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Assessment (AACHA) be prepared for the proposed for the Bondi Pavilion improvements and be used to support an application to the *Office of Environment and Heritage* (OEH) for an *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit* (AHIP) under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to manage potential Aboriginal archaeological objects or (less likely) deposits contained within the study area and may be harmed by the proposal. The AACHA and AHIP application should follow the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).
2. An application for an Excavation Permit under s.60 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* should be sought from the *Heritage Council* and be supported by an archaeological research design and management methodology that details how the potential historic heritage resources are to be managed during the course of the project.
3. As a general recommendation, if human burials or bones are exposed, standard stop-work procedures and protocols to contact appropriate authorities should be followed, and if suspected to be of Aboriginal origin, the OEH and the LPLALC will need to be notified of the discovery immediately.
4. The LPLALC be invited to participate in future heritage site inductions with site contractors to ensure on-site personnel are aware of their obligations and requirements in relation to the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* about unexpected finds.
5. The Aboriginal history and archaeology of the place should be interpreted in an appropriate way within the upgraded Pavilion. Some Aboriginal themes and ‘story-lines’ that add to our understanding of the history and significance of Bondi are mentioned in this report and future decisions about interpretation should be developed in consultation with the LPLALC.

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background to this study

Waverley Council (Council) adopted a Plan of Management (PoM) in 2014 for Bondi Park, Beach and Pavilion and that study identified the need to improve Bondi Pavilion and its facilities and the landscape setting of the place. Council more recently adopted a (draft) Conservation Management Plan for Bondi Pavilion and its immediate surrounds (BP CMP) and this plan will continue to guide the management of the heritage significance of the site (TKD Architects 2015). The CMP outlines policies for maintenance and change to existing building fabric, potential adaptive reuses of spaces, and considerations for future development. Most recently, a Masterplan for the proposed upgrade of the Pavilion and its parkland setting (TZKA 2017) has been issued by Council and the changes that are proposed, and their potential Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal archaeological impacts, are evaluated in this report.

Figure 1.1: Location of the study area at Bondi Pavilion and its immediate surrounds (TKDA 2015: Figure 1)

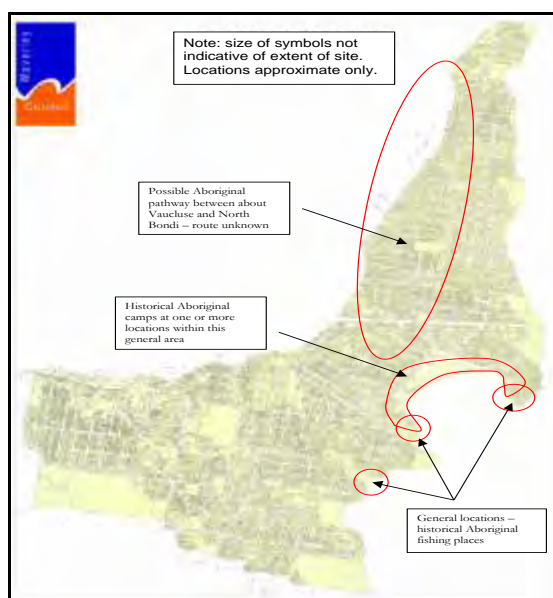


Figure 1.2: Location of the study area at Bondi Pavilion and its immediate surrounds (TKDA 2016: Figure 2)



Looking first at the documented and potential Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage sensitivity of Bondi Beach as a whole, it is probable that the progressive foreshore landscape improvement and building work undertaken from the turn of the twentieth century had an extensive (but undocumented) Aboriginal archaeological impact. Nevertheless, a number of Aboriginal heritage sites survive at Bondi. Most notable of these are an extensive series of rock engravings dominated by depictions of marine animals that in their elevated position on the cliff-top at North Bondi command panoramic coastal views. These engravings and other Aboriginal heritage sites in Waverley LGA, including known locations in the landscape with Aboriginal historical significance but with no associated or likely surviving physical remains, are collectively managed by Council in consultation with the *La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LPLALC)*.

1.3: Elevated headlands for spotting migratory shoal fish and whales passing by Bondi Bay or entering the coves further south will have been an important part of traditional Aboriginal fishing culture and adds an intangible historical layer to the Aboriginal significance of Bondi Beach (DSCA 2009)



Bondi Beach itself, comprising the sand strip contained between the two headlands and extending from the surf zone to beyond Campbell Parade, also has very high Aboriginal cultural heritage significance and a commensurate level of (scientific) archaeological sensitivity. This is because of the discovery in 1899 of a very large and complex Aboriginal archaeological campsite that was exposed for a short time at the *'back of the beach'* by massive coastal storms. It was observed spread over *'two acres'*, and a collection of some of the larger and *'recognisable'* stone artefacts was made from the *'workshops'* before the old land surface and its archaeological record was reburied by shifting sand and ultimately covered over by development. The Aboriginal objects collected from this site, and others also from Bondi and held in the *Australian Museum* have considerable Aboriginal cultural heritage significance and scientific value.

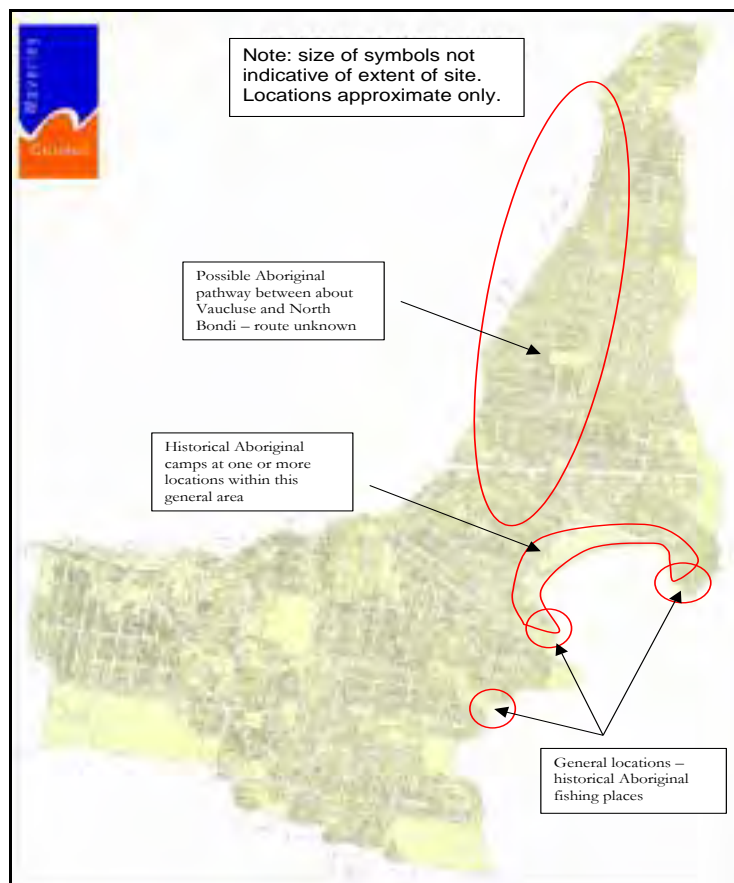
The Bondi Beach Aboriginal heritage finds were considered in 1899 to be one of the most important ‘*ethnological*’ discoveries made in NSW for many years. This was primarily because the archaeological materials featured so prominently a distinctive type of artefact then referred to as ‘*chipped-back surgical knives*’ (Etheridge & Whitelegge 1907:233) that had not previously been found in such quantity along the NSW coast. Their prevalence at Bondi reinforced a ‘*most remarkable feature*’ displayed by the items which was their more or less uniform shape, irrespective of size. This provided one of a number of ways for future archaeologists to compare and contrast new and similarly-looking archaeological finds with those from Bondi as they became increasingly discovered and described from elsewhere across Australia from the turn of the twentieth century.

Bondi has subsequently become the archaeological ‘type-site’ after which these artefact types are now called (‘Bondi points’) and these distinctive items are now well recognised and often found frequently in excavated archaeological sites along the eastern seaboard. Some of these sites with Bondi points have been dated and they provide a chronology for the introduction, ‘peak’ production/use period, timeframe of decline and then (archaeological) disappearance of this significant implement type noting it was not seen made or used by Sydney Aboriginal people at ‘Contact’. Ongoing research also shows Bondi points, with their distinctive shape and method of manufacture and duplication, represents an Aboriginal archaeological ‘cultural marker’ and in this respect the Bondi Aboriginal archaeology has had a significant influence on how archaeologists have used stone tools to explain aspects of past Aboriginal life and record changes over time via the archaeological record.

As a consequence of this pre-existing Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity that applies to the place as a whole, previous Aboriginal heritage assessments of land change in general at Bondi Beach have most often taken a ‘precautionary’ position. It is frequently concluded that although the beachfront and areas at the back of the beach where the now reburied Aboriginal archaeological land surfaces were exposed have undergone widespread change through development since 1899, the place nevertheless retains considerable potential to contain further buried Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits.

Within this context, this assessment demonstrates that while the proposed Bondi Pavilion upgrades are not likely to expose unmodified subsurface sand profiles with potential to contain in situ archaeological deposits, there is a probability Aboriginal objects may occur beneath the depth of development impact in any given locality where undisturbed subsurface sand continues below this level. This assessment also identifies circumstances where it is expected Aboriginal objects may occur within the Bondi Pavilion study area itself that include a range of historic-period archaeological contexts such incorporated within building construction deposits and service-line fills, and where deposits already containing Aboriginal objects are incorporated within park landscaping materials.

1.3: Elevated headlands for spotting migratory shoal fish and whales passing by Bondi Bay or entering the coves further south will have been an important part of traditional Aboriginal fishing culture and adds an intangible historical layer to the Aboriginal significance of Bondi Beach (DSCA 2009)



Later discussion places the location of Bondi Pavilion in context as being situated within and forming a part of a larger Aboriginal heritage landscape that occurs at Bondi Beach and which possesses high Aboriginal cultural, historical and archaeological significance and sensitivity. To this end, the BP CMP recommends that an Aboriginal archaeological assessment be prepared to inform the Pavilion upgrade proposal. The study should follow the methods required by the 'Due Diligence Code of Practice' (DECCW 2010) and establish whether an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is required under the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974*.

With regard to the non-Aboriginal ('European', and historical) archaeological heritage significance of the Pavilion, the majority of the original building fabric survives intact, but with intrusive additions and modifications of low heritage significance. One of the most extensive changes to the place since its construction occurred in the 1970s with the removal of small timber-constructed changing cubicles that formerly filled the building's courtyards. The BP CMP study area has not generally been identified previously as a site that is likely to contain significant historical-archaeological resources and 'relics'



predating the Pavilion on the basis of the site history. However, there is a possibility that historical archaeological features and deposits may survive and the BP CMP likewise recommends that an historical (European) archaeological assessment of the site should be prepared, and if identified as needed, an Excavation Permit be sought under Section 60 or Section 140 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

This combined Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal (European) historical-archaeological assessment has been prepared for Council in consultation with the LPLALC to identify and detail known and potential archaeological constraints of all periods and types that may exist for the proposed Bondi Pavilion upgrade project, and to guide how future changes at the place can be appropriately managed to avoid and/or mitigate any future archaeological heritage impacts according to the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

## 1.2 Bondi Pavilion upgrade proposal

### 1.2.1 Study area for this assessment

The study area for this assessment is restricted to the Bondi Pavilion building itself, its bordering pathways and semi-circular paved area located to the north of the building, and the paved area in front of the building to the south to the edge of Queen Elizabeth Drive. As a result, a number of Aboriginal archaeological issues that are introduced and evaluated within this report relate more specifically to, and are investigated in more detail within, a separate CMP that is also being currently prepared by Council for the wider Bondi Beach cultural landscape that takes in the entire beach and its headlands.

Figure 1.4: Bondi Pavilion site plan (Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects 2016)



### 1.2.2 Proposal

The Bondi Pavilion upgrade aims to reinforce its significance as a grand entrance and a pedestrian thoroughfare to the beach, and its improvement will involve work to the rear of the Pavilion and courtyard, opening the auditorium, removing the amphitheatre and opening up some walls to achieve a physical and visual connection from Campbell Parade through to the water. The proposal also involves the re-landscaping and configuration of the Pavilion’s courtyards and reuse of some internal spaces, upgrading toilets and amenities within the building and upgrading the paving, lighting and landscape as well as essential building repair and conservation works (Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects 2016).

Figure 1.5: Existing ground floor plan (Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects 2016)

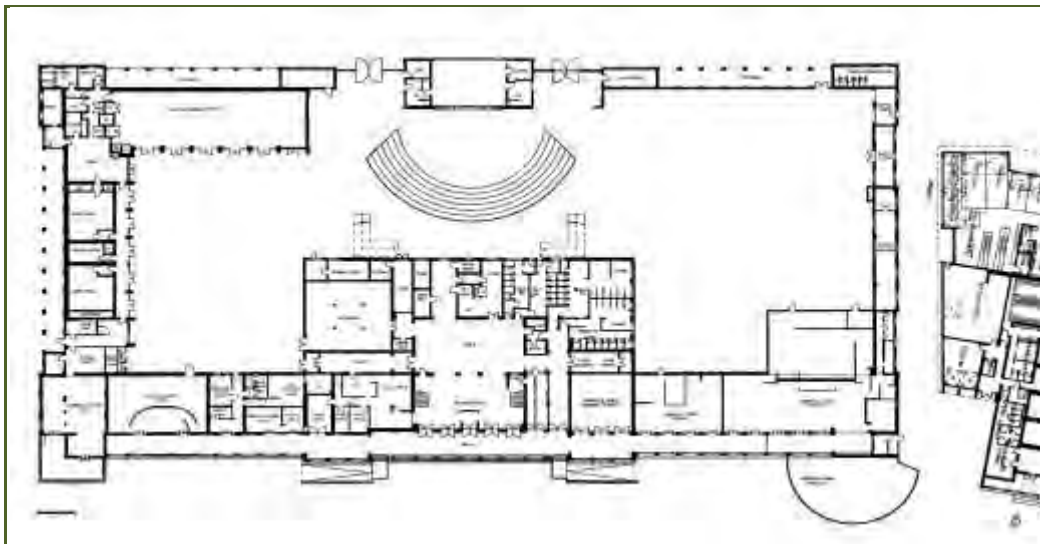


Figure 1.6: Ground floor demolition plan (Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects 2016)

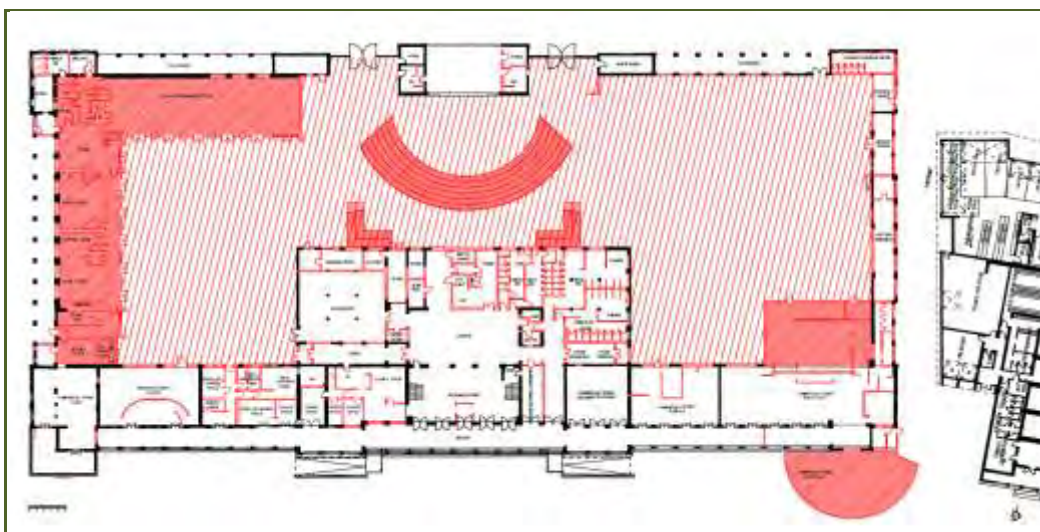
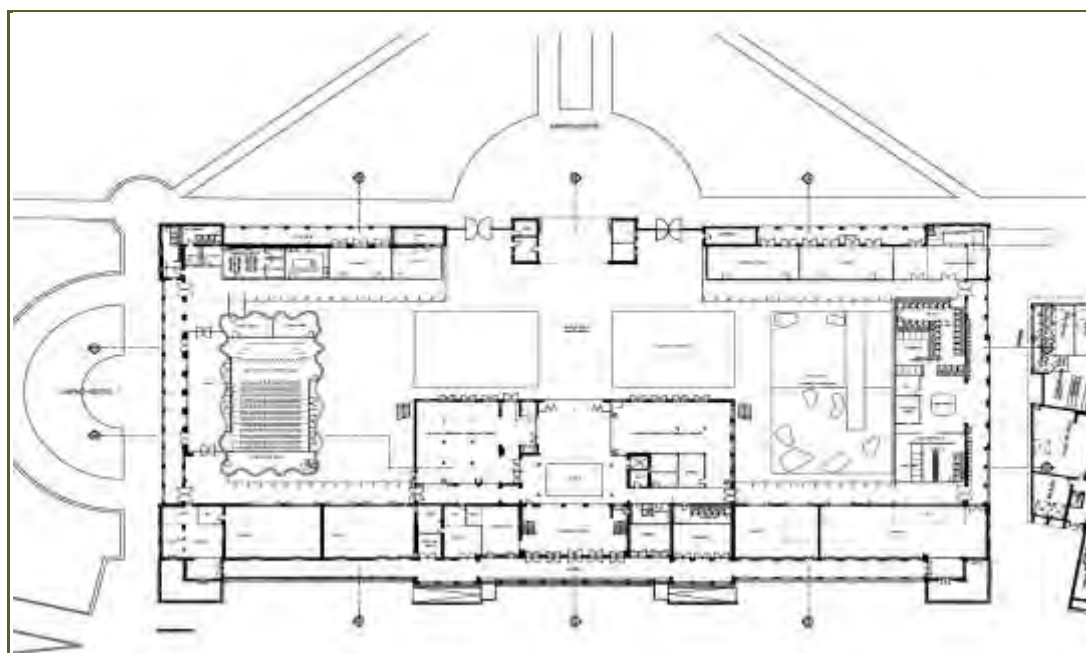


Figure 1.7: Proposed new ground floor plan (Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects 2016)



### 1.3 Statutory heritage context and controls

#### 1.3.1 Commonwealth legislation

##### *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*

This Act aims to preserve and protect areas and objects of particular significance to Aboriginal people. The processes for the protection of a threatened place are outlined in a gazetted Ministerial Declaration and can include the preclusion of development. This Act can also protect objects by Declaration, in particular Aboriginal skeletal remains. Although this is a Federal Act, it can also be invoked on a State level. The Pavilion site is not affected by the operations of this Act

##### *The Native Title Act 1993*

The *Native Title Act 1993* provides recognition and protection for native title and the Act established the National Native Title Tribunal (NTT) to administer native title claims to rights and interests over lands and water by Aboriginal people. The site is not subject to an Aboriginal Land Claim under this Act.

##### *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act (1999)*

Bondi Beach is a place of National heritage significance and recognised on the *National Heritage List*. Bondi Pavilion is located within this curtilage.

Figure 1.8: 'Bondi Beach' listing map on the National Heritage List (Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects 2016: Figure 1)



### 1.3.2 State legislation and heritage controls

#### *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

The *Office of Environment and Heritage* (OEH) has the responsibility for the protection and management of Aboriginal sites, objects, places and cultural heritage values in NSW. These values are managed through the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) which was amended through the *NPW Act Amendment Act 2010*. Key points of the amended Act are as follows:

- Part 6 of the NPW Act provides protection for Aboriginal objects and places by establishing offences of harm which is defined to mean destroying, defacing, damaging or moving an Aboriginal object. Aboriginal objects are defined by the NPW Act as *'any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft for sale) relating to Indigenous and non-European habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains'*.
- A declared Aboriginal Place this is of special significance to Aboriginal people and culture is a statutory concept (and may or may not contain Aboriginal objects as physical/tangible evidence) and protection provided to Aboriginal objects and places applies irrespective of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure.

- It is an offence (under Section 86) of the NPW Act to knowingly, or cause or permit harm to an Aboriginal object (or place) without prior written consent from the DG of the OEH. Defences and exemptions to the offence of harm under the NPW Act include that harm is carried out under the terms and conditions of an approved Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

#### *Heritage Act 1977*

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* provides protection to items of environmental heritage in NSW. Under the Act, 'items of environmental heritage' include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic values. State significant items are listed on the *NSW State Heritage Register* (SHR) and are given automatic protection under the Act against any activities that may damage an item or affect their heritage significance. The SHR and *State Heritage Inventory* (SHI) are maintained by the Heritage Division of the OEH. Items on the SHI include heritage items identified in LEP schedules by local councils and items identified by state government agencies in their Section 170 registers. Approval under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* is required for building works to items listed on the SHR but not for items listed on the SHI only or an LEP schedule (which require Council approval).

Bondi Pavilion is within the curtilage of the SHR listed 'Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape'. Under Section 57 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* approval is required for works to an item listed on the SHR and Division 3, Subdivision 1, sets out the method by which approval should be sought and determinations made. For works to a SHR item, a Section 60 application must be made for works that are not exempt under Section 57(2) of the Act.

The general archaeological provisions of the Act apply to the Pavilion site including Section 146 which requires that disturbance or excavation of land containing or likely to contain 'relics' can only take place when an excavation permit has been granted by the *NSW Heritage Council*. Exemptions have been gazetted for the 'Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape' that include those that allow Council to manage and maintain the precinct and undertake temporary events. These Standard Exemptions include works for (A) *General maintenance and repair*, (B) *maintenance of services and utilities*, (C) *management of lawns, recreation areas and plantings*, (D) *management of interpretive, information and directional signage*, (E) *management of artworks, statues and monuments*, and (F) *activities undertaken in accordance with the Bondi Park and Pavilion Plan of Management*.

The proposed works at Bondi Pavilion are beyond the extent of works permissible under the general exemptions or site specific exemptions and an approval under Section 60 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* is required (Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects 2016).

### *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) establishes a framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the land use planning and development consent process. The *EP&A Act* requires that environmental impacts be considered prior to land development; this includes impacts on cultural heritage items and places as well as archaeological sites and deposits. The *EP&A Act* also requires that Local Governments prepare planning instruments, such as *Local Environmental Plans* (LEPs) and *Development Control Plans* (DCPs), in accordance with the *Act* to provide guidance on the level of environmental assessment required.

The study area falls within the boundaries of the Waverley LGA and is covered under the provisions of WLEP 2012 and WDCP 2012.

#### 1.3.3 *Local controls - Waverley LEP 2012*

Bondi Pavilion is listed as a heritage item (I124) of State Heritage Significance in *Schedule 5* of the WLEP 2012 and is within the curtilage of 'Bondi Beach' (Item 193) which is also identified as having National heritage significance on the same schedule. 'Bondi Beach and Park' is also listed as having local heritage significance (Item I503).

## 1.4 Heritage assessment and reporting methods

The following heritage recording, assessment and reporting guidelines and standards have been considered in preparing this report:

- Australia ICOMOS. 2002 (Revised). The Burra Charter. The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. Australia ICOMOS Inc.
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water. 2010 (September). Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales. DECCW. Sydney.
- NSW Heritage Office. 1996. NSW Heritage Manual. NSW Heritage Office and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. Sydney (revised 2002).
- NSW Heritage Office. 2001. Assessing Heritage Significance. A NSW Heritage Manual Update. NSW Heritage Office. Sydney.
- NSW Heritage Office. 2009. Levels of Heritage Significance. NSW Heritage Office, NSW Department of Planning. Sydney.

The following documents have been reviewed as part of this study:

- Tanner Kibble Denton Architects (TKD). June 2015. Bondi Pavilion and Surroundings. Conservation Management Plan. Report prepared for Waverley Council.

- Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects (TZGA). March 2016. March 2015. Bondi Pavilion Upgrade and Conservation Project. Concept Design Report (Revision A). Report prepared for Waverley Council.
- Mayne-Wilson & Associates (MWA). November 2012. Bondi Park and Pavilion Heritage Review. Report prepared for Waverley Council.

In addition to a general literature review (primary and secondary historical and archaeological sources), research has also included online searches of the following sources and visits to the following libraries:

- NSW State Library (Mitchell Library and State Reference Library)
- Caroline Simpson Library (Sydney Living Museums)
- University of Sydney Fisher Library
- (OEH) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System)
- National Library of Australia (Trove online)
- State Heritage Inventory (online)
- State Heritage Register (online)

### 1.5 Aboriginal consultation

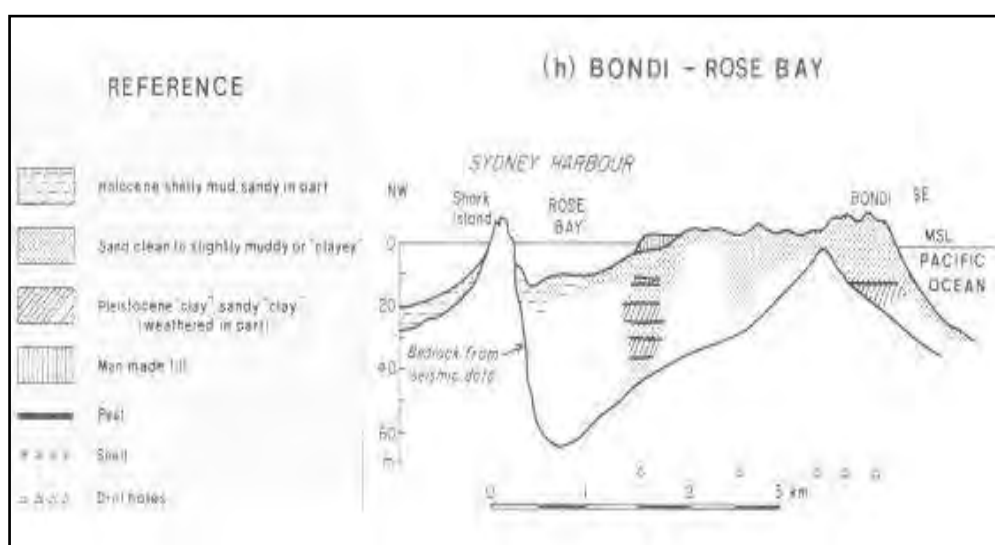
This report has been prepared in consultation with the *La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council*. A copy of this report has been forwarded to the LPLALC cultural heritage advisor Mr Dave Ingrey for review and comment.

## 2.0 Environmental context and landscape history

### 2.1 Geology, topography, drainage, vegetation and soils

The topography and terrain of Bondi originally consisted of undulating low hills with high transgressive sand dunes that formed the southern stretching from Bondi through to Rose Bay. In the country in between, ridges and hills were often bare or sparsely vegetated exposed sandstone, and were crossed by numerous lagoons and creeks that existed behind the crescent shaped beach in low lying areas. Two or three of these creeks discharged across the beach to the ocean.

Figure 2.1: Geological cross section of the Bondi-Rose Bay sand dunes (Roy 1983:79)



Bondi Beach is unusual in that the bay is exceptionally wide, was historically backed by an extensive development of sand hills, and faces south-east instead of due east (MWA 2009:9). The Ben Buckler headland to the north forms the eastern boundary of the approximately 800m wide south-facing Bondi Bay and McKenzie Point forms the southern extent of the beach to the south. The beach is about 900m long and curves between the two headlands and is today backed by a continuous seawall.

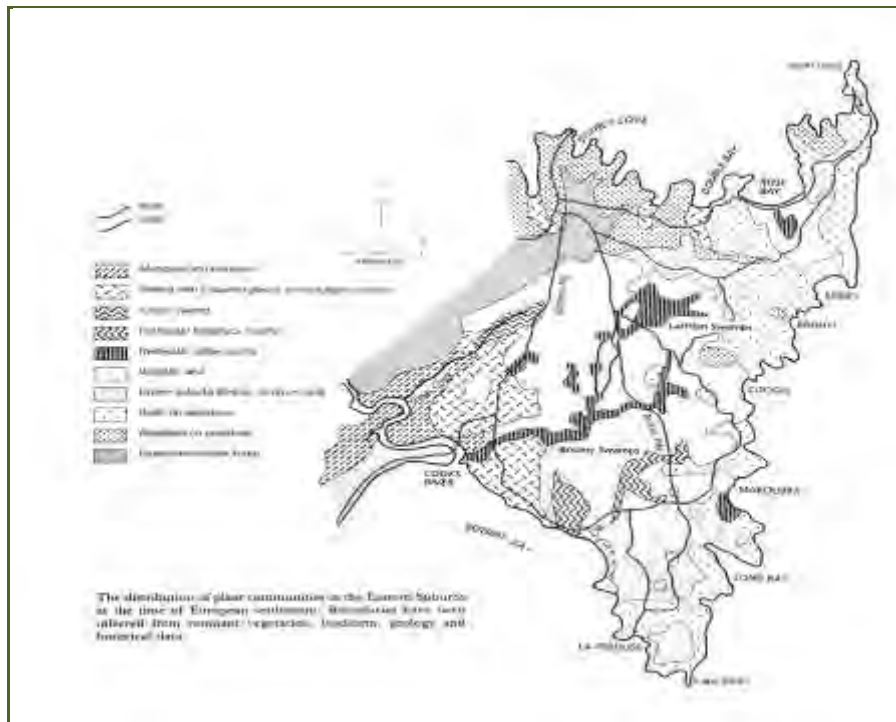
The beach (like the whole of the Waverley LGA) is underlain by Hawkesbury Sandstone and is overlain by deposits of shelly marine sands along the coastal strip and marine derived fine to medium grained windblown sands that occur further back from the coast and primarily in a roughly one kilometre wide band situated between Bondi and Rose Bay. Prior to European settlement the land between the two comprised a series of fresh water lagoons and rolling to undulating sand dunes and swales of varying heights and configurations. On the basis of the seemingly continuous nature of the sand body between the ocean at Bondi and the harbour at Rose Bay, it was previously thought this geological feature represented an old landscape 'outlet' to the harbour (Dowd 1959:47). However, more recent geological



analysis shows such a channel never existed and the sand dunes are actually divided by a sandstone ridge located between Waverley and Dover Heights and form essentially the same catchments as today (Roy 1983:76). The sand body is at least 25m deep above sandstone bedrock around Bondi and up to 43m deep at Rose Bay (Roy 1983:75). The exact composition, nature and age of the sand is unknown but it would appear to broadly consist of an Pleistocene age substrate (potentially hundreds of thousands of years old) that is overlain by late Pleistocene or early Holocene windblown sands derived from the Botany Bay dune field situated to the south (15-20m below current sea level) and is capped by more recent Holocene sands.

The back-dune areas of Bondi Beach originally had a series of freshwater lagoons fed by at least two (and possibly more) creeks that flowed down eastwards from the sandstone ridge along which Old South Head Road was aligned. Some of the lagoons appear to have been small and seasonal, enlarging and disappearing quickly depending on rainfall, however others were large and permanent and lined with Ti-Trees and Swamp Oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) and Wallum Banksia (*Banksia aemula*) and Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*). Some of the lagoons were situated some distance inland, one formerly present in approximately the location of present day Hall Street and Jacques Avenue, and it eventually drained out in the southern end of Bondi Beach in a similar way to the creeks did drained at Bronte and Tamarama (Mayne Wilson 2009:10). The fate of these lagoons is discussed shortly.

Figure 2.2: Likely vegetation communities in eastern Sydney in 1788 (Benson & Howell 1990)



Inland and south of Bondi the country around today's Centennial Parklands originally formed part of a large complex of sand dunes and wetlands which extended north-south from Botany Bay between the coast and Shea's Creek to the west (Benson & Howell 1990:90-92). The wetlands and swamps were progressively dammed and embanked between 1860 and 1875. Originally they formed smaller, less permanent expanses of open water than today, with patches of tall emergent sedges, fringed with zones of shorter sedges and occasional shrubs. The dominant vegetation of the coastal strip around Bondi is likely to have comprised low coastal heath and small leaved plant species adapted to the prevalent sandstone and sandy soils within a broader dry sclerophyll open woodland with fragmented stands of Paper-bark swamp. Dominant species according to Chapman and Murphy (1989) would have included *Angophora costata* (Smooth-barked apple), *Leptospermum laevigatum* (Coast Tea-tree), *Banksia serrata* (Old Man Banksia), *Banksia ericifolia* (Heath Banksia), *Casuarina* sp. (different species of She-oaks), and Broad-leaved Paper-bark. The scrubby understorey would have included bracken, Christmas bush, Woody pear, and *Acacia*.

Coastal beaches like Bondi with freshwater creeks and lagoons (with fish, birds and eels) and easy access to intertidal rock platforms (with shell fish) and deeper water (for fishing and canoe travel) are likely to have been the focus of activity when people were in the vicinity. People are also likely to have used the headlands and coastal gullies as travel 'corridors' when moving from the coastal strip into the hinterland around the Centennial Parklands area, the 'Botany Swamps' and La Perouse to the south, and harbour foreshore areas around South Head and Rose Bay to the north.

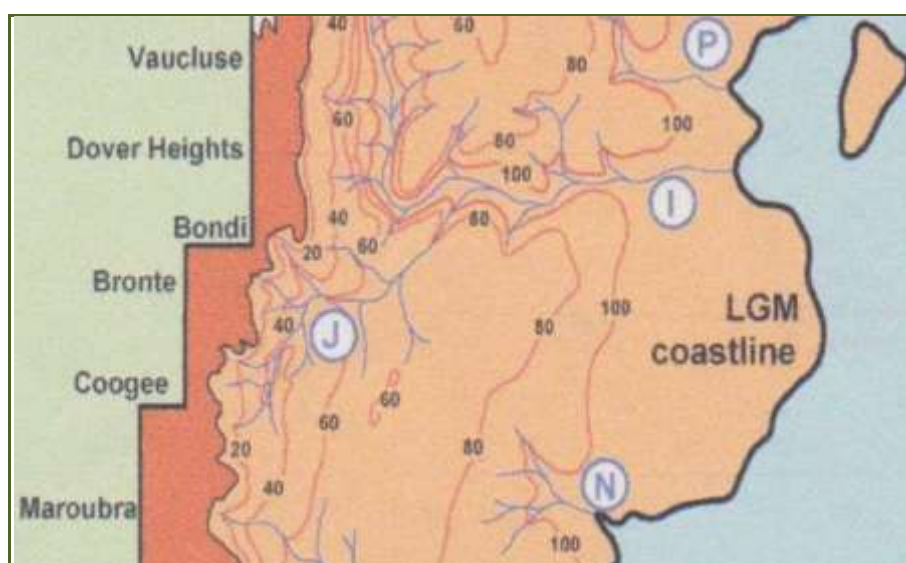
## 2.2 Changes at Bondi over time

It is possible the archaeology exposed at Bondi in 1899 related to Aboriginal peoples use of the place when sea levels and the location, nature and configuration of the coastal strip was different than today. Albani et al (2015) report detailed geophysical survey of the inner continental slope off Sydney during the late 1970s and 1980s aimed to establish the subsea-eastward extent of coastal paleo-drainage lines, the end-Pleistocene coastline of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), and the distribution of sedimentary sequences on the shelf (ibid: 681-682).

At the LGM sea-level is believed to have been -120m lower than present, where the innermost part of the shelf to extend from the shore to about -60m, the mid-outer continental at depths between -60m and -140m and the upper continental slope is east of the shelf break at -140 to -150m. The western edge at -120m is interpreted to mark the LGM sea-level low-stand, and thus the -120m bedrock contour is inferred to have been the coastline at that time (c.20 ka). In addition to numerous small-scale Paleodrainages on the shelf itself east of the present cliffed coastline, and within the modern estuaries (where they constitute second and lower-order channels), the bedrock morphology of the inner shelf

and adjacent hinterland is dominated by four first order drainage lines that are delineated sequentially from north to south as the Hawkesbury (B), Parramatta (I), Botany (L) and Georges (M) paleo-watercourses. Of relevance to the current study is the valley of the Parramatta paleo-watercourse (Port Jackson) which is a narrow symmetrical gorge that opens seaward at -100m. Its path is sinuous east of South Head and it turns abruptly south and continues to the northeast of Bondi where it turns sharply to the east, and 4km off shore it is joined from the south by the northeast trending gorge of the small Bondi paleo-watercourse (J).

Figure 2.3: Bedrock geomorphology of the shelf at the time of the LGM (ca 20 ka) showing the paleo-shoreline at -120m below the present sea-level and the drainage features that were active at that time (Albani et al 2015: Figure 3).



### 2.2.1 Prehistoric climate change

The last 'Ice Age' occurred during the end of the Pleistocene and extended from about 110,000 years ago to about 10,000 years before present (BP). The coldest periods were during the LGM when sea levels had been rapidly dropping from about 35,000 years ago and the Sydney coastline was located about 15km to 20km to the east of its present position. When Aboriginal people first arrived in the Sydney region c.30,000 years ago sea levels were about 120m lower than today and the cliffs at Bondi formed part of an abrupt escarpment overlooking a wide coastal plain. The climate at the time was about 6 degrees cooler than today and while open forests and woodlands with cold tolerant species thrived trees soon declined and grasses increased as the LGM (24,000-17,000 BP) approached. During the LGM it was about 8 degrees colder than present, drier and windier and precipitation was 50% lower than present. Vegetation was semi-arid grassland where shrubs and herbs were restricted and tree dominated vegetation was reduced to survival in refugia. (Stockton and Merriman 2009:28-29).

Between c.17,000-11,500 BP there was a relatively rapid recovery in temperature punctuated with especially dry conditions at 14,000 BP. As conditions became more hospitable vegetation communities dominated by trees re-expanded during the early Holocene when it was warmer and wetter than present and tree dominated vegetation communities increased with the expansion of wet sclerophyll and rainforest. The mid Holocene (6.5,000-5,000 BP) appears to have oscillated between wetter and drier periods, but vegetation became more open (less dominated by trees) and heath lands expanded over time. The evidence is equivocal whether Aboriginal landscape management regimes explain why firing becomes more of a feature in the landscape around this time.

### 2.2.2 Historic transformations – how and when did the Bondi disappear?

There are a few images of the sand hills that were originally at Bondi, with lagoons and streams behind them in swales and low topography or how they were progressively drained, filled and built over:

*'In my younger days Bondi was plentifully supplied with water in the form of lagoons which extended from the north of the sand dunes to well over to the Old South Head Road. I remember the largest of them, near Barracluff Park....They dried up somewhat in the summer, but in the winter, and after heavy rain, the country would be covered – the lagoons linking up with one another and forming one large sheet of water. I have rowed a canvas dinghy...over the present Murrivier Road and adjacent streets. We struck a submerged stump one day...it was retrieved when the lagoon dried up. Another lagoon was situated to the left of the sewer line, one edge of the water lapping the edge of the ever-encroaching sandhill, the other shore lost among the trunks of the big ti-trees and undergrowth...This lagoon was the first to dry up and disappear, the sewer track draining it and the sand gradually smothering the site.'* ('Plugshell' 1924a).

Figure 2.4: Bondi Park in c.1885 showing indicatively) a large lagoon set back from the beach at the eastern end of Hall Street and drainage flowing south and east from higher elevations (TKD Architects 2015: Figure 9)



Figure 2.5: Pencil sketch of the lagoon on the O' Brien estate and near "The Homestead" at Bondi Beach drawn by Sophia O'Brien (daughter). The location of the lagoon was approximately on Jacques Avenue and was filled in c.1908 (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.6: Mobile sand dunes in the 1900s in the area of future Campbell Parade. The wavering black lines were brush fencing used to contain drifting sand and shape the sand hills (MWA 2012: Figure 3). This area was the first in NSW for experiments in sand stabilisation using brush fences and introduced plants. Most of this drift sand was removed by mining and 'flattening' the dunes behind the beach for subdivision and housing



Figure 2.7: Undated view but probably dating in the 1900s with brush fencing and possibly plantings used to contain drifting sand (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.8: 1890s view of a large lagoon at the back of the beach (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.9: Undated view of another lagoon at Bondi (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.10: Dune fields at Bondi in 1875 showing a partly vegetated parabolic dune at the north end of the bay. The dune fields that originally extended from the back of the beach to Rose Bay originally had large and small freshwater lagoons trapped in dune swales (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.11: Bondi Beach sand dunes – c.1900 – (windswept) Ti trees and scrub (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.12: Livestock grazing contributed to the destabilise the vegetation and extensive sand drifts are recorded between Bondi Beach and Bellevue Hill (2-3 km inland) by the 1920s (Waverley Image Library)





Figure 2.13: Bondi Beach sand dunes and grassy knolls – c.1900 (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.14: Bondi Beach sand dunes and Ti trees – c.1900 (Waverley Image Library)



Figure 2.15: Undated image showing the process of swamp drainage in progress for the construction of the Bondi Ocean Outfall Sewer (Water NSW)



Figure 2.16: This section of the Bondi Ocean Outfall Sewer was oviform and brick lined (Water NSW)

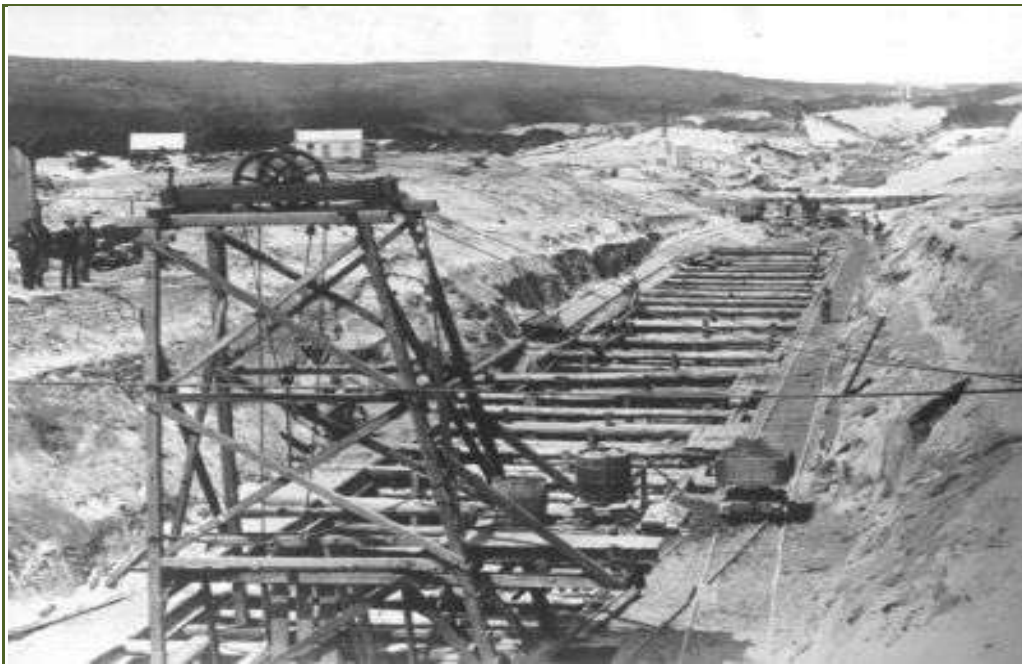


Figure 2.17: 'Barber Greene' excavator in operation on Campbell Parade, North Bondi. This undated image gives an idea of the types and depths of disturbance of the uppermost sandy soil profiles that are currently sealed below the current alignment of Campbell Parade (Waverley Image Library)



While the historical location of some of the larger lagoons are known, or can be reasonably inferred from historical maps of plans of varying purpose and hence accuracy, some were small and most likely seasonal/ephemeral in nature and therefore their locations and extent would have varied over time dependant on prevailing climatic conditions.

Nevertheless, it would appear likely that lagoons may, at one time or another, have been present across most of the sand body within the Waverley LGA. An article titled 'Bonds Beach's lagoons' published by Waverley Library from Local History source material in 2011 cites an 1889 Water Board map that shows specific locations for the lagoons:

- Near the corner of the present day Lamrock and Jacques Avenue
- Between Simpson Street and Hall Street across Wellington Street
- Between Warners Avenue, Blair Street and Beach Road
- Near Old South Head Road and Warners Avenue
- Between Hastings Parade and Wairoa Avenue

The images below show that the former lagoon in approximately the location of present day Hall Street and Jacques Avenue for example originally drained out in the southern end of Bondi Beach. The present southern entry to Queen Elizabeth Drive (originally Marine Drive) was located close to the original creek outlet which has since been captured in a concrete drainage channel that empties at the extreme southern end of the beach.

Figure 2.18: Undated subdivision survey of Bondi Estate (Reuss) with the yellow arrows marking creeks, the red arrows indicating lagoons, and the black arrow marking the lagoon's outlet to the sea (MWA 2009: Figure 6)



Figure 2.19: The contours on this 1923 survey plan show the 'valley' (black arrow) where the original outlet from the creeks and lagoons entered the sea (MWA 2009: Figure 7)

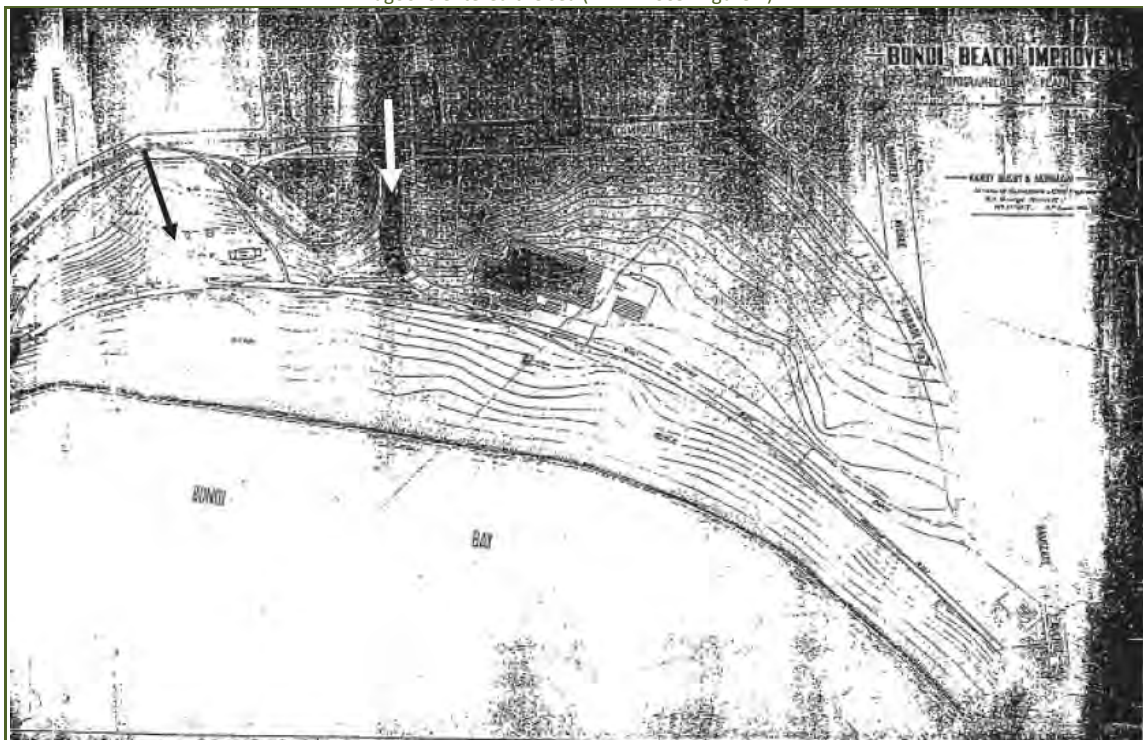
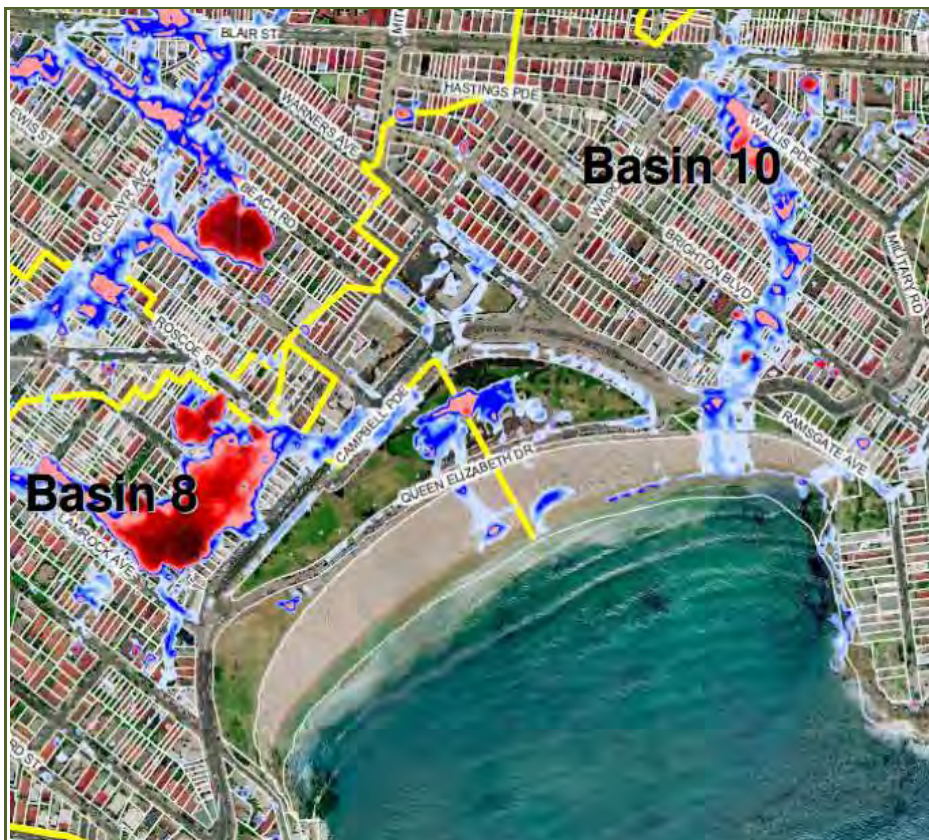


Figure 2.20: Contour plan with arrows indicating creek lines and sites of original lagoons (MWA 2012: Figure 7)



Figure 2.21: Natural detention basins behind Bondi Beach (Civic Design 2007)



It is likely that the lagoons at Bondi began to disappear from the early 1880s. A report of work in progress on the main Bondi sewer in 1883 (Illawarra Mercury, **4 September 1883**) makes references to the need for a second vertical shaft to be sunk into the rock about 10 chains (200m) from the initial tunnel and cliff outfall point ‘with a view of getting under the sand’ to facilitate the execution of the work. About 760m had to be tunnelled through the sandy length of the lagoon and would be finished when the tunnel through sand and under Old South Head Road was finished. At least two large lagoons in North Bondi were drained around this time when a trench was built through to Rose Bay, and later other swamps, ponds and lagoons were drained for roads and land subdivision for housing.

### 2.3 Aboriginal resource markers

A number of geological formations stand out in the landscape at Bondi and include basaltic dykes on the cliffs at North Bondi identifiable by their distinctive ‘baked’ columnar sandstone form. The volcanic columns also heated surrounding rock and created localised quartzite material that was utilised by Aboriginal people in the past for the manufacture of flaked and ground stone artefacts<sup>1</sup> and basalt for the manufacture of axe/hatchet heads. It appears that prismatic and hardened sandstones are almost conclusive evidence of proximity of basalt (or its decomposed clays). Other basaltic (and some dolerite) dykes are also exposed along the coastal cliffs predominantly trending in an east-south-east direction extending from Perouse to Port Kembla and further north, and some of these may have been exposed and accessible to people in the past during times of lower sea levels. Small dykes are also at Long Bay and Maroubra Bay, and at the head of a small bay (indentation on the coast) between these two bays and these dykes run into the sea. O’Brien (1923) made the following observations about ‘Merriverie’ which is well known basalt formation (and also a notorious rock fishing spot) that is known as ‘Murriverie Pass’ on the cliffs to the North of Ben Buckler:

*‘I know of five Basalt formations commencing with this and ending at Port Hacking. But this is unique, for the reason that the weather has eaten into the centre of it. It is mostly a perpendicular cliff over one hundred feet deep and about a quarter of a mile long. ‘Mud Island’, a rock in the sea a few yards to the east of the main mass is basalt. Another most attractive feature of this formation [are] several columns of heat-hardened freestone several feet long, the outer ones of which you could remove from the mass.*

*I found blackfellow’s skulls and tomohawks there [Merriverie] and it seems to me ‘Merriverie’ is the only basalt formation showing the basalt that the tomohawks must have come from’.*

An earlier article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (26 May 1865) adds further details context to O’Brien’s observations of these distinctive basaltic formations:

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<sup>1</sup> High-quality quartzite also is known from a site between Long Bay and Maroubra Bay.

*There is a mass of white rock seen from the neighbourhood of Sydney, on the top of the cliffs beyond Bondi Bay, which offers one of the most striking examples. Again, near Botany North Head, on the cliff near the old station, there is another example. At Five Dock is a third, near Pyrmont there is a fourth, on Lane Cove a fifth, and at Waverley there are traces of a sixth. In all these places the sandstones have undergone a great change, and have become prismatic.*

*In some spots no trace exists visibly of the existence of basalt or other trappean rock. But in others there is open to inspection a clear contact between them. Thus, below the cliff near Bondi, which is a little north of that: commonly known as 'Ben Buckler' (but which Mr. Hill tells me is a corruption of a native word, 'Baalbucklea'), viz., at Merriberi, a mass of basalt appears at the sea level and for a considerable height above; so that it is an intrusive dyke which only forms a boss in that vicinity.*

The basalt O'Brien saw had almost been completely quarried but some of the exposed sandstone that survives is light coloured, tessellated and columnar in shape as a result of steam venting upwards which has cooked the sandstone. Dowd (1959:290) noted in the late 1950s that much of the basalt had been altered to form 'soapy clay' known as 'Kaolin'. The locality is now a protected geological site.

Another description also suggests the likely importance of these geological formations to the traditional Aboriginal owners of Waverley (Milne Curran 1899 cited in Waugh 2001:82).

*'Between Long Bay and Maroubra Bay, a dyke enters the sea. Here the sandstones have been altered into the most perfect examples of quartzite that are known about Sydney. The aboriginals were aware of the nature of this stone, and used it to make skinning-knives. This quartzite is, in places, stained by iron oxides to a rich chocolate brown, and on first sight resembles the iron-stained quartz of some auriferous quartz reefs. Even miners have been misled by this similarity, and worked here for some time sinking and driving. Their efforts were not rewarded with any success. In working they came onto the hard and undecomposed basalt. A considerable quantity of this rock is, at the time of writing, strewn about the old shaft, but will soon disappear before the demands of museums and private collectors.*

*Between this point and the north head of Maroubra Bay seven dykes may be found, varying in thickness from one to five feet, all running east and west. The rocky headlands to the north and south of Maroubra are thus notable for the number of igneous dykes that intrude the sandstones'.*

Other resources potentially available in the vicinity of the study area and possibly associated with volcanic dykes include ochre and particularly fine sources of clay that was used as pigment for painted and stencilled art, for body painting and hair adornment, for staining and colouring skins (shields etc) and weapons, and for cooking bases for use in canoes. Bursill et al (2001:20) notes that Sydney Aboriginal women and men regularly used highly prized, local white clay for decoration or ceremonial purposes where Dharawal clan designs were mainly geometric with secret or symbolic function. The

authors also state ‘it was a very valuable commodity so was traded across other language groups by the older women’ and also used as a curative medicine. It is possible that high quality ochre-clay was obtained regularly from clay beds in the swamps and lagoons and also possibly in specific locations associated with the near-surface alignment of former dyke pipes and potentially large areas surrounding the immediate surface outcrop expressions of these volcanic vents.

## 2.4 Geotechnical information

Douglas Partners (November 2015) have reported on the results of geotechnical investigation for the Pavilion upgrade project that provide information on subsurface conditions. The *Sydney 1:100 000 Geological Series Sheet* indicates the site is underlain by medium to fine grained marine sand with podsols that form part of a transgressive dune system deposited by wind-blown processes. The area to the south of the site is underlain by modern beach sands. The groundwater table is likely to be some 5m or more below the ground surface based on previous, and is likely to follow the surface topography and flow to the south.

Figure 2.22: Location of geotechnical investigations at Bondi Pavilion (Douglas Partners 2015)



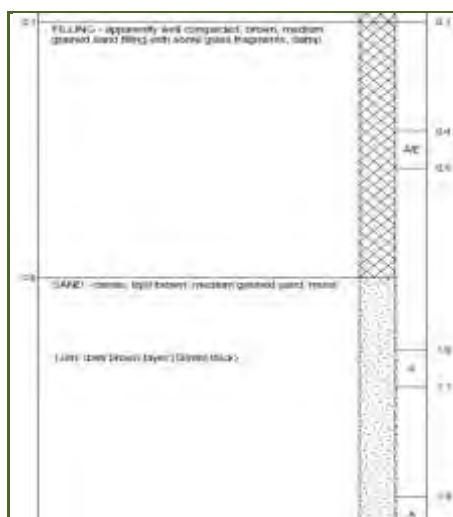
Figure 2.23: Extract from geological map (Douglas Partners 2015: Figure 1)





The bore logs show ‘filling’ consisting of dark to grey brown medium grained sandy topsoil with occasional rootlets and some medium to coarse gravel inclusions, over medium to light brown sand that becomes denser and wetter with depth. The ‘fill’ deposits are between 0.5m (BH1) to 1.2m (BH2) thick over natural sand profiles, and are likely to describe in a collective sense a number of different deposits created and deposited as a result of different activities. The ‘fill’ is likely to comprise a mix of true fills and redeveloped top soils (outside of the main building footprints), highly mixed and disturbed sandy soils containing construction materials associated with the current Pavilion layout, and potentially archaeological features and deposits. Some of the bore holes report European artefacts in the form of glass and ceramic and building materials in the fills, and occasionally at some depth below current ground surfaces. Examples include the presence of 200mm concrete fragments at 0.4m in BH3, some porcelain plate fragments at the same depth in BH4, and some coarse gravel and terracotta fragments at 1.0m in BH2.

Figure 2.24: BH5 geotechnical profile - extract showing buried dark brown loam layer below fill and separated above and below by natural sands (Douglas Partners 2015)



Although the descriptive data available from the geotechnical study is generally not suitable to establish or confirm the presence of subsurface archaeological deposits because the resolution effective lumps together any potential archaeology in the ‘filling’ category, one observation reported by Douglas Partners (ibid) in BH5 is noteworthy in so far as at a depth of 1.0m a ‘dark brown layer’ (50mm thick) is recorded below 20cm of dense, light brown, medium grained sand and hence is well within the sand profile and is stratigraphically separated from the overlying fill above that is about 0,8m thick. This discrete deposit could represent anything from a humic soil layer associated with former drainage (such as organic soil development within a channel or inter-dune swale) or a former land surface with a (technical) potential to retain Aboriginal objects.

## 3.0 Aboriginal archaeological and historic heritage context

### 3.1 Regional archaeological overview

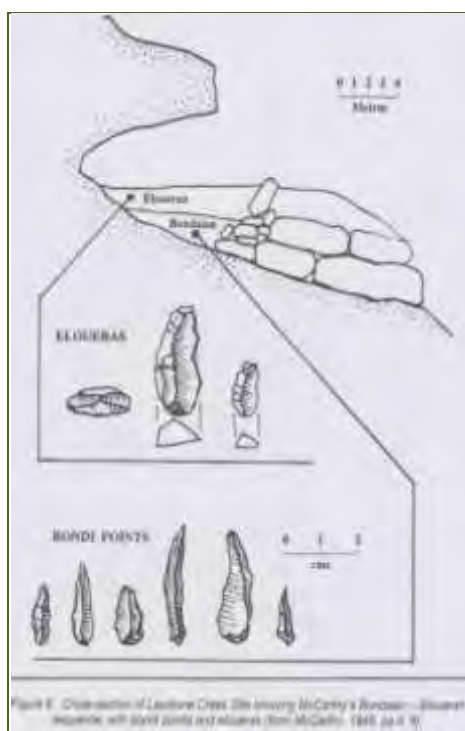
Aboriginal archaeological salvage excavations undertaken over a decade ago on the Parramatta River in Parramatta demonstrated Aboriginal people had been living on the river for at least 9,000 years and for potentially up to 30,000 years or more. More recent investigations on the Hawkesbury River at Pitt Town has also revealed early occupation dates (c.36,000) that derive from not dissimilar Pleistocene-age geomorphological river terrace contexts to Parramatta. Another site located on the Nepean River at Penrith (Cranebrook Terrace) was reported in 1987 to have a date of c.41,000 BP (Nanson et al 1987). However, when the date was originally published, the association of the gravel deposits from which the date was obtained and the Aboriginal artefacts it was proposed to be dating was discounted by many as being unreliable. Part of this reaction may have stemmed from the timing of the announcement and the age of the date because it almost doubled the then earliest accepted time frame for Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney region. However, new tests (Stockton & Nanson 2004) have clarified the riverine stratigraphy and dating of the basal gravels (Nanson et al 2003) and the results suggest that the age of the artefacts that were received with scepticism thirty years ago may in fact be correctly dated (Stockton and Merriman 2009).

Some researchers (see McDonald 2007) propose that the earliest ‘phase’ of Aboriginal occupation of Sydney was by small numbers of people who initially focused their attentions on the main river systems of the region such as the Parramatta and Hawkesbury-Nepean Rivers. The archaeological record for this period of time is comparatively limited, but is adequate to show people’s landuse was characterised by a high degree of ‘residential mobility’ or frequent movement between campsites, where people travelling into unfamiliar territories taking with them stone raw materials sourced from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Rivers and that were used sparingly but also supplemented by local stone sources when and where available. In 1788, coastal Sydney Aboriginal groups were observed living in defined territories and interaction between groups is evident in art sites and in archaeology by changing frequencies of different stone raw materials that may also indicate more restricted social movement than during early periods in prehistory and contact via exchange networks.

Questions about how and when Aboriginal life in Sydney changed over the long intervening time period between first arrival and ‘Contact’ is largely inferred on the basis of archaeological evidence and principally on the basis that there are recognisable changes in the way people used stone raw materials, employed different artefact manufacture methods, and what tools people produced at different times in prehistory. One sequence of change in tool types first identified by McCarthy and later developed by others was called the ‘Eastern Regional Sequence’ (McCarthy 1976: 96-98) and was established after

excavation of material from Lapstone Creek rock shelter (Emu Cave) in the foothills of the Blue Mountains in 1936. Although this was forty years after the publication of the finds at Bondi, this excavation was one of the first scientific excavations in Sydney (and was not published until 1948). The shelter had six layers of floor deposit and the lower deposit had significant numbers of Bondi points (see below) which gave way to a chunky adze flakes called eloueras that could be gummed to a wooden handle and were used for wood working and edge ground axed heads. McCarthy called these stone technologies Bondaian and Eloueran respectively, and subsequently excavated other sites at Capertee on the western edge of the Mountains where was found an underlying and earlier stone tool ‘industry’ than the Bondaian that was typified by saw-edge flakes. He labelled this industry Capertian, and his sequence of Capertian – Eloueran – Bondaian was found to be broadly applicable to many other stratified sites in southeast Australia, and set the technological framework for the Aboriginal prehistory in this area. Bondi points were pivotal in this archaeological sequencing Sydney’s Aboriginal prehistory.

Figure 3.1: Stone tools from Lapstone Creek were used as ‘cultural markers’ to help develop archaeological chronologies when they were excavated in the 1930s (Stockton and Merriman 2009: Figure 6)



The sequence was later modified by Stockton & Holland (1974: 53-56) who proposed three Bondaian phases following the existing Capertian phase. The first two of these, Early and Middle Bondaian, were proposed in recognition of the increasing archaeological importance of Bondi points and other small tools observed at particular times as became increasingly apparent as more excavated assemblages were reported. Late Bondaian referred to McCarthy’s Eloueran phase.

Extensive archaeological research document that backed artefacts, of which Bondi points are one form, ‘appeared’ (but probably not suddenly) in southeast Australia around ~8,500 BP, ‘proliferated’ around ~3,500 BP, and then disappeared or declined about ~1,500 BP. They were not seen made or used in 1788 however a small number of backed artefacts are reported in Sydney to have been made of glass and have been used as evidence to support an argument that backed artefact technology was still known to Sydney’s Aboriginal people well after it is believed to have fallen out of use (Dickson 1971).

## 3.2 Aboriginal heritage sites in the Waverley LGA

### 3.2.1 AHIMS searches

Aboriginal archaeological site types recorded in the Waverley LGA include rock engravings, axe grinding grooves, open and sheltered middens, shelters with art and archaeological deposit, open campsites and burials. The majority of sites are located along the immediate coastal strip and consist primarily of rock engravings and open and sheltered campsites that fringe the foreshore. Considerable concentrations of sites (rock engravings in particular) occur at Long Bay, Maroubra Bay, Coogee Bay and Bondi Beach and the retention of a surprisingly large number of Aboriginal place names that are still in use in this part of eastern Sydney pays testament to the traditional Aboriginal ownership of the country.

Searches of the AHIMS for this study have identified recordings for four rock engraving sites that are situated on the northern and southern headlands respectively, two sandstone rock shelters (‘caves’) with shell midden in the sandstone cliff line topography nearby, and one open archaeological camp site that refers to the retrospective registration of the extensive ‘Aboriginal workshops’ exposed at the beach in 1899. Two of the engravings are listed on the Waverley LEP (AHIMS #45-6-0719 located within Bondi Golf Course, and AHIMS #45-6-0750 located at Marks Park south of Mackenzie’s Point). The engravings depict a range of fish, whale, shark, and anthropomorphic motifs (including *mundoes* or ancestral footprints). However, only a portion of the former site is included in the LEP listing.

Table 3.1: Aboriginal sites registered on AHIMS within and nearby the BBCL study area

AHIMS Site	AHIMS Site Name(s)	Site Type	Waverley LEP 1996 Listing
45-6-0718	Bondi; Hugh Bamford Park	Rock Engraving	Not listed
45-6-0719	Bondi Golf Links	Rock Engraving	A2 (only part of site listed)
45-6-0720	Bondi Bay; Ben Buckler	Rock Engraving	Not listed
45-6-0750	Marks Park; Mackenzies Point	Rock Engraving	Not listed
45-6-1947	Tamarama Beach Cave	Shelter with Midden	Not listed
45-6-2060	South Bondi Cave	Shelter with Midden	Not listed
45-6-2169	Bondi Beach	Open Campsite & Burial/s	Not listed

No new Aboriginal heritage sites (or specific areas of sensitivity) have been discovered within or nearby the study area (and registered with AHIMS) since the completion of the WACHS in 2008. However, one engraving site (#45-6-0718) and one shelter with midden (AHIMS Site #45-6-2060) may have been destroyed by comparatively recent development.

The engraved figures at Bondi Golf Course are amongst the best known in Sydney. They occur in three groups with about 87 individual figures. The majority of the exposed figures are marine animals such as fish, sharks and a whale. Motifs now buried were recorded in the 1880s to include a seal, fish (including snapper) and a boomerang. The Group 2 figures were re-grooved by Waverley Council in 1951 and 1964 respectively. The Group 3 engravings include depictions of the hulls of two small vessels and at the time of the original recordings appeared to have been made with a metal chisel and were observed to be not as weathered as the other engravings. The engravings at this site are typical of the coastal Sydney region in terms of subject and technique of creation and reflect the marine environment of the place. The Group 2 figures have been described by McCarthy 1983 (quoted in Attenbrow 2002:169).

*'...space was valuable on this rock ...with the result that many figures are engraved within the bigger ones and other ones overlap one another. There is a fishing composition of a man and women with two fish, another one with the sword club and pair of fish. On the western side of the whale, the majority of the figures are fish, including sharks and sunfish, and marine mammals such as the whale and dolphin seen swimming in the ocean from the cliff tops. The meaning of the tall man with a boy, or much smaller man overlapped by his right arm is not known but as he is 11' tall he is apparently a mythological figure; similarly, the significance of the two lines of oval mundoes is puzzling as they do not lead to this spirit being. The figures of the big sunfish, thresher shark, dolphin, gigantic lily flower, some of the fish and the spirit being are unique in some cases and are of outstanding artistic merit in others'.*

Dowd (1959:292-293) cites Raymond de Cusack who was engaged by Waverley Municipal Council in 1951 to retouch the engravings *'with a preservative against the weather'*. He also added that:

*'This was the main Ceremonial Ground where the Biddigal tribe of Aborigines held their sacred rituals and danced their corroborees until about the 1800s.....The persecution of the white man broke up the tribe and drove all but a few old men towards La Perouse, where the last free aborigine died in 1863. Just a few yards east of the ritual ground, an aborigine has engraved on the rock not far from the cliff edge, one of the earliest sailing ships that passed along the coast'.*

There are no reliable sources to support the claim that the place was used for *'corroborees until about the 1800s'*. In addition, *the last free aborigine* didn't die in 1863. In addition, the claim *'an aborigine has engraved....one of the earliest sailing ships that passed along the coast'* is unlikely to be correct.

There is second hand but reasonable evidence that the ship engravings were done in about 1870. There are no historical descriptions of Aboriginal people making rock engravings in Sydney. However, they continued to be made in Sydney after 1788. Numerous images (engraved and painted) of European sailing ships, soldiers, guns, cattle, along with other European subjects and objects are recorded in the local landscape and on the Hawkesbury River.

### 3.3 Discovery of a major Aboriginal campsite at Bondi

In 1900, massive coastal gales shifted huge quantities of sand from behind the beach and exposed an extensive series of Aboriginal ‘workshops’ and a number of artefacts finds were collected before wind and wave action reburied the site. The distinctive ‘backed’ flakes collected at Bondi have since become the type-name (‘Bondi point’) for a stone artefact form that is frequently found at archaeological sites throughout south-eastern Australia from around c.8,500 years ago (or earlier) to around 1,500 BP. They were probably multi functional tools, and interpretations range from them being used as hunting spear barbs, cutting implements (hand-held), and/or hafted knives or awls (needles or points) used for working skins.

Figure 3.2: Stone artefacts with provenance to Bondi Beach (Flenniken and White 1985: 141)

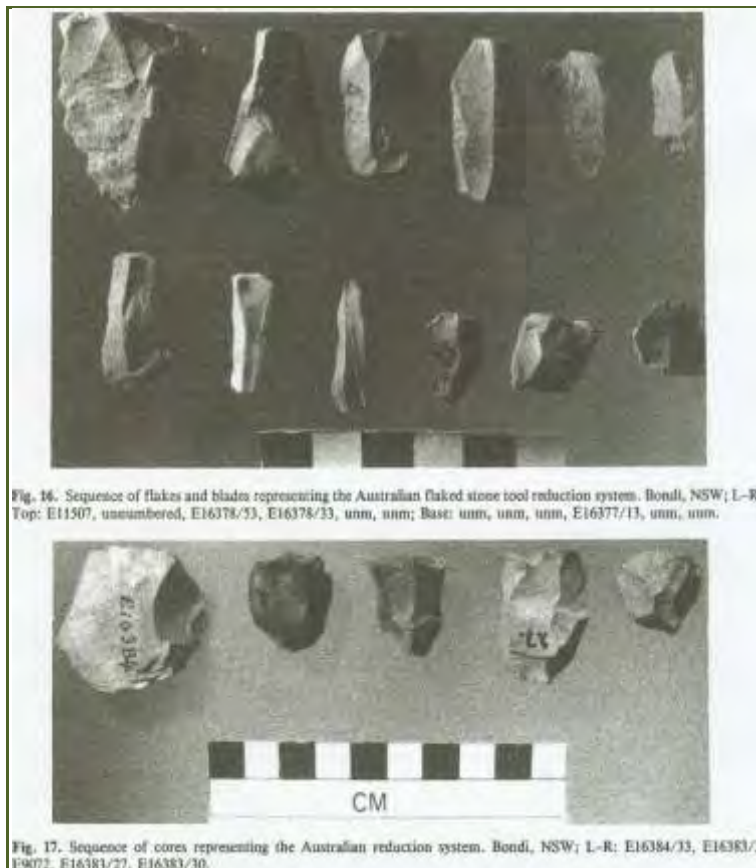


Figure 3.3: Examples of 'Bondi points' that may have been hand held tools, attached to spear shafts or gummed to handles (Australian Museum online website)



Figure 3.4: Examples of 'Bondi points' and geometric microliths (Curby nd. 'Randwick')



The story of the '*remarkable discovery*' (Etheridge & Whitelegge 1907:231-237) is worth retelling (but abridging) because it reveals a lot and while the only published account leaves a lot of questions unanswered, they do not detract from the interpretation of the site provided below or its Aboriginal cultural heritage and mainstream scientific importance.

*'A series of heavy gales displaced the sand hummocks at Bondi and Maroubra Bays...exposing what appeared to be an old land surface... [and] a series of aboriginal 'workshops' where for generations the blacks of the Port Jackson District must have manufactured chips, splinters and points for installation along the distal margins of their spears and for other purposes. The old land surface at Bondi...was covered with thousands of these chips, some of them exquisitely made...The lithological character of the material used was very varied, from pure white crystalline quartz, opaque amorphous quartz, every variety of chert and quartzite, to rocks of a metamorphic character. It is quite clear that the siliceous material was derived in a great measure from the surrounding Hawkesbury Sandstone, but the others were probably obtained from distant sources.*

[At] the northern end of the sand hills at Maroubra...the whole of the surface was studded with butts of *Banksia* trees two or three feet high, and one or two feet in diameter. The intervening spaces were covered with a scrubby growth, consisting of the stems and roots of various plants, many of which were standing *Pandanus*-like, having the roots covered with lime from a quarter to half-an-inch thick. Whilst the interiors of the lime tubes were lined with a thin cylinder of bark, in other parts, the bark cylinders were standing alone without the calcareous envelope. The whole area appeared like a miniature skeleton forest, of black and white stems and roots.....

The ground between was strewn with thousands of stones that had been used by the Aborigines for some purpose or other, and had all been taken to the top of the sandhills, many of the stones being quite foreign to the district. Here would be found a patch of black flint chips about a yard in diameter, there another of red or yellow jasper, just as if the native artist in stone-working had only left the ground a few minutes before. In fact this was an aboriginal "workshop" from which the workers may have disappeared hundreds of years ago.....

After a thorough survey of the ground all the smaller instruments available were carefully collected, the larger heavy instruments being gathered and duly interred to be attended to on some future occasion. The weapons collected were very valuable, including tomahawks, grinds tones, a nose ornament, knives, scrapers, gravers, drills, and spear points such as were used for fighting or "death" spears, and lastly a very peculiar lancet-like surgical knife or scarificator.....

The "workshops" at Bondi were far more extensive than those at Maroubra, the whole length of the back of the beach was more or less covered with tons of stones, all of which had been taken there and put to some use. In the centre of the beach there was a kind of delta upon which the coarser materials were deposited, the sand having been washed away on this area; thousands of implements, which had evidently been used, were found, and chips or flakes were few and far between. For many months the original ground at Maroubra, and also the more extended area at Bondi, yielded an abundance of implements and at each visit we invariably returned with as much as we could carry. Unfortunately the new road across Bondi has now covered most of the sites that afforded the best ground for collecting....

There is ample evidence that many of the sand dunes were at one time much higher than they are now, and also that in some parts they had been covered with vegetation interspersed with native camping grounds, upon which vast quantities of shells were deposited; in course of time the vegetation was covered by sand drifts, other shell heaps formed at the summit, and the whole again buried. The period of time required for these various changes must have been very great, and it has required still greater lapse of time to produce the present condition'.



The location of this site relative to today's beach geography is not clear. Only two general reference points are provided by the above descriptions for the archaeological exposures that were estimated to cover over about a hectare of land. The first is the 'delta' reported to have been present at the time in the centre of the beach where coarser materials were deposited by the sand having been washed away. This may relate to a point, more southern than central to today's beach orientation, where the main drainage from the big lagoon(s) in the vicinity of Hall Street drained across the beach into the bay. The 'new road to Bondi' (Campbell Parade) is the other reference point, and the evidence suggests that if the former lagoons were the main attractors and their fringes and topography above them the focus for repeat Aboriginal occupation, then the network of former lagoons and inter swale drainage continued some distance back from the beach and to the west of Campbell Parade.

The archaeological evidence suggests Bondi possessed many favourable landscape and resource and amenity attributes in the past that made it an attractive location to Aboriginal people suited for both short term visits and longer term occupation. Schlanger (1992:97) originally used the term 'persistent place' to describe specific locations of the landscape *'that were repeatedly used during long-term occupations of regions'*. These places were associated with features of the natural environment that may have attracted human occupation and the author cites freshwater, swamps and waterholes as examples. Repeat and focused occupation of Bondi appears reflected by the backed artefact dominated stone tool assemblages recorded at the place in 1899 mindful of the level of 'stationary' time and effort that was likely to have been required to produce these items.

### 3.4 Historical Aboriginal context

#### 3.4.1 Introduction

Aboriginal people continued to live in eastern Sydney after 1788 and throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century (and continue to do so). This persistent 'connection to country' physically occurred increasingly over time on lands that were progressively granted to settlers by the Crown. Where enough space or lack of competition for resources permitted, or where Aboriginal people were not actively discouraged or driven off from the land, they continued to return and camp at favoured places. These were often contained within the first settler 'estates' that were created by wealthier recipients on their often large land grants. There are comparatively few historical records that tell us about where Aboriginal people were living and what they were doing during the 'settler period', but it is probable many 'autonomous camps' (Byrne & Nugent 2005) were chosen by Aboriginal people in 'remote' and inaccessible country. At Bondi, this occurred in two main forms; as a series of coastal bays that were most effectively approached by water (for whites), and an extensive network of lagoons and drainage and paths contained within an extensive dune field 'corridor' that extended from Bondi to Sydney with

similar landscape and terrain also extending south towards Botany Bay that could be accessed by various coastal gullies and/or lagoon networks at the back of the beaches. These created a coastal Aboriginal geography that connected hinterland areas to the water that were outside of the settler system and it also probable that the most preferable places that were chosen were situated away from settler surveillance or interference. Some of the coastal bays to the south of Bondi for example remained largely unaltered throughout much of the nineteenth century.

### 3.4.2 Settlement impact and 'post Contact' Aboriginal adaptation

The Aboriginal history of Bondi is not well understood, largely by virtue of the fact that it was historically remote from Sydney, hard to get to by land, and was sparsely populated by settlers until the second half of the nineteenth century whereby there weren't many white people around who were inclined to record the comings and goings of the local Aboriginal population. Despite high death rates from disease and conflict in the 1790s and widespread land displacement from subsequent expansion of the settlement point from the 1800s, many Aboriginal remained in Sydney. Obed West recalls frequently seeing 'some of the Sydney blacks' who used to fish along the coast in their bark canoes out near the island at Coogee Bay (Wedding Cake island). They would carry their canoes on their heads to Coogee, Bondi and Maroubra (Morrison 1888:416-417).

Traditional social and ceremonial activity also continued and Woolloomooloo Bay was a frequent and favoured gathering place for corroborees into the 1830s. By this time Sydney Aboriginal people had begun moving south to the Illawarra and other regions less impacted by white settlement. Some of these people and their descendants later moved back to La Perouse, and an Aboriginal settlement was established in 1878 and gazetted as a reserve in 1895. People who stayed in Sydney by the mid 1800s were often living on the fringes of white society and became increasingly dependent on government allocations of blankets and slop clothing, and bartering of fish and game for sugar, flour and alcohol.

Figure 3.6: Bill Worrall, Five Islands Tribe, 1836 by William Fernyhough (National Portrait Gallery, Canberra)



A number of Aboriginal people attracted public attention because they were portrayed as the ‘last of their tribe’. ‘Mahroot’ was the ‘last of the Botany Bay Tribe’ (he wasn’t) and late in life lived in the gardens of the Banks Hotel (Mundy 1971[1851]:31). William (Bill) Worrall aka Rickety Dick was another. He was born in Sydney (c.1795) and lived at a range of Aboriginal camps including at the Domain, Rose Bay and Woolloomooloo before taking up residence ‘in a rude gunyah’ in front of Daniel Cooper’s ‘The Cottage’ at Rose Bay where he levied a toll on travellers using the South Head Road (Ellmouss 2015).

### 3.4.3 Nineteenth century Aboriginal places

Aboriginal people continued to live in virtually every bay of the eastern suburbs in the mid nineteenth century (Irish and Ingrey 2011:21), and the movement of Aboriginal people between different places at different times illustrates an Aboriginal geography that was created in this part of Sydney. A brief summary is below and further details of this period are provided by Irish (2017). Details for the later twentieth century Aboriginal attachments that are apparent at Bondi in general and potentially to the Pavilion building itself would be researched in a wider AACHA that is recommended for the project to build up the preliminary Aboriginal historical research outlined here and examine for example the various Aboriginal cultural events that have featured at the place over the years.

#### *Rushcutters Bay*

The land running down to Rushcutters Bay (Barcom Glen) was always a ‘*great camping place for the blacks*’ and particularly the slope on the Darlinghurst side where Obed West watched Aboriginal people in their canoes in the bay with women fishing with lines while men spearing fish that swam beneath them (SMH, 12 October 1882). In the 1840s Rushcutters Creek flowed through Barcom Glen (where West lived) that was at the time covered with bush and large gum trees where Aboriginal people had formed a large camp that was a nuisance to the neighbourhood (Dowling 1924).

#### *Double Bay*

A visiting French Catholic missionary, Leopold Verguet arrived in Sydney and stayed for five months in Woolloomooloo and wrote of his interactions with Sydney Aboriginal people during his visit. They often camped in a forest beside Verguet’s house overnight before setting out for Sydney each morning. The men Verguet met at their Double Bay camp wore trousers and jackets, and the women, long aprons and white smocks, and both sexes wore scarves and hats (if they had them). The ‘*tribe of Tamara*’ Verguet met at Double Bay numbered about twenty people who were at that time living in a spot sheltered by a hill slope and vegetation with sandstone overhangs available. In general terms, Verguet noted these people always camped in the woods on the edge of the town where the need to seek shelter from the

prevailing wind of the day (or night) saw them *'camp sometimes in one place and sometimes in another'*. Verguet drew portraits of several of Tamara's people which he sent to Europe

Other references to Aboriginal people at Double Bay include Old Wingle from Port Stephens and his wife Kitty who camped on a knoll above Double Bay and sometimes demonstrated boomerang throwing for copper coins (Jervis 1967:44). Referring to an occasion before c.1850, a diarist writing in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (27 May, 1890) made reference to seeing a 'Wingal' who may be the same man along with *'Terrigal Bob and with a few other blacks of the old Broken Bay tribe'* at Curl Curl on the northern beaches where they *'were then located'*. Wingle died at Botany in 1868 (SMH, 18 July 1858).

#### Rose Bay

In a letter to the SMH (27 May 1890) Phillip Cohen referred to a period *'more than forty years ago'* (about 1850) when *'the black's camp ... was at the time situated at Rose Bay'*. The camp was close to the Rose Bay Police station that was built as the gatehouse for Daniel Cooper's mansion Woollahra House. Dowling (1925:53) was another early resident of the area who recalled:

*'about the centre of Rose Bay, and within sight of the main road, was a large dwelling house, "Rose Bay Lodge," occupied by the Cooper family before they moved their residence to "Woollahra House," Point Piper....The land from there to the east end of the bay was a vacant swamp, or marsh, covered with bush extending past where "Ricketty Dick" had his camp....*

*Before the low-lying land to the south of Rose Bay was drained and built upon, it was, in the main, a large morass, the soil being of a rich peaty nature, covered with dense ti-tree scrub. This ti-tree was in considerable demand by the owners of properties in and about the neighbourhood for thatching their garden bush-houses, as also was the soil for enriching their gardens. A notable crippled and irritable old aboriginal, "Ricketty Dick"—a terror to the children in the neighbourhood and others—had his permanent camp on a dry patch of land at the eastern end of this morass, close to the main road, and opposite the Georgian dwelling-house, overlooking the bay...'*

#### Elizabeth Bay

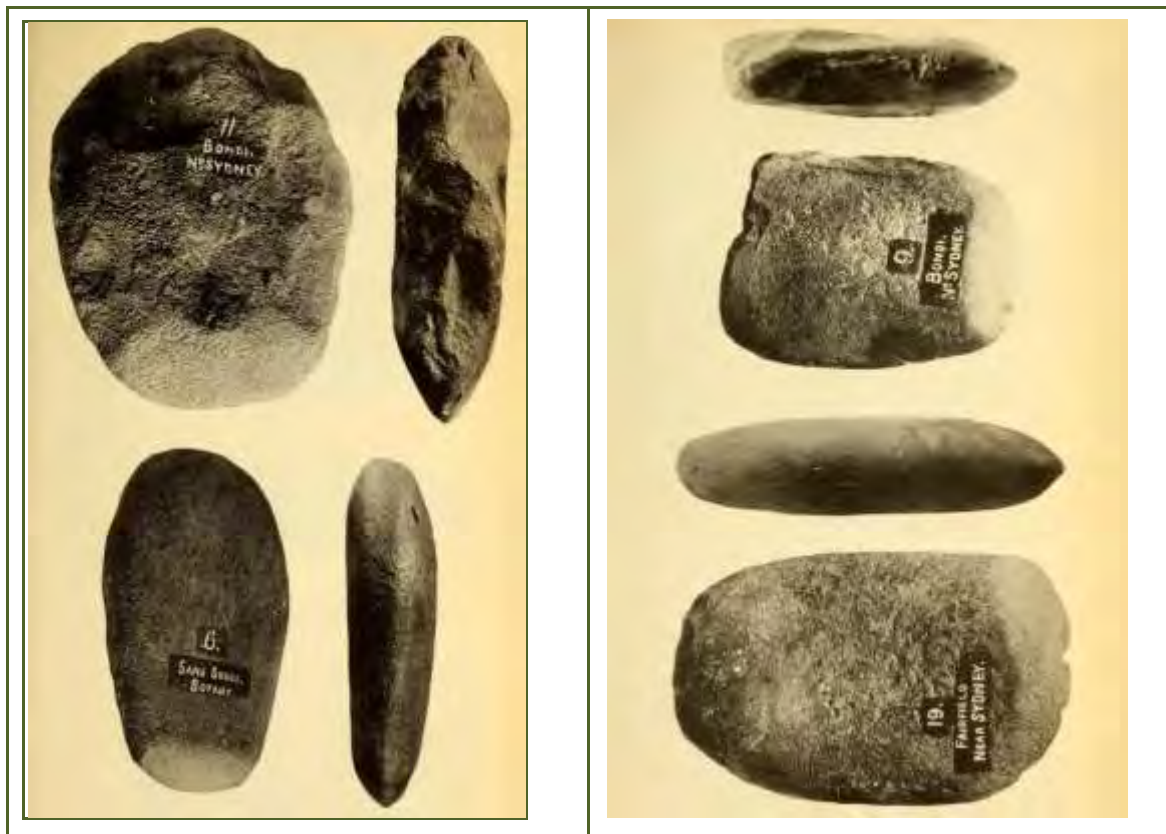
Macquarie chose *'Gurrajin'* at Elizabeth Bay as a settlement for the *'Sydney tribe'* in 1820 (Smith 1992) and Elizabeth Bay was chosen because Aboriginal people were already living there and/or always visiting the place. The settlement was probably located below Elizabeth Bay House around Beare Park. One observer (Hall 1828:596-597) reported the bay was *'a place much frequented and delighted in by the Sydney blacks, to a family of whom indeed it belonged'*. In 1838 the murder of Old Bundle was reported in the *Sydney Gazette* (11 September 1838) to have occurred at the settlement:

*‘An aboriginal named ‘Old Bundle’, well known about Sydney for several years past, was killed last week under the following circumstances. In the early part of the week two tribes assembled at Elizabeth Bay, the tribe of Shoalhaven and that of Wollongong. On Monday evening while the greater part of them were in a state of intoxication a quarrel ensued, in the course of which, Old Bundle who belonged to the Wollongong tribe was struck on the head with a nulla nulla by one of the other party...The native who struck the blow immediately disappeared.*

### 3.4.4 Nineteenth century Aboriginal occupation of Bondi

The artefacts below were collected from Aboriginal people camping in the sand dunes in Bondi in the 1870s. The collector suggested the raw material had probably been brought from the old riverbed at Lapstone Hill at Emu Plains near Penrith (ibid:233).

*Figure 3.8: Aboriginal artefacts collected from Aboriginal people living at Bondi in the 1870s. The top item is ‘old and much weathered or corroded by wind borne sand, even on the cutting edge’, and the bottom item is a ‘dark quartzite tomahawk, and is of comparatively recent date’ (Liversidge 1894: Plates 16 and 17)*



A group of Aboriginal people (including men named James Friday and Johnny Baswick) who possibly camped at southern Bondi Beach, and around Hunter Park or ‘The Boot’ near where Waverley Street originally approached the coastline, are cited in a coronial enquiry into the drowning of a man last seen

by Baswick fishing off rocks close to their camp. He had been seen fishing in Sydney the previous week, and the death was not considered suspicious. R. J. Stone, a Bondi surfing pioneer, later recalled in 1924 that in about 1874 he had watched on Bondi Beach the '*Blacks who were camped at Ben Buckler enjoying the ocean waves, with their wives and children*' (Dowd 1959:138). It is possible these references are to the same group of Aboriginal people who camped at Bondi and passed on the stone artefacts collected by Liversidge in the 1870s.

## 4.0 Historical overview

### 4.1 Timeline

A number of detailed histories for Bondi Pavilion and its surrounds (MVA 2012, TKDA 2015) have recently been prepared and do not need to be repeated here. The timeline below is adapted from the first of these studies (MVA 2012:4-7) and summarises key events, activities and processes that are most likely to have resulted in the (hypothetical) creation of non-Aboriginal archaeological features and deposits within the study area, and also those most likely to have operated to disturb and/or destroyed potential archaeological deposits and features.

In this respect, the following sections examine the potential for late eighteenth ('Contact period') and early nineteenth century (pre 1850), early twentieth (pre Pavilion) and mid to late twentieth century (Pavilion occupation and use) archaeology to be present and/or survive within the study area. As suggested by the key dates below, the history of Bondi during the earliest of these periods is limited.

#### Timeline (MVA 2012:47)

1810	Grant of 200 acres to William Roberts that included Bondi Park and beach
1851	200 acres transferred to William James Robert's daughter Georgiana & son-in-law Francis O'Brien via Trustee (E. Hall). O'Brien plans to subdivide Bondi Estate 1852
1855	Crown reserved 100' strip above high water mark along beach for public use
1855-77	O'Brien permitted general public to use the beach and sand hills behind it that became a popular but rowdy picnic ground and was closed in 1877
1877	O'Brien declared bankrupt and 51 acres transferred to his 2nd wife's family, Curlewis
1859	Waverley Municipal Council established – seek to establish beach as a public reserve
1879	Subdivisions of Bondi Estate multiplied
1881	Government surveyed an area of the beach for public recreation
1882	State Government resumed 25+ acres & dedicated them as a public reserve
1884	Tramway reached Denham St bringing people within walking ease to Bondi beach
1885	Waverley Council made Trustee of Bondi Park

1887	Baths created in rock pool at southern end opened to public, with dressing sheds
1889	Beach reserve increased to 28+ acres
1895	Private dressing shed complex present at the northern end of the beach, in front of Biddigal Reserve
1902	1st regular tram service from Circular Quay to Bondi Beach + tram turning circle
1903	Council erected first shelter or changing sheds
1906-7	Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club (BSBLSC) founded in tent at south end of beach
1907-1908	Council provided and extended shed for BSBLSC with kiosk added to front later
1911	Council builds larger dressing sheds known locally as 'The castle' because of its turrets. First improvement scheme launched and included new sheds, bandstand, sea wall, landscaping & paving, and Marine Drive to sheds
	Construction of sea wall with promenade began from south end
	Tramway extended north to full length of beach, and started running a weekday afternoon service to it
	First real club house built for North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, still on Weekes land
1914	Council accepted a new improvement scheme, but was shelved because of cost
1915	Area of reserve increased to 32 acres 2 roods
1916	A new club house for BSBLSC constructed, but north of turreted dressing sheds
1910s	Several small pitched roof shelters built through the southern slopes of the park
	Various outbuildings and enclosures added to the south and west of the main pavilion building in the late 1910s
1920	Completion of north end of sea wall
1920	Opening of new NBSLC timber club house with lookout tower (on Weekes' land
1920	Beach Court with public rooms & dance hall (at base of today's Biddigal Reserve) constructed on the location of the earlier dressing sheds
c.1920	Current sandstone retaining walls, path and steps down the park's southern slope and the stair and walls at far southern end of the promenade built by this time
1923	Council began preparations for new improvement scheme (Robertson & Marks won competition for pavilion & architect was Leith C. McCredie)
1924	Scarborough Crescent bank incorporated into Bondi Park
Mid-late 1920s	Much of Bondi Park remained in a mostly natural state, with few 'soft' landscape improvements having been attempted
1927	Commission of Inquiry into proposals and designs for the improvement scheme
1928	Foundation stone laid for Bondi Surf Pavilion
	Order given to demolish first Surf Pavilion
	Public able to use new pavilion
1929	Official opening of pavilion & improvements with park layout established at that time remains largely unchanged
1931	North Bondi Surf Club destroyed by fire

1933	Replacement clubhouse built for North Bondi Surf Club on land resumed from Weekes. Remodelled & extended in 1979.
1934	Erection of present Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Clubhouse beside pavilion
1942	Two groynes that provided bathers direct access to beach from change rooms, and controlled sand drift, were blasted away & beach fenced off with barbed wire
1947	Path layout at the southern end of the main park (opposite Hall Street) was removed
1964	Turkish bath closed and area converted to gymnasium
1972	New grand scheme proposed for Bondi Park, including the removal of the Pavilion, but abandoned (as one of numerous schemes proposed in virtually every decade of the 20th century for the modification of the pavilion)
1977	Pavilion transformed internally. Change sheds & lockers removed, internal courtyards grassed, netball court established.
1970s	Tiered amphitheatre seating provided inside pavilion courtyard
1980s	Pavilion forecourt area reconstructed
1988	Period of seawall revetment works
1990s	Sea walls stabilized, paths repaired, trees planted
2004	Application made for NSW Heritage Register listing
2008	Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape put on National Heritage List Listed on NSW State Heritage Register

#### 4.2 Aboriginal Bondi at ‘Contact’

There are few early historical descriptions of Bondi because for the first years following the settlement of Sydney Cove, few people had occasion to go there. Besides it was distant from Sydney and was tough terrain (sandy and rocky and swampy) and difficult to travel overland. A hint of the ‘hidden’ and comparatively isolated nature of the landscape is provided by Lieutenant Bradley’s description of the approach to the entrance of Port Jackson and illustration of the subsequent arrival of the Supply (watched by Aboriginal canoes):

*the best mark to know when you draw near it coming from the southward, is, some remarkable sand hills over a sandy bay 2 or 3 miles to the southward of the South Head, the shore from this bay to the South Head is high rocky cliffs (Bradley 1788:27).*

The country around Bondi remained comparatively isolated and sparsely settled until the mid half of the nineteenth century. We therefore have no direct records of the original Aboriginal population at Bondi, and most of our understanding of who they were and inferences about their life is derived from the first observations the officers and crew of the First Fleet made in Botany Bay and Sydney Cove. Indeed, George Worgan (First Fleet surgeon) recorded in March 1788 that a visit to Broken Bay met with a vast number of Aboriginal people, and noticeably, some of whom they thought they had seen before, at



Botany Bay. Worgan believed these people ‘wander[ed] up & down the Coast, going to the Northward in the Winter, and returning to ye Southward (as we expect to find) in the Summer (Worgan 1788). On the other hand, Governor later Phillip noted when during the winter months when fish were scarce on the coast (June, July August, and part of September) that from the:

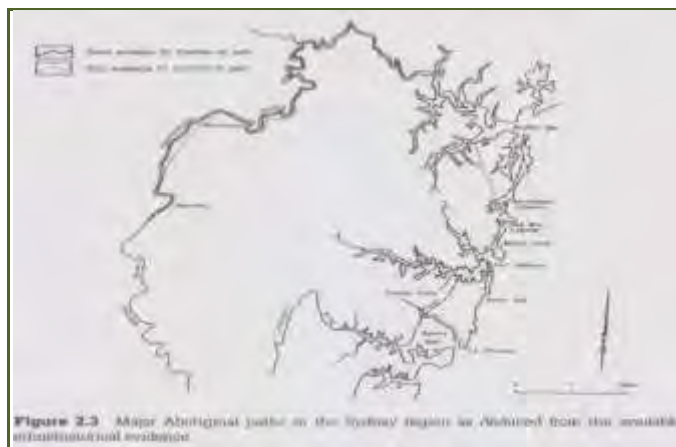
*beaten paths that are seen between Port Jackson and Broken Bay, and in other parts, it is thought that the natives frequently change their situation, but it has not been perceived that they make any regular migrations to the northward in the winter months, or to the south in summer (Phillip 1788: 9 July).*

Figure 4.1: ‘View in Port Jackson from the South Head leading up to Sydney’ (from Derricourt 2011)



The reconstruction of Aboriginal paths in the Sydney region below marks a track from North Bondi to Sydney Harbour near Vaucluse as well as a substantial route from Botany Bay to the harbour east of Sydney. Kohen and Lampert (1987:462) also cite a path from Port Jackson to Botany Bay that ran along the coast and through Maroubra.

Figure 4.2: Aboriginal pathways in Sydney (Aplin 1988: Figure 2.3)



There are a number of descriptions of Aboriginal people, sometimes in large numbers and armed, around Rose Bay and Rushcutters Bay area in 1788, and a few also from the Lookout established at South Head to keep watch on the coast for inbound vessels. Governor Phillip visited the place along with Bennelong (who threw a spear 98 yards against the wind) as did Nanbarry who had been taken in to the colony after his father had died from smallpox (he and his father had been found suffering in a canoe in the harbour). Whilst there, Nanbarry demonstrated how to build a fire and the traditional way to dig a grave (Derricourt 2011).

Daniel Southwell was stationed at the Lookout in July 1790 when he walked to Sydney following close to the shore and met in Rose Bay a group of Aboriginal people with their canoes, spears and fishing gear (Southwell to Butler, *HRNSW* 2: 712). Later in the same month two of Southwell's crew, a 17 year old James Ferguson and marine James Bates (whose posting to the Lookout appears to have been a punishment) took a boat with two other marines, when near Bradley's Point a whale rose from the harbour and upturned and sank the boat and drowned three. One marine reached the shore at Rose Bay and back up to the Lookout, and waited until another boat came the next day to investigate. Collins (in Derricourt 2011: 33) recorded that the whale had never found its way out of the harbour, but grounded at '*Manly Bay, was killed by the natives, and was the cause of numbers of them being at this time assembled to partake of the repasts which it afforded them*'.

#### 4.2 'Bondi Estate' to public reserve

The study area originally formed part of a 200 acre land grant to William Roberts made by Acting Governor Colonel William Patterson in 1809 and confirmed Governor Macquarie in 1810. Roberts was a road builder who contracted to the government. The land grant went down to the high water mark of the bay and remained in the Roberts family for several decades. The 'Bondi Estate' was bequeathed to successive male relatives of the Roberts family, ending with William James Roberts, who in his will bequeathed it, via a trustee, to his daughter Georgiana who was married to his son-in-law, Francis O'Brien. The trustee was Edward Smith Hall who was paid to manage the land on her behalf. The couple received title to the land in 1851. Although it was freehold property, between 1855 and 1877 use of the beach by the general public was made permissible by O'Brien and the foreshore lands, and especially the water and sand dunes and hills at the back of the beach, during this period developed into a popular picnic ground and pleasure resort. O'Brien was bankrupted in 1877 and his Bondi land was transferred to the Curlewis family. From 1879, subdivisions of the original Bondi Estate accelerated.

The Municipal Council of Waverley was proclaimed in 1859, and in 1881 an area at Bondi Beach was surveyed, resumed and dedicated as a public reserve in 1882. The area of the reserve was increased in 1889, and again in 1915.

Figure 4.3: 1884 survey plan showing the extent of the land resumed following survey with preliminary road layout of the early proposed subdivisions. The lagoon is also noted (MWA 2012: Figure 21)



### 4.3 Twentieth century

As Bondi Beach gained popularity, plans for a major improvement were constantly proposed. A scheme in 1909 and implemented in 1911 included the provision of a dressing pavilion and construction of a sea wall and promenade along the inner side. The first pavilion was known locally as ‘the castle’ because of its turrets and was built in 1911.

Figure 4.4: 1911 pavilion on the edge of the promenade (MWA 2012: Figure 35)



The first image below shows the extent of development prior to the construction of the Pavilion. The second shows the alignment of Campbell Parade which by this time had seen the dunes at ‘the back of the beach’ flattened and former lagoons drained and filled. The remaining images show the Pavilion under construction and shortly after completion.

Figure 4.5: Bondi Beach showing development prior to the construction of the Bondi Pavilion and Bondi Park, and also the extent of development along Campbell Parade (TKDA 2015: Figure 18)



Figure 4.6: Bondi Beach in 1928 showing the lagoon outlet flowing across the beach still visible (TKDA 2015: Figure 18)



Figure 4.7: Bondi Beach in late 1928 showing the Pavilion under construction (TKDA 2015: Figure 19)

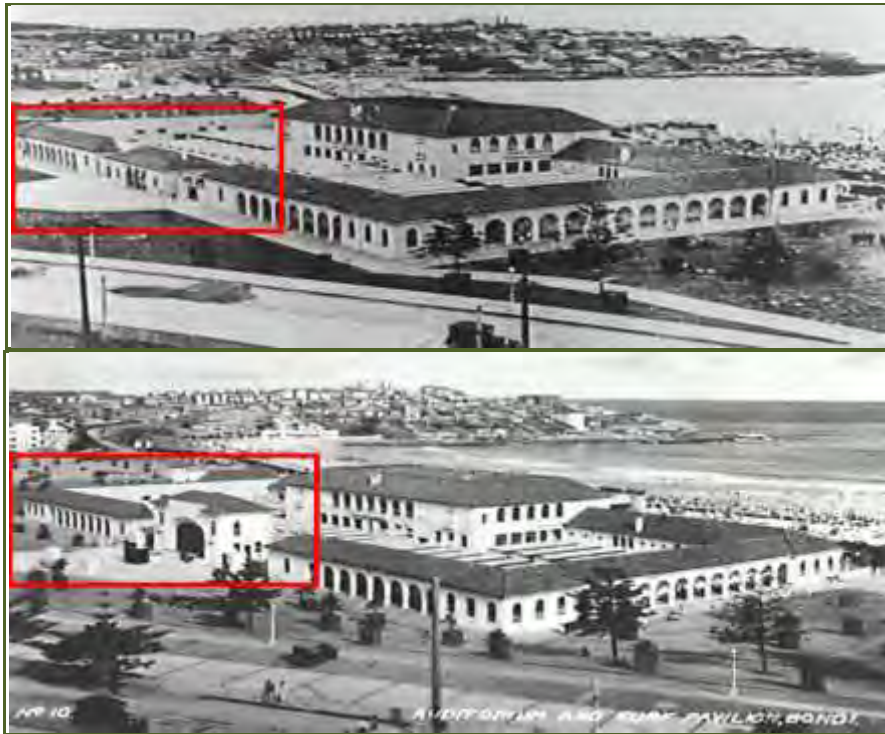


Figure 4.8: Bondi Pavilion shortly after completion (Waverley Local Studies Library)



Construction of the outdoor auditorium in the 1930s altered the character of the rear of the Pavilion and its presentation to Campbell Parade.

Figure 4.9: Bondi Pavilion shortly before (top) and after (bottom) the construction of the auditorium in the early 1930s (TKDA 2015: Figures 28, 29)



The internal courtyard areas of the Pavilion underwent major changes in the 1960s to 1980s where the dress cubicles and lockers were removed. In the early 1970s the former ballroom was converted to a theatre along with the removal of the rooms and former Turkish baths, and the internal courtyards were replaced by large, grassed areas, a netball court and a tiered brick amphitheatre now within the pavilion (so that the audience was no longer seated down slope, facing the external wall of the building).

Figure 4.10: Courtyard dressing sheds in c.1973 (left) and after removal in 1979 (MWA 2012: Figures 97, 98)



## 5.0 Results and conclusions

### 5.1 Aboriginal consultation

The Bondi Pavilion study area and a stretch along Campbell Parade were looked at during a walkover with LPLALC representative, Mr David Ingrey, during initial stages of the project in April 2016. Topics of interest discussed were primarily related to the fate of the 1899 Bondi Beach archaeological site and how the streetscapes had been historically developed over former lagoons networks to the west of the Pavilion. No specific opinions about the proposed Pavilion improvements were provided by the LPLALC at this time other than general observations concerning the likelihood of Aboriginal objects being exposed by future works or if large or deep subsurface excavations were proposed because that would increase the potential for archaeological deposits or even burials to be exposed. The LPLALC were of the opinion that despite the scale of impact that occurred when the BSH were levelled and built over, it was still possible that Aboriginal archaeological deposits survived at depth below disturbance levels. It was also considered possible Aboriginal objects may occur within reworked and redeposited sand deposits used to create building platforms and landscaping areas in locations surrounding the Pavilion on three sides.

The back-dune areas of the beach (under Campbell Parade and to the north) originally had a series of freshwater lagoons fed by at least two creeks that flowed down eastwards from the sandstone ridge along which Old South Head Road runs. This locality (which is outside of the Bondi Pavilion study area) was of particular interest to the LPLALC, and aspects of the original terrain can be seen in the form of the streetscapes north of Campbell Parade. Some of the former lagoons appear to have been small and probably seasonal, enlarging and disappearing quickly depending on rainfall, however others were large and permanent and appear to have attracted amongst other favourable features of the place repeat and continual Aboriginal visitation and use of Bondi over a very long time period.

The prevalence of Bondi points that are recorded amongst the archaeological materials seen and partly collected in 1899 suggests that a Bondaian age for the site. This assumes the archaeology exposed on the land surfaces were contemporary, and realistically the evidence could potentially date between c.1,500 years to 8,500 years ago, although a Middle Bondaian age for the Bondi Beach archaeology is most likely. The possibility that Pleistocene archaeology was present but remained undetected in the broader sand-corridor linking Bondi to Rose Bay was also discussed with the LPLALC.

The beach zone on the seaward side of the seawall would seem to retain no or very low potential to retain Aboriginal archaeology because of constant wave action and occasional storms that periodically strip beach sand in large quantities. The areas have also been historically disturbed for the construction and subsequent demolition of two large groynes.

## 5.2 Key Aboriginal heritage findings

### 5.2.1 Archaeological values

No Aboriginal archaeological sites or objects have been identified within the Bondi Pavilion study area, but it is possible Aboriginal objects and deposits occur below or outside of disturbance zones. There is also a potential for building construction deposits or bedding fills situated beneath hard surfaces or within landscaped areas within the Pavilion site footprint to contain redeposited Aboriginal objects.

This potential is suggested by the extensive Aboriginal archaeological land-surfaces that were recorded exposed over a large area (about a hectare) in 1899 where these ‘workshops’ appear to have reflected frequent repeat visitation and use and/or possibly a long(er)-term occupation site. While it is impossible to establish precise ‘boundaries’ for the Bondi Beach archaeology on the basis of the original site descriptions alone (Etheridge and Whitelegge 1907), the authors make specific mention of a delta in the centre of the beach where thousands of implements were found exposed and which may relate to the general locality of the meandering drainage line that crossed the beach to the west of the Pavilion and which was still evident in the late 1920s as illustrated in **Figure 4.6**.

Bondi Pavilion and its surrounds occupy a central position on the beachfront that originally formed a part of a far larger Aboriginal landscape that overlooked the beach on one side and was backed on the other side by dune fields with a network of freshwater lagoons that stretched back along a sand corridor to Rose Bay. Bondi Beach was also a good Aboriginal fishing spot with spotting provided by the two headlands. The 1899 Bondi Beach archaeology coupled with the nearby engravings on the elevated sandstone topography above the beach, suggests Bondi was a major focus of Aboriginal coastal occupation throughout prehistory.

### 5.2.2 Archaeological historical values

There are comparatively few historical references to Aboriginal people at Bondi in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century. However, the broader Aboriginal history for eastern Sydney for example as a whole suggests coastal bays continued to be used by Aboriginal people possibly into the 1830s after which Aboriginal people may have more frequently used the country further south around La Perouse and Botany Bay where there was probably less settler interference.

### 5.2.3 Environmental heritage values

An important environmental history value identified is that Bondi has had a long and dynamic natural evolution and has changed over time, and that Aboriginal people have lived through these climatic and environmental changes. The former land surfaces and old living floors exposed at the back of the beach in 1899 may relate to when environmental conditions at Bondi were potentially different than today.

#### 5.2.4 Aboriginal archaeological expectations

Archaeological site formation processes as well as a range of taphonomic considerations are important to this assessment. Historical descriptions of how the BSH were levelled-out and the lagoons drained and filled suggests it was a process of cutting and filling and spreading sand at a desired 'level' and then grading it flat rather than physically removing sand materials off-site, along with any Aboriginal evidence contained within it. It is not known precisely what configuration or form the original BHS took within the Pavilion study area, but their levelling prior to the creation of the first seawall and foreshore promenade is likely to have followed the same general principles of taking sand from the high points to fill the low points.

'Taming' the BSH was an ongoing process and 'started' for example in the Crown Lands portion of the BHS in 1902 where the very high sand hills were lowered by 30 feet (SMH 26 June 1902) before containment methods were used to cope with sand drift using brush fencing and planting. These early approaches were ineffective and the dunes reformed in places. The *Evening News* (10 July 1912) advised in 1912 that a big task had been achieved whereby the previous year a greater portion of Bondi Beach had been described as fronted by extensive sand hills '*now the place is almost as level as the proverbial billiard table*'. However, clearing and levelling of the last sand hills at North Bondi (such as at the site of Public School that was at the foot of remaining BHS in 1925) continued into the late 1920s. Where large hills were flattened and used to fill deep gullies or lagoons there is a possibility that Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits, even though reworked and out-of-context, may also survive sealed beneath considerable depths of overlying 'fill'.

It is not expected that the proposed Pavilion upgrades in their currently proposed will entail any large horizontal or deep excavations with a potential to disturb in situ (unmodified) subsurface profiles that may contain Aboriginal archaeological remains. In this regard, deep or widespread excavation increases the 'risk' of exposing both Aboriginal objects, and less likely, burials, mindful of the history of Aboriginal skeletal remains that have been reported found at Bondi over the years (see below).

The construction of the first seawall and promenade disturbed at least a part of the Pavilion study area, and this was followed by the construction of the Pavilion Building and its associated infrastructure that in combination required the shifting around and grading level (as opposed to excavating and removing) of enormous quantities of sand as can be inferred in **Figure 4.7**. As a result, there is a possibility that pre-existing Aboriginal objects potentially present on the site before the Pavilion was built may have subsequently been incorporated within a range of contexts within the study area such as included in building construction deposits, within service-line fills, and incorporated into park/open-space landscaping materials. Although such objects would be derived from secondary archaeological contexts,



they would still be protected according to the NPW Act and would be worth salvaging because they have undoubted Aboriginal cultural heritage significance and potential archaeological research value.

The discovery of (intact) burials during future works as part of the current Pavilion upgrades is unlikely, and would seemingly require large-scale excavation to expose previously undisturbed sand profile. Dispersed human skeletal material could theoretically occur within the similar range of secondary archaeological contexts noted above for reworked Aboriginal objects.

Francis O'Brien donated Aboriginal objects and some bones to the *Australian Museum* on a number of occasions during his occupancy of the 'homestead' at Bondi. In 1855 he donated a partial female Aboriginal skeleton he evidently found exposed by a sand drift at Bondi Beach but in an unspecified location (SMH 5 March 1855). He later donated a 'mogo' (stone axe head) found in an Aboriginal burial place described as near Bondi Beach (Empire 5 February 1886) but no further details are provided. Another early local resident, Thomas O'Brien, recollected when an easterly gale washed away the bay frontage '*probably to an extent it had never done before, because it unearthed an aboriginal skull and several aboriginal tomohawks*' (O'Brien 1923:364). It is not clear when this occurred, but it appears unlikely to be the same gale described in 1899.

### 5.3 Managing potential Aboriginal archaeological resources

The Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the proposed Bondi Pavilion improvements presented here has been guided by the *Due Diligence Code of Practice* (DECCW 2010) which is a step by step method that encourages a precautionary approach when carrying out activities that may harm Aboriginal objects by '*taking reasonable and practical measures to determine whether your actions will harm an Aboriginal object and, if so, what measures can be taken to avoid that harm*' (ibid:4). The steps in this processes required to identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are present, or are likely to be present in an area, whether or not future activities are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present), and to determine whether an AHIP application is required are:

1. *Step 1 - Determining if the activity will disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees*
2. *Step 2a - Database search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) and other known information sources to identify if there are previously recorded Aboriginal objects or places in a study area*
3. *Step 2b - Landscape assessment through identification of landscape features including, land within 200 metres of water, dune systems, ridge tops, headlands, land immediately above or below cliff faces and/or rock shelters/caves*
4. *Step 3 - Impact avoidance assessment*
5. *Step 4 - Desktop assessment and visual inspection to identify if Aboriginal objects present (and if an AHIP is required)*

The Code specifies that if the initial assessment identifies that Aboriginal objects will or are likely to be harmed by a proposed activity, then further investigation and impact assessment is required. Where an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is sought from the OEH, it will require the completion of a full program of Aboriginal community consultation to prepare a comprehensive archaeological and cultural heritage assessment to support the AHIP.

The following responses to the questions above provide the basis for the Aboriginal heritage management recommendations that are presented in the following section.

*Determining if the activity will disturb the ground surface*

The redevelopment proposal will not involve any large-scale subsurface excavation or disturbance of previously undisturbed ground. However, future works may affect sandy construction deposits or bedding fills sealed beneath hard surfaces such as path and courtyard paving or forming part of existing landscaped open-spaces that may contain redeposited Aboriginal objects that may have been displaced by the widespread movement of sand during the construction phases of the Pavilion and been subsequently incorporated into these types of historic-period archaeological contexts.

*Database search of AHIMS and other sources to identify if there are previously recorded Aboriginal objects or places in a study area*

No Aboriginal archaeological sites or objects have previously been reported to occur within the boundaries of the Bondi Pavilion study area. However, the AHIMS recording for the archaeological site at Bondi Beach (AHIMS #45-6-2169) refers to the retrospective registration of 'Aboriginal workshops' that were exposed at the beach in 1899, and it is possible that archaeological evidence related to that site originally extended into the area now occupied by Bondi Pavilion and its surrounds. Also identified by AHIMS searches for this study are four rock engraving sites that are situated on the northern and southern headlands respectively and two sandstone rock shelters with shell midden in the nearby cliff line topography.

*Landscape assessment through identification of landscape features including land within 200m of water, dune systems, ridge tops, headlands and land immediately above or below cliff faces and/or rock shelters/caves*

The first two of these Aboriginal heritage landform sensitivity categories apply directly to the Pavilion study area. The site originally formed part of a sand-dune complex in a central position overlooking the beach. The remaining landscape features form a part of the broader Bondi Beach cultural landscape and are also relevant to predicting the potential Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the Pavilion study area in a general sense by virtue of their proximity and the presence of formerly associated resource and amenity attributes that were linked with these individual elements when they are considered together and combined may have attracted frequent Aboriginal visitation and use in the past.

*Impact avoidance assessment*

Actions to mitigate potential Aboriginal heritage impacts that may result from the proposal include the completion of further Aboriginal community consultation to a level that is beyond the scope of that undertaken with the LPLALC for this due diligence assessment.

Consultation would identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values that are specifically relevant to the Pavilion study area and complement the identification of the archaeological, and to some degree the Aboriginal historical values described in this report.

This would result in the preparation of an Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage assessment (AACHA) for the proposal to enable Council to both establish how potential Aboriginal cultural heritage values may be affected by the proposal and to also effectively manage these values on this basis.

The design and future implementation of Aboriginal archaeological mitigation approaches for the project, based on the outcomes of an AACHA that would build upon the findings and conclusions reported here, will require preparation of an archaeological research design and practical management approach to support an application for a 'precautionary' AHIP to the OEH to manage Aboriginal objects that may potentially be exposed in particular types of archaeological contexts such as construction and service fills and within landscaping deposits.

The AHIP application would also outline potential artefact recovery and recording procedures in locations where archaeological deposits are exposed beneath current hard surfaces. A circumstance where this could occur for example is where the existing paving surfaces in the courtyard are replaced which may reveal construction or bedding fills that may have Aboriginal objects incorporated within its matrices. Sample screening of fill or building construction deposits where Aboriginal objects have been located and/or are strongly suspected could be an effective safeguard against Aboriginal objects being 'missed', and other methods may also be required for 'unexpected finds' that may occur in other potential discovery circumstances exposed during future works.

*Desktop assessment and visual inspection to identify if Aboriginal objects present (and if an AHIP is required)*

No Aboriginal sites or objects have been previously identified to occur within the Bondi Pavilion study area, and none have been located by the current study because no natural ground is exposed. All areas are covered by hard surfaces or landscaping.

However, there exists a possibility that redeposited and out-of-context Aboriginal objects may already be incorporated within the Pavilion building construction deposits, service-lines and within surrounding landscaping fills. Where these deposits are exposed by future work, there is the potential for Aboriginal objects contained within these archaeological contexts to be affected by the proposal.

The following section recommends that an application for an AHIP under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* should be developed for submission to the OEH to manage the potential Aboriginal archaeological resource(s) that may be contained within the Bondi Pavilion study area and which may potentially be harmed by the redevelopment proposal. The AHIP application would need to follow the procedures that are established by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

#### 5.4 Key historical archaeological findings

There are no expectations that the Bondi Pavilion study area contains or retains historical-archaeological features and deposits that are associated with the pre c.1910s use of the site, and prior to the creation of the 'first' pavilion buildings, promenade and seawall.

Most of the original beach front and back-dune landscape had been entirely transformed by this time, and extensive site preparation and construction works undertaken in the late 1920s as required to create the current Bondi Pavilion layout is likely to have largely disturbed or destroyed any pre-existing historical archaeological remains.

#### 5.5 Managing historical archaeology

Bondi Pavilion is located within the curtilage of the SHR listed 'Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape' and the improvements proposed for the Pavilion upgrade are beyond the extent of works permissible under the general exemptions or specific exemptions issued under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. Thereby approval from the *Heritage Council of NSW* under s.60 of the Act is required for the project. This application will need to be supported by an archaeological research design and management methodology for how the potential historical resources that are most likely to be encountered at the site are to be managed prior to and during future demolition and construction phases.

However, no specific areas of historical archaeological sensitivity relating to activities undertaken within the study area that predate the Pavilion have been identified. Namely, no activities or long duration use of the land prior to the construction of the Pavilion and likely to have created an archaeological footprint are evident in the historical records. Consequently, there are no expectations any significant archaeological features or deposits, either of State or Local significance and associated with the history of use of the Pavilion, or landuse activities that predate the construction of the Pavilion, will be exposed in the future. One exception to this are evidence of the tunnels that were built in 1928 to provide pedestrian access under Queen Elizabeth Drive and extended into the beach as groynes that were demolished during WW2. The groyne's are well detailed in contemporary engineering diagrams and photography, and their potential archaeological remains will have limited archaeological research value.

## 6.0 Recommendations

The recommendations in this report are based on the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended) and the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (as amended), and the results of the archaeological assessments reported here. It is recommended that:

6. An Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Assessment (AACHA) be prepared for the proposed for the Bondi Pavilion improvements and be used to support an application to the *Office of Environment and Heritage* (OEH) for an *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit* (AHIP) under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to manage potential Aboriginal archaeological objects or (less likely) deposits contained within the study area and may be harmed by the proposal. The AACHA and AHIP application should follow the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).
7. An application for an Excavation Permit under s.60 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* should be sought from the *Heritage Council* and be supported by an archaeological research design and management methodology that details how the potential historic heritage resources are to be managed during the course of the project.
8. As a general recommendation, If human burials or bones are exposed, standard stop-work procedures and protocols to contact appropriate authorities should be followed, and if suspected to be of Aboriginal origin, the OEH and the LPLALC will need to be notified of the discovery immediately.
9. The LPLALC be invited to participate in future heritage site inductions with site contractors to ensure on-site personnel are aware of their obligations and requirements in relation to the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* about unexpected finds.
10. The Aboriginal history and archaeology of the place should be interpreted in an appropriate way within the upgraded Pavilion. Some Aboriginal themes and ‘story-lines’ that add to our understanding of the history and significance of Bondi are mentioned in this report and future decisions about interpretation should be developed in consultation with the LPLALC.
11. A copy of this report be forwarded to the LPLALC.

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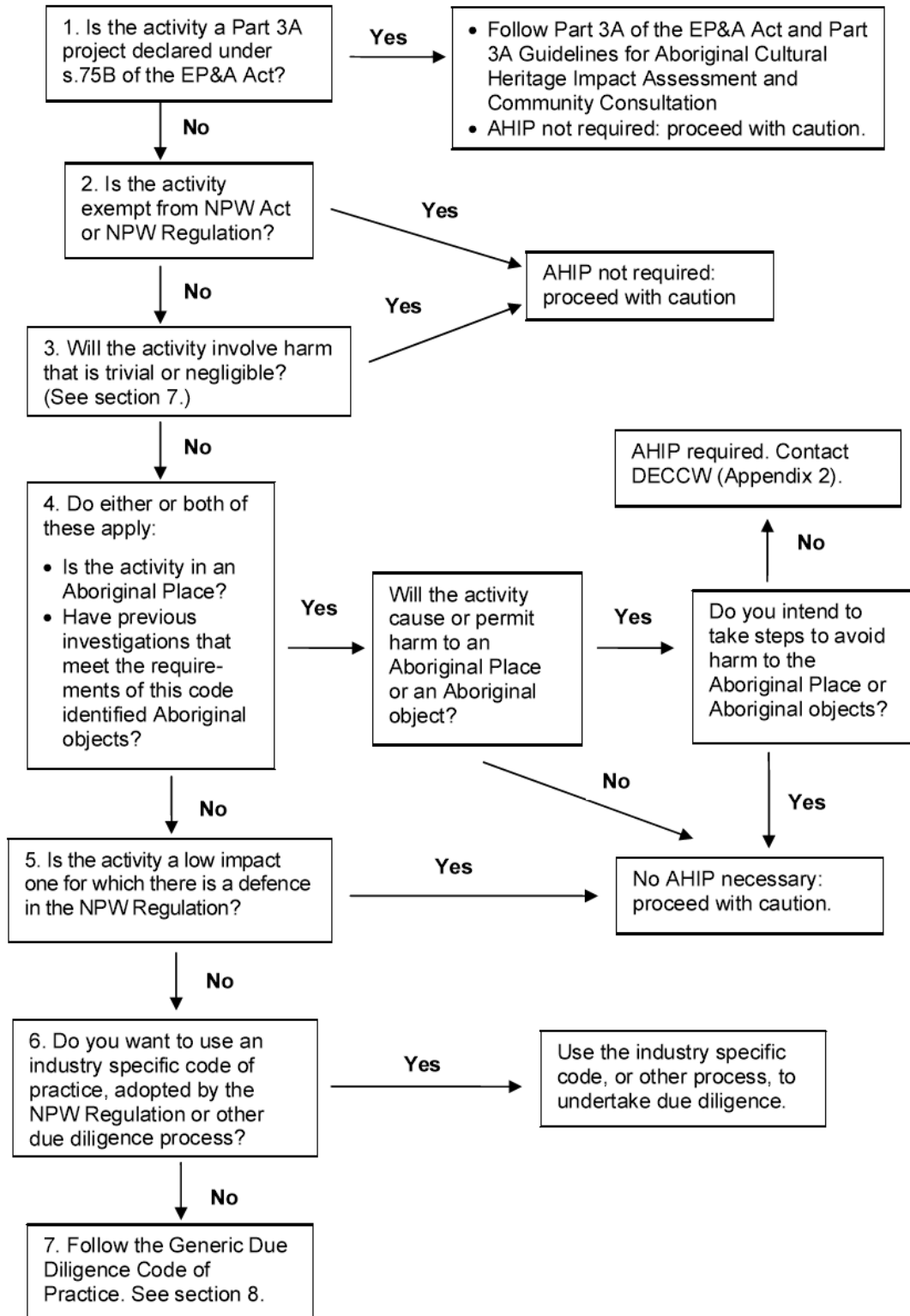
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Appendix 1

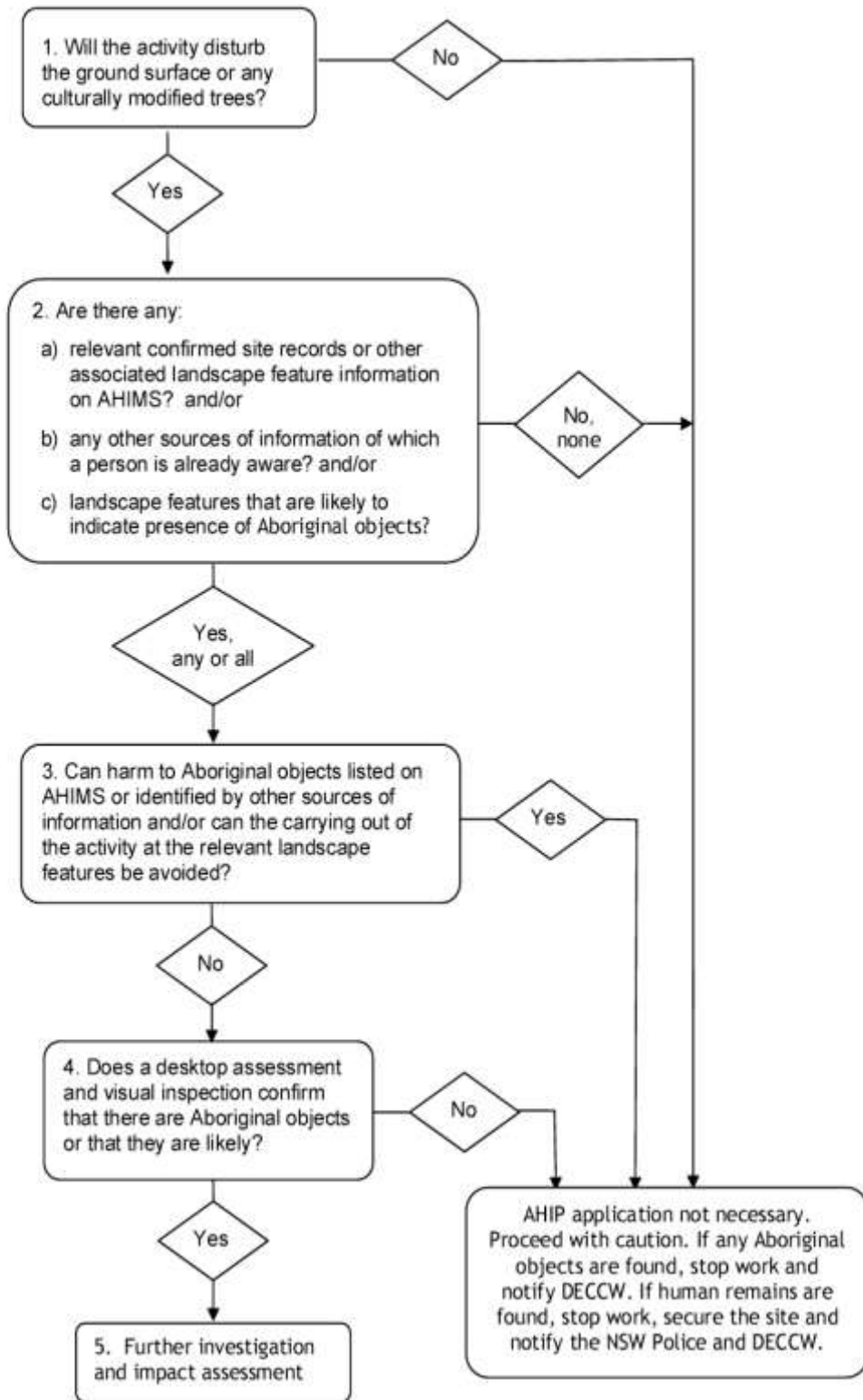
OEH Due Diligence Code of Practice

Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW – NPWS Act 1974

# 1 Do you need to use this due diligence code?



## 8 The generic due diligence process



Appendix 2

AHIMS Sites Searches



## AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Purchase Order/Reference : Bonds basic  
Client Service ID : 163636

---

Dominic Steele Archaeological Consulting  
21 Macgregor Street  
CROYDON New South Wales 2132  
Attention: Dominic Steele  
Email: dsca@bigpond.net.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 339200 - 341000, Northings : 6245000 - 6248800 with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Dominic Steele on 25 February 2015.**

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.

Date: 25 February 2015



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

7	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

 <b>AHIMS Web Services (AWS)</b> Extensive search - Site list report												Purchase Order/Reference : Goods not Client Service ID : 156091	
SiteID	Blockname	Datum	Zone	Reading	Northing	Easting	Context	Site Status	Site Features	Site Types	Reports		
45-6-2306	Blackstone Carduus Bay	ACD	56	339100	6243270	Open site	Open site	Valid	Graveling Grooves :-	Avocado Groove			
45-6-0694	Contact Middle Head-Port Jervis	Recorders ACD	56	339594	6244471	Open site	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) :- Escrutella	Block Engraving	1809		
45-6-2060	Contact South Bondi Cove	Recorders ACD	56	340320	6247930	Closed site	Closed site	Valid	Shell :- Artifact :- Escrutella	Shelter with Midden			
45-6-2169	Contact Bondi Beach	Recorders ACD	56	340656	6248530	Open site	Open site	Valid	Artifact :- Escrutella	Open Camp Site			
45-6-1947	Contact Tamarama Beach Cove	Recorders ACD	56	339996	6247300	Closed site	Closed site	Valid	Shell :- Artifact :- Escrutella	Shelter with Midden			
45-6-9750	Contact Marine Park-Tamarama Beach	Recorders ACD	56	340420	6247670	Open site	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) :- Escrutella	Block Engraving			

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 03/12/2014 for District Steele for the following area at Datum GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 339200 - 341000, Northings : 6245000 - 6248000 with a Buffer of 50 meters. Additional Info : for a camp update, Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 6  
 This information is not generated by the free from error on-line Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) and its employees disclaim liability for any action or inaction made on the information and consequences of such use of website.



Office of Environment & Heritage

### AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Purchase Order/Reference : Bondi Pavilion

Client Service ID : 225666

Dominic Steele Archaeological Consulting

Date: 17 May 2016

21 Macgregor Street  
CROYDON New South Wales 2132  
Attention: Dominic Steele  
Email: dsca@bigpond.net.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 340300 - 341400, Northings : 6248100 - 6248900 with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Dominic Steele on 17 May 2016.


The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

3	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *





**Office of Environment & Heritage**

**AHIMS Web Services (AWS)**

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Bondi Pavilion  
Client Service ID : 225668

Shield	Site Name	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status	Site Features	Site Types	Reports
45-6-2060	South Bondi Cove	AGD	56	340320	6247930	Closed site	Valid	Shell -, Artefact -, Middens	Shelter with Middens	1809
<b>Contact</b>										
45-6-2169	Bondi Beach	AGD	56	340650	6248850	Open site	Valid	Artefact -, Permits	Open Camp Site	
<b>Contact</b>										
45-6-0720	Bondi Bay/Ben Buckers	AGD	56	341100	6248200	Open site	Valid	Art (Pendant or Engraved) -, Permits	Rock Engraving	
<b>Contact</b>										

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 17/05/2016 for Dominik Steele for the following area at Datum: GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings: 340300 - 341400, Northings: 6248100 - 6248900 with a buffer of 50 meters. Additional info : For an archaeological assessment, Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 3

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission, Omission, Environment and Heritage (NSW) and its employees disclaim liability for any set down or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omissions.

Page 1 of 1



# E

## A3 Foldouts

Part 1 – Plans used for Historic Map  
Overlays

Part 2 – A3 pages

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# Part 1 – Plans used for Historic Map Overlays

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Part of a Parish Map for Alexandria  
AO Map No. 185

c1850

October 2020

Jean Rice Architect

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Australia, Port Jackson [cartographic material] / as surveyed by Lieut. John Hutchinson and Mr J. Woods Smith- under the direction of Captn. H. M. Denham. Digital Order No. a4986001 Call No. Z/M3 811.15/1857/1

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Plan of part of the beach at Bondi Bay Proposed to be resumed for Public Use Parish of Alexandria County of Cumberland

1881-1913

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Land resumed at Bondi for Public Park  
DSCN4432

1884

October 2020

Jean Rice Architect

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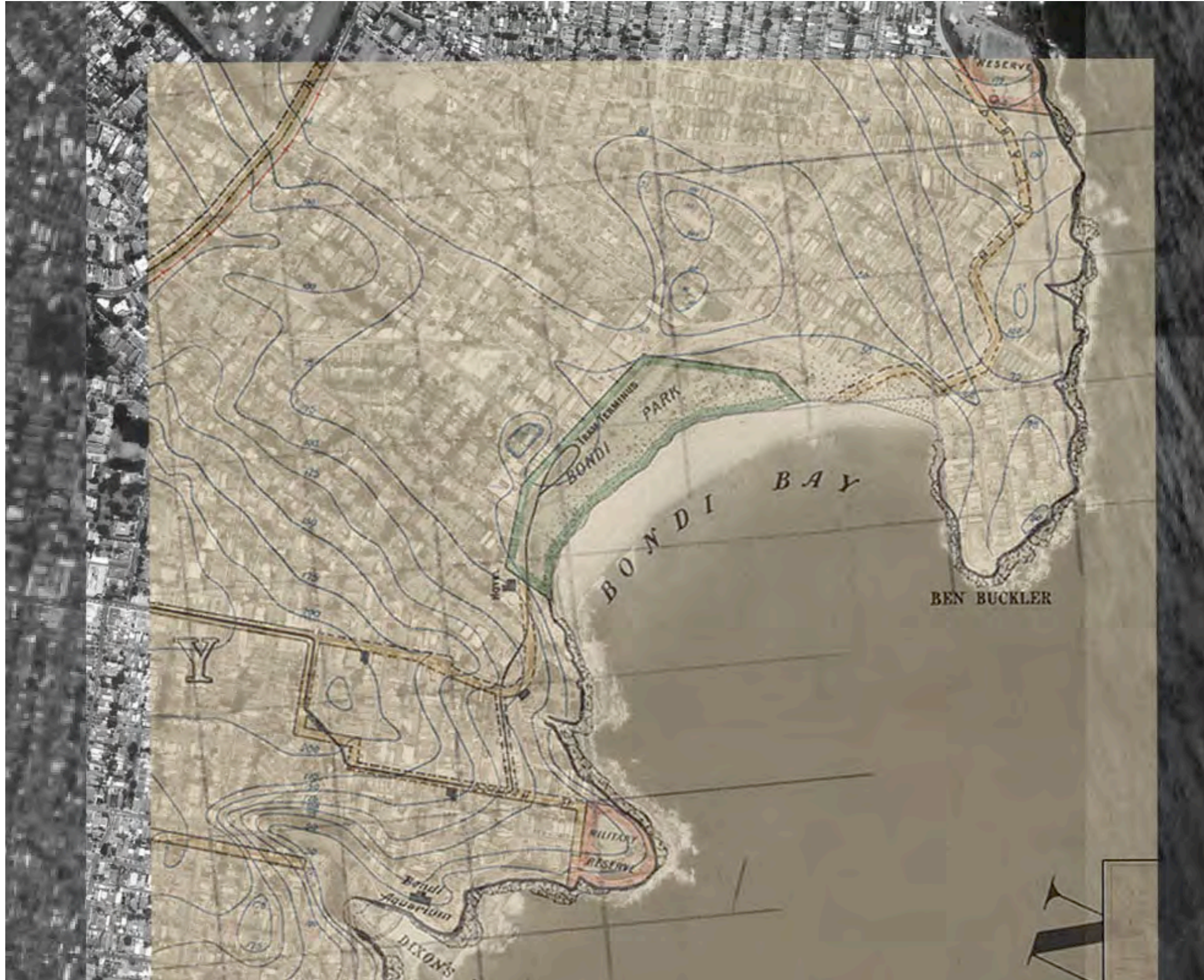
Plan of the borough of Waverley /  
compiled to date by S. Pollitzer, C.E.  
Sydney 1.1887  
[Commanding Engineer January 1887]  
nla.obj-229950697

1887

October 2020

Jean Rice Architect

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Contour Map of the country between Port Jackson & Botany Bay / H.W. Renny Tailour  
Map RM 2873  
Department of Lands 1894

1894

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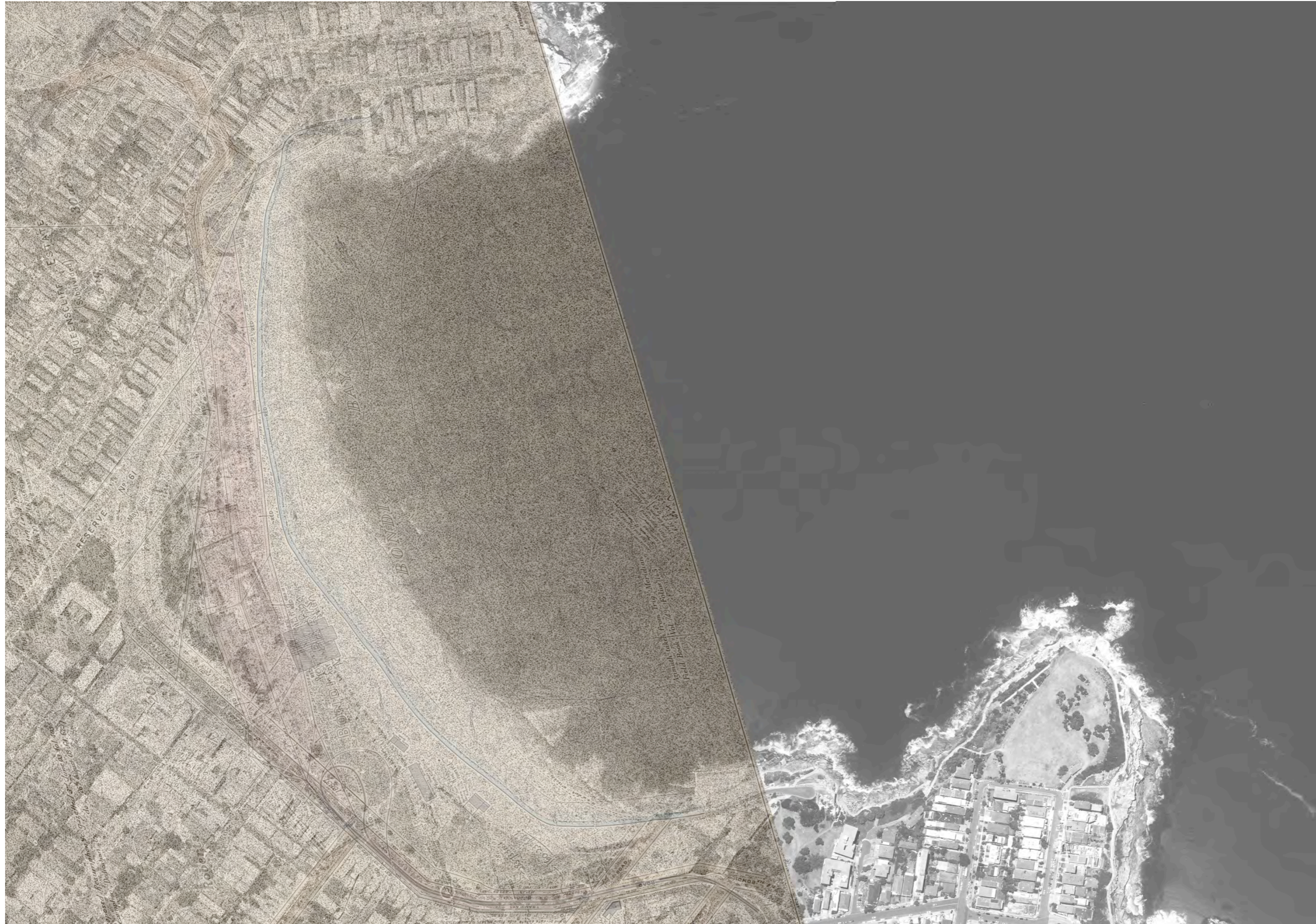


Part of Index Map Parish of Alexandria  
County of Cumberland Metropolitan Land  
District  
Eastern Division N.S.W.  
AO Map No. 24497

1900

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Plan of land proposed to be resumed under the Public Roads Act 1897-1902 in connection with the Road through Bondi Park  
Borough of Waverley  
Parish of Alexandria  
County of Cumberland  
CP7566-1603

1902

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Plan of Bondi Park  
Municipality of Waverley  
Parish of Alexandria  
County of Cumberland  
Metropolitan Land District  
Land Board District of  
Sydney  
CP4594.3000

1910

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Bondi Beach  
Improvements  
Contour Plan  
WLS Engineers  
Drawing 0003935-01

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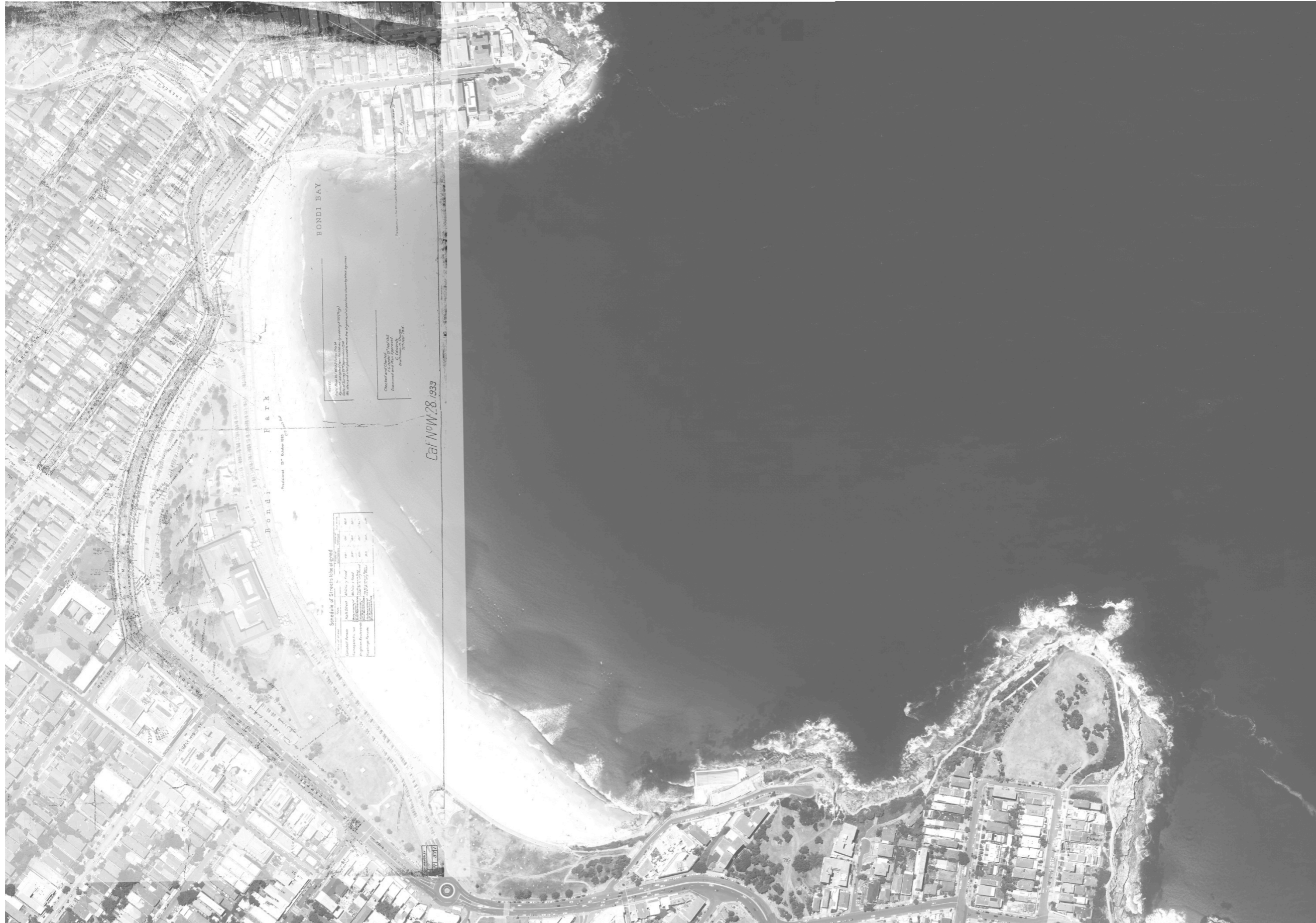


Bondi Beach Improvements  
Extension of Retaining Wall New Roadway, etc.  
WLS Index No. 263

c1913

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Plan of proposed Alignment under the Public Roads Act 1902 of parts of Campbell Parade, Ramsgate Avenue, Brighton Boulevard and Hastings Parade Municipality of Waverley County of Cumberland Parish of Alexandria Metropolitan Land District Land Board District of Sydney WLS Index No. 3936

1914/15

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Detail Survey of Area at Southern End of Bondi Beach Municipality of Waverley WLS Index No. 3918

1920

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Bondi Beach Improvements  
Topographical Plan  
Hardy Busby & Norman  
WLS Index No. 3930-01 & 3930-02

1923

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Bondi Beach Improvements for the  
Waverley Council  
General Plan of Layout  
WLS Index No. 4273

c1923

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Municipality of  
Waverley  
Bondi Baths  
General  
Improvements  
Contract No. 1  
Improvements  
to Pool  
WLS Index No.  
236-1

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Plan of Proposed Childrens' Playground in Bondi Park  
WLS Index No. 1714

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1943 Aerial  
Waverley Council

1943

October 2020

Jean Rice Architect

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Plan showing survey of constructed pathway along coastline from Gaerlock Ave, around Marks Park & Hunter Park to Notts Ave Municipality of Waverley WLS Index No. 512/1

1945

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Ben Buckler & Ramsgate Ave. Foreshores  
WLS Index No. 530

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Plan of proposed Childrens' Wading Pool  
at Nth Bondi  
WLS Index No. 1046

1946 – 1969

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Proposed Lavatory Accommodation –  
Bondi Park – at Notts Avenue  
WLS Index No. 1778/2

c1950

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Plan Marks Park  
WLS Index No. 1228

1956

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Waverley Municipal Council  
Boat Ramp to Ben Buckler Fishing Club at  
Low Tide  
WLS Index No. 855

1974

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Municipality of Waverley  
Ray O'Keefe Reserve Ben Buckler  
Improvements  
WLS Index No. 910-01

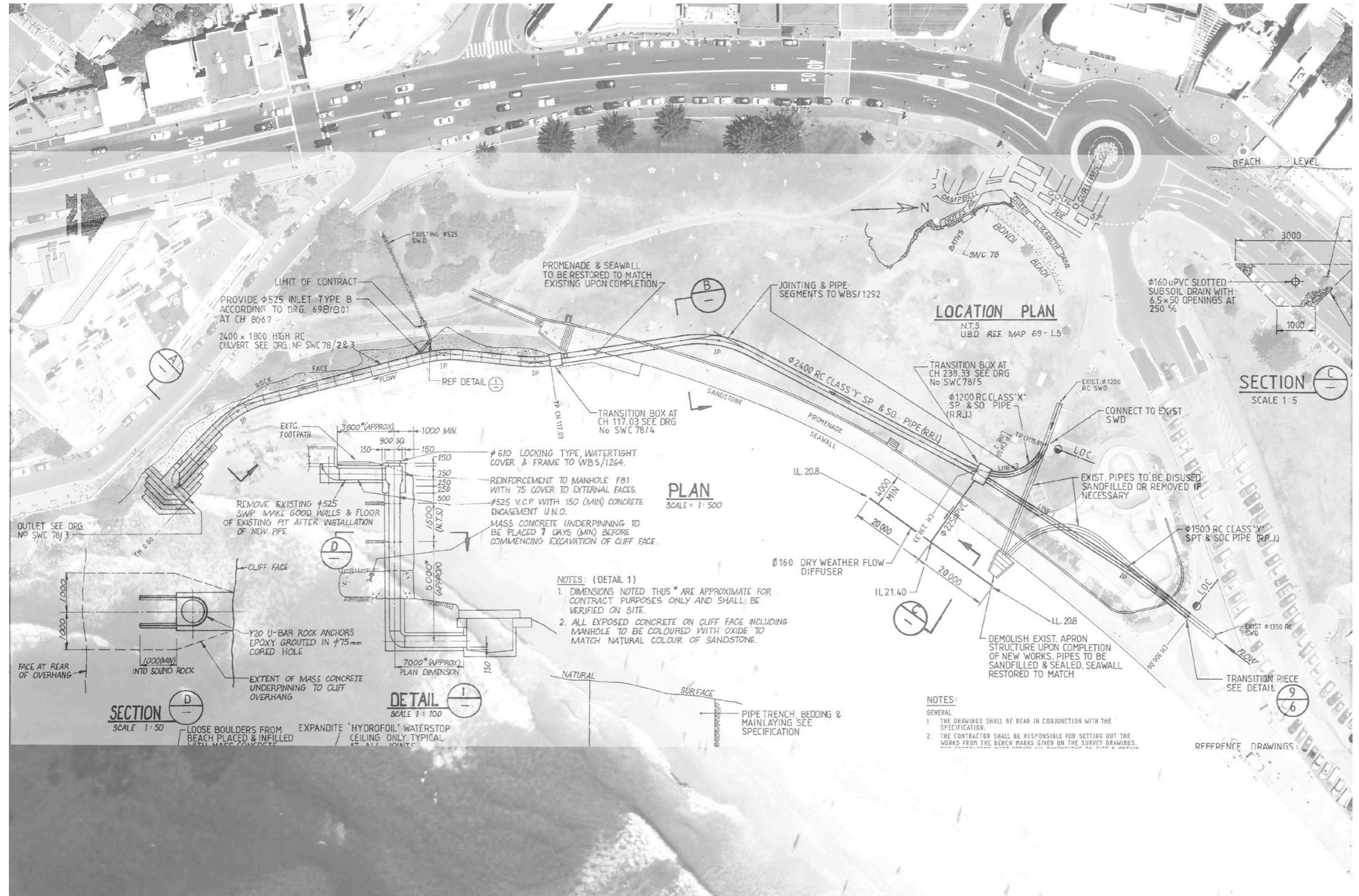
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Municipality of Waverley  
Marks Park Improvements  
WLS Index No. 734

1978

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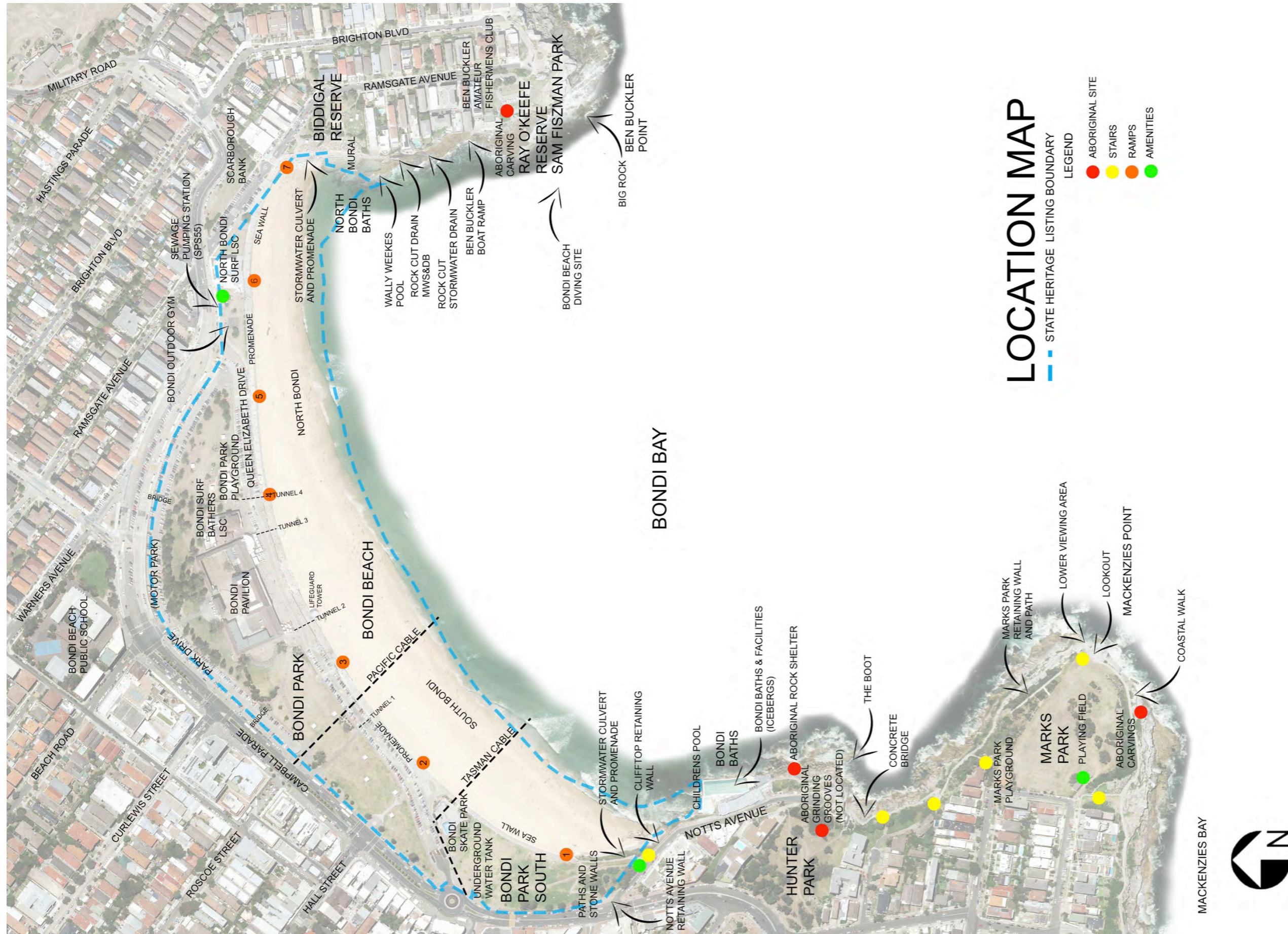
Waverley Drainage  
Waverley – Penkiv S.W.C. No. 78  
Extension of Outlet  
General Arrangement  
WLS Index No. 8553-01

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## Part 2 – A3 pages

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A3 SIZE IN COLOUR

Figure 1.7: The area in the vicinity of the Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape (BBCL) CMP study area, showing the location of elements referred to in this report and the names used to refer to each element. This includes the location of extant elements, including individually listed heritage items. Coloured dots are used to indicate some features where there is not enough space to include text on the diagram and for legibility. The legend indicates the type of feature. The numbers in the dots for the ramps indicate the ramp numbers used to refer to individual ramps. The SHR BBCL boundary is shown dotted blue. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. Source: Aerial courtesy of Waverley Council and JRA

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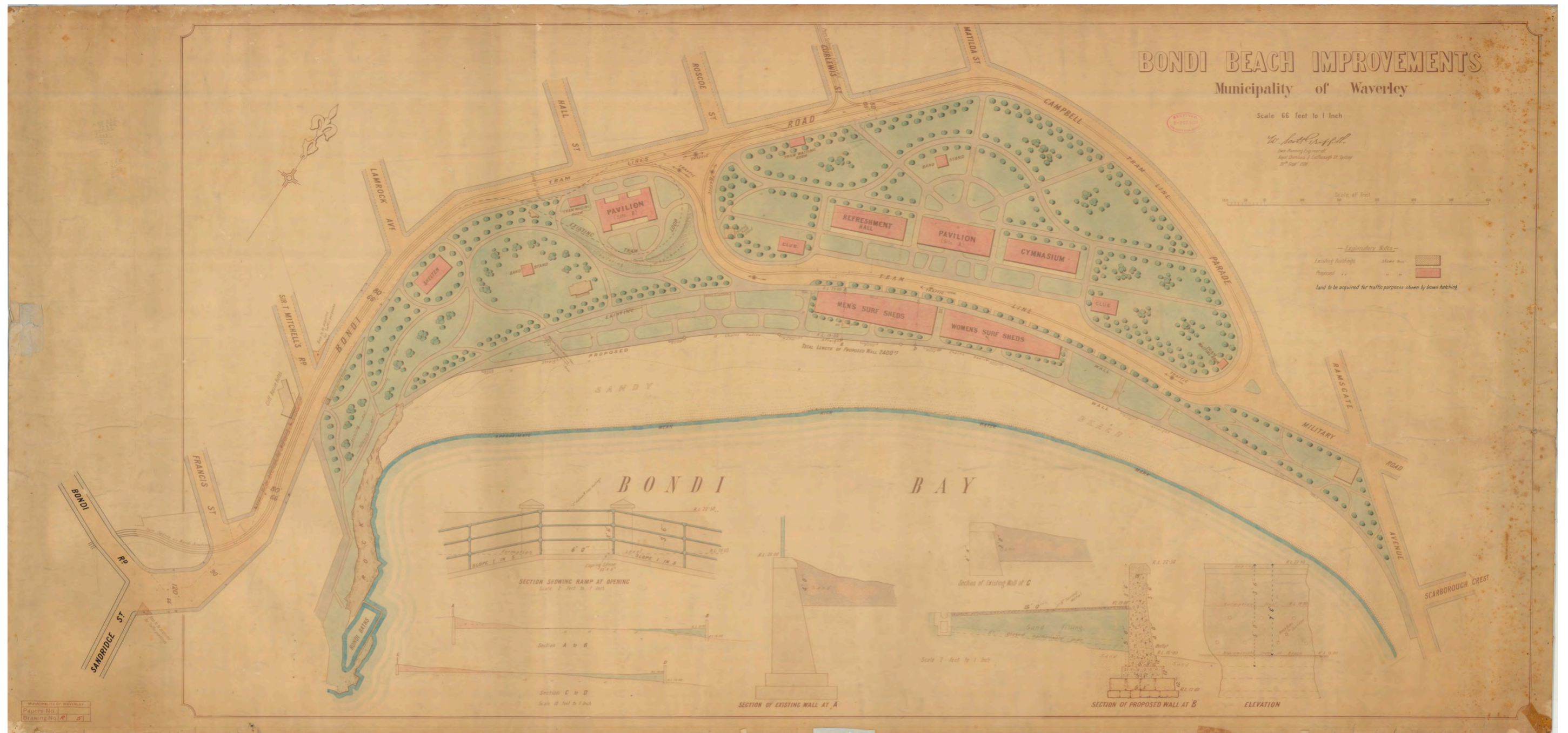


Figure 2.59: Walter Scott Griffiths plan of Bondi Beach Improvements dated September 1920. As well as the plan at the bottom of the drawing are sections showing the proposed level in front of the sea wall, details of ramps and of sea wall construction. The plan shows a sea wall on the seaward side of the existing sea wall. The seaward area was to be the site for male and female surf sheds at a lower level. On the shore side was a pavilion, on the site of the current building, with a refreshment hall and a gymnasium on each side and the two surf clubs at each end of the group. It provided two alternate sites for the pavilion, the other being higher on the existing tram loop. The scheme also included a tramline running along Campbell Parade, then the marine drive and rejoining Campbell Parade north of the existing tram loop forming a new tram and one way vehicle loop. Smaller buildings were tram waiting rooms and bandstands. The proposed path network included a wide path at the back of the pavilion and a large semi circular path bisected by paths radiating from the centre of the rear of the pavilion. At the south end of the park informal curvilinear paths remained. The scheme shows extensive plantings with double rows of trees along the external roads and single rows on each side of paths within the park, except the radial paths. There was a single row of trees along the sea wall, double at the south. There are groups of presumably smaller plants at the centre of the large park "rooms". Source: WLS Engineers Plan 0004436

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Figure 2.75: Plan of tree planting at Bondi Park, dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 1930. The date is hand written on the printed plan as are the names at each tree. Each tree is indicated by a rectangle, presumably the tree guard, and has a name written next to it. Circular beds are indicated with triangular symbols adjacent, possibly different trees or floodlights. The dots are the location of light standards (poles). The printed plan which likely predates the hand written notes shows the park design adopted including path locations. The paths are generally similar widths with one wider path opposite Roscoe Street. This led to the stair at the entrance to Tunnel 1 under the marine drive. The path opposite Hall Street has a central circular garden bed (shown in the previous photo Figure 2.74) and there are radiating angled paths from the Campbell Parade end of the path. These paths were on the site of the former tram loop. It is likely that these were seen as the main arrival point given the extra angled paths and the wider path. Other paths relate to the Pavilion and access from Campbell Parade to the rear of the Pavilion, the two paths from the bridges to the beach and paths linking them across the rear of the Pavilion and along the edge of the carpark. The plentiful lighting indicates that the park was designed to be used at night. The original drawing is held by the Waverley Council and was photographed in several parts by the librarian and joined by the authors (thus the missing section of the image). Source: WLS Engineers Plan 0001442 and Card 481

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### Up to 1879

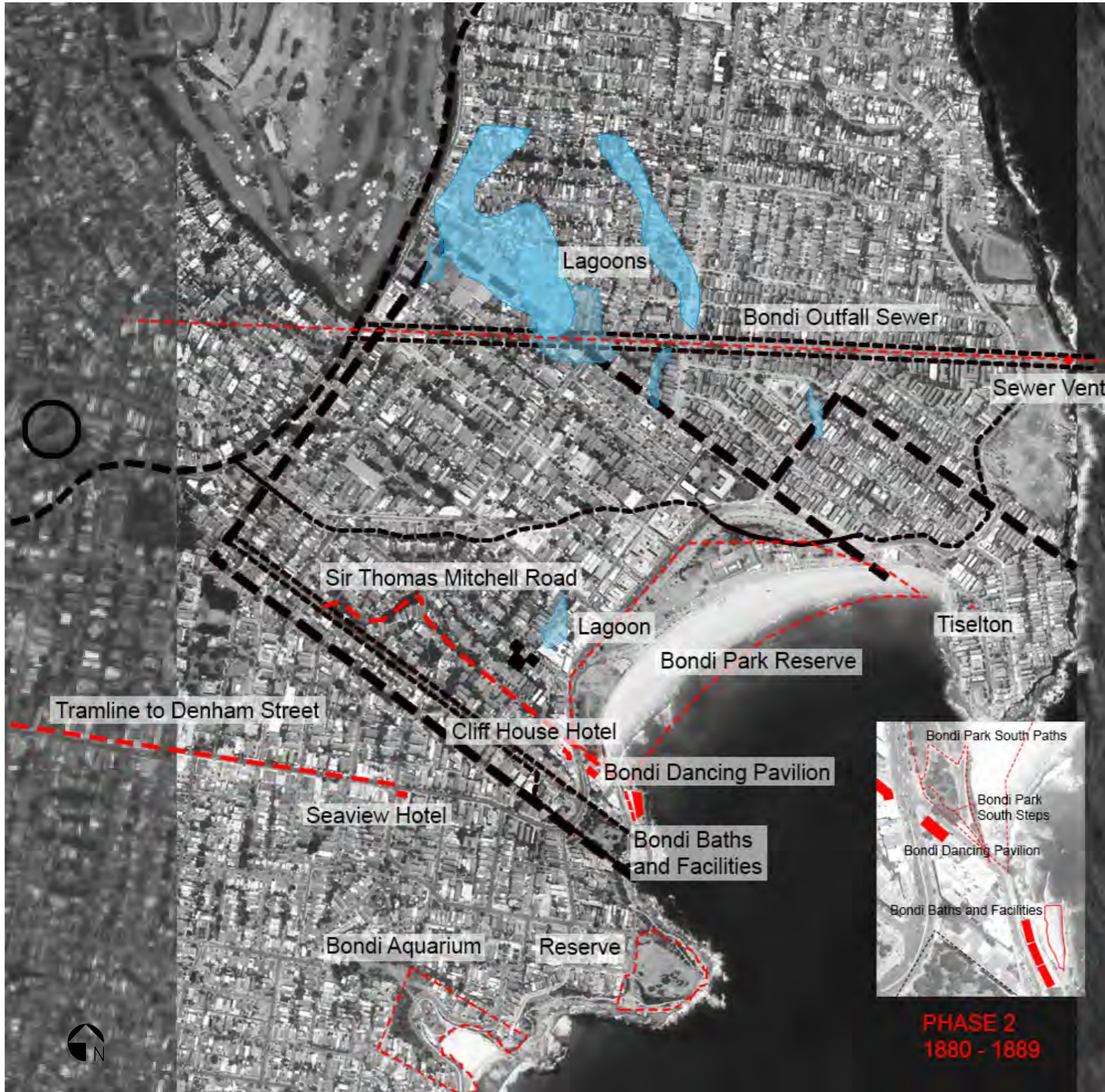
The diagrammatic depiction of this phase is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown.

The tramway in Phase 1 is O'Brien's private tramway to Murrivierie Quarry (1861). The solid line is traced off one of the historic portion plans available to JRA at the time of production of this report, the red dotted part of the route is assumed. Figure 2.34 (Smiths 1902 map) in this report shows a slightly different route which is more directly along the line of the diagonal street (O'Brien Street) and following that diagonal line across the top of Bondi Park and not entering it (shown by dotted yellow line). This may well be the route of the tramway with O'Brien St having been later constructed on the tramway embankment.

This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.1: Phase 1 - development up to 1879. Source: JRA

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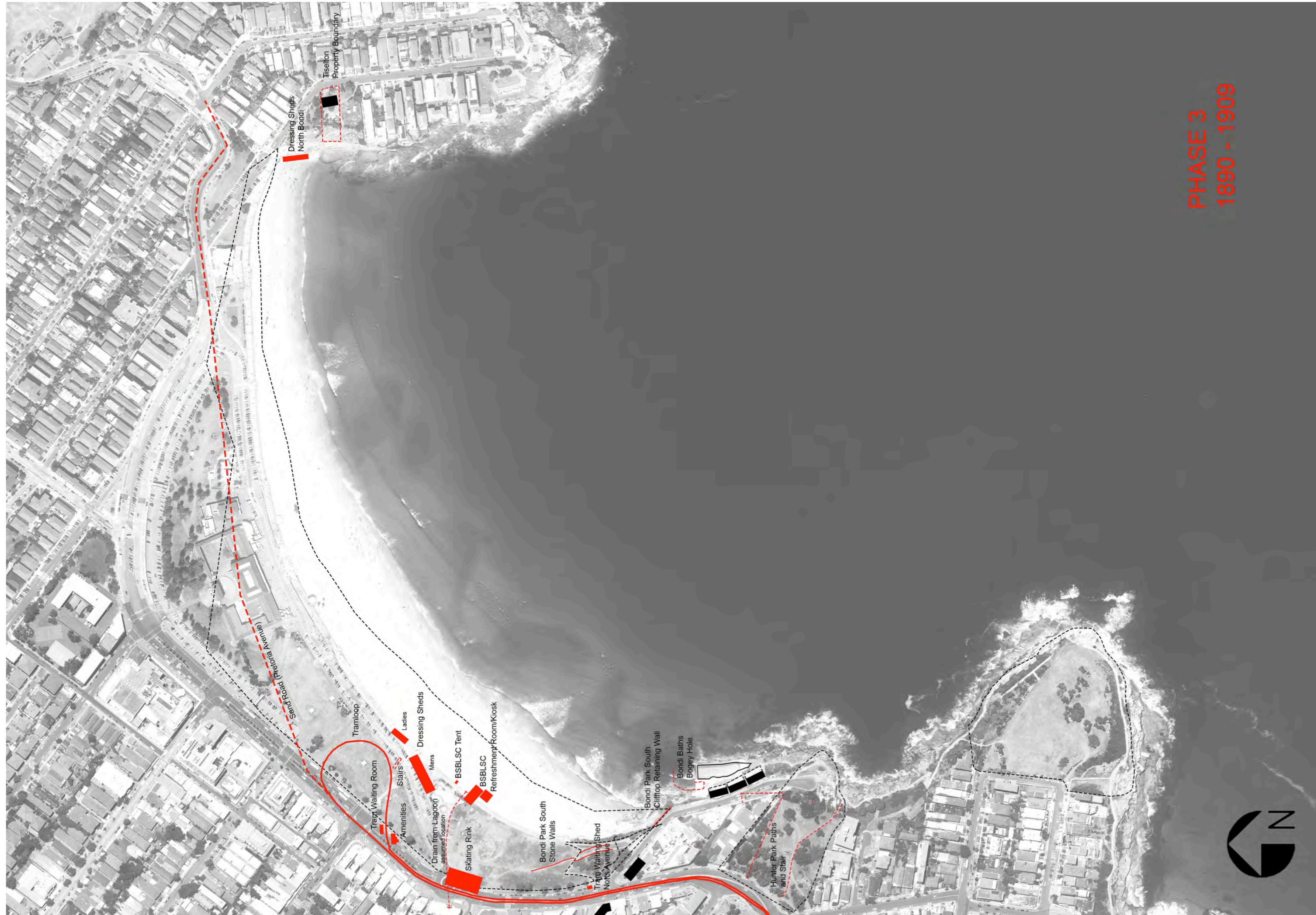


1880 to 1889

The diagrammatic depiction of this phase is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.2: Phase 2 - development 1880 – 1889. The inset in the lower right corner is an enlargement of the area of Bondi Park South and Bondi Baths for clarity. Source: JRA

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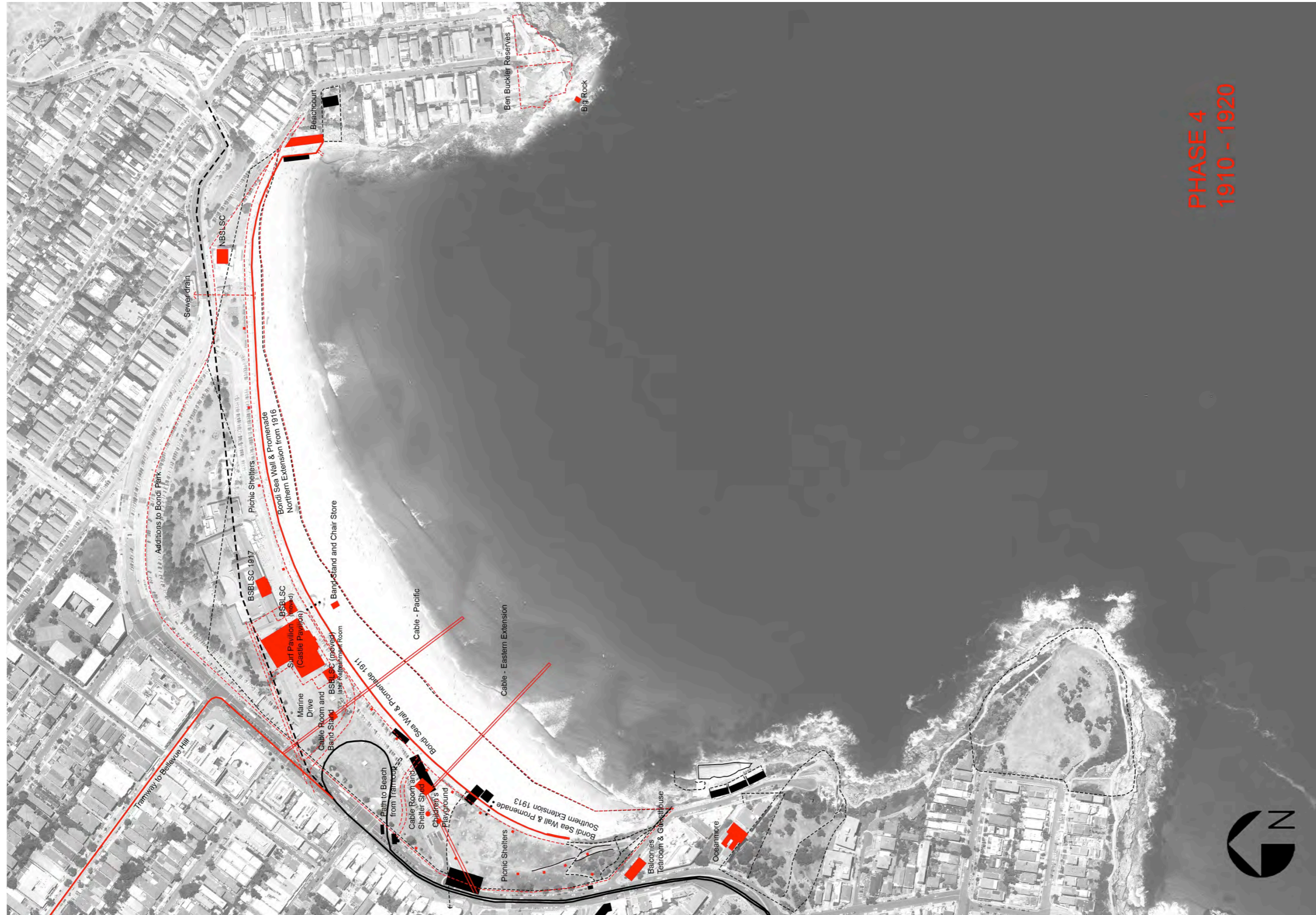


**PHASE 3**  
**1890 - 1909**

**1890 to 1909**  
This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.3: Phase 3 - development 1890 – 1909. Source: JRA

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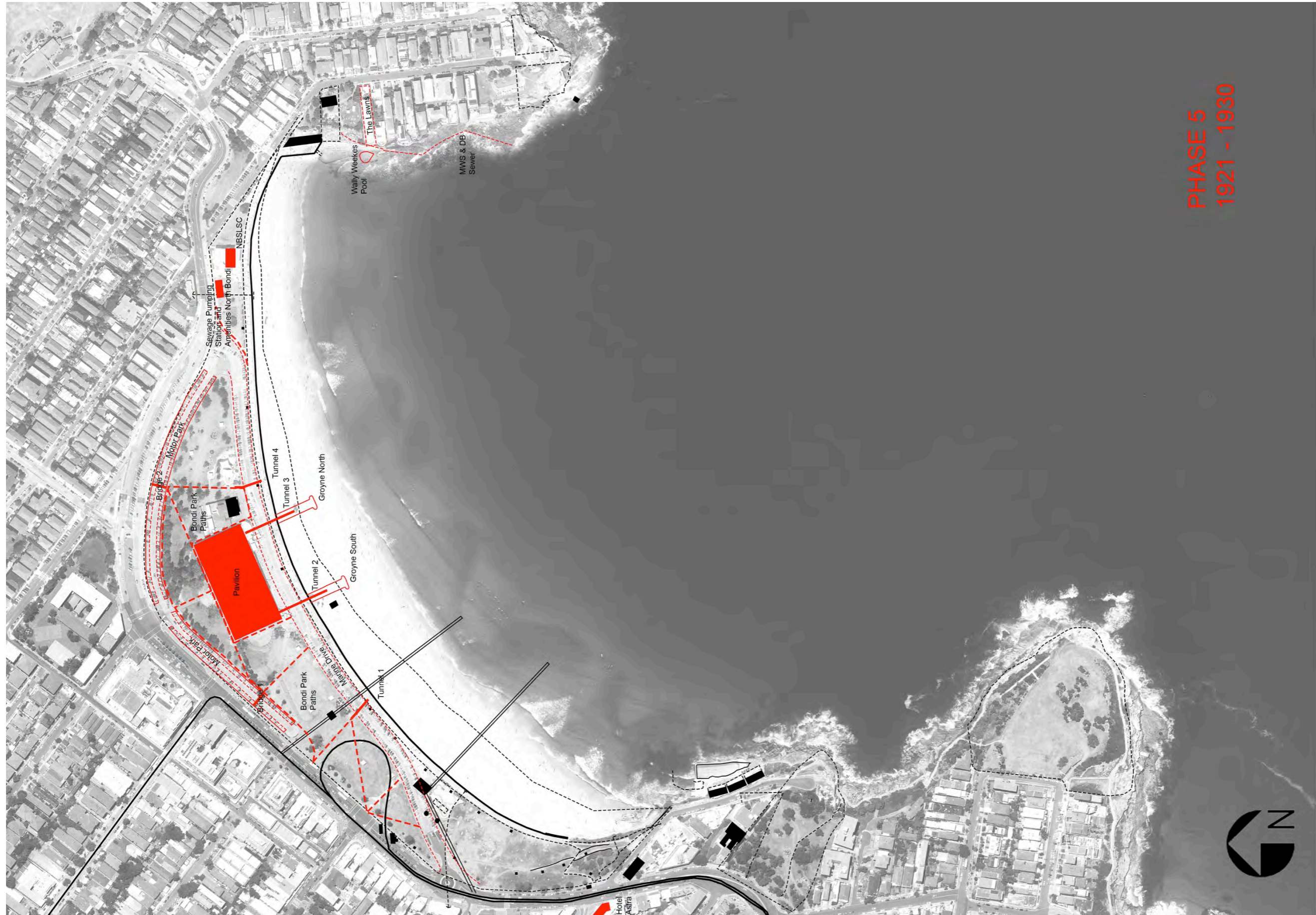
**PHASE 4**  
**1910 - 1920**

**1910 to 1920**  
This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.4: Phase 4 - development 1910 – 1920. Source: JRA

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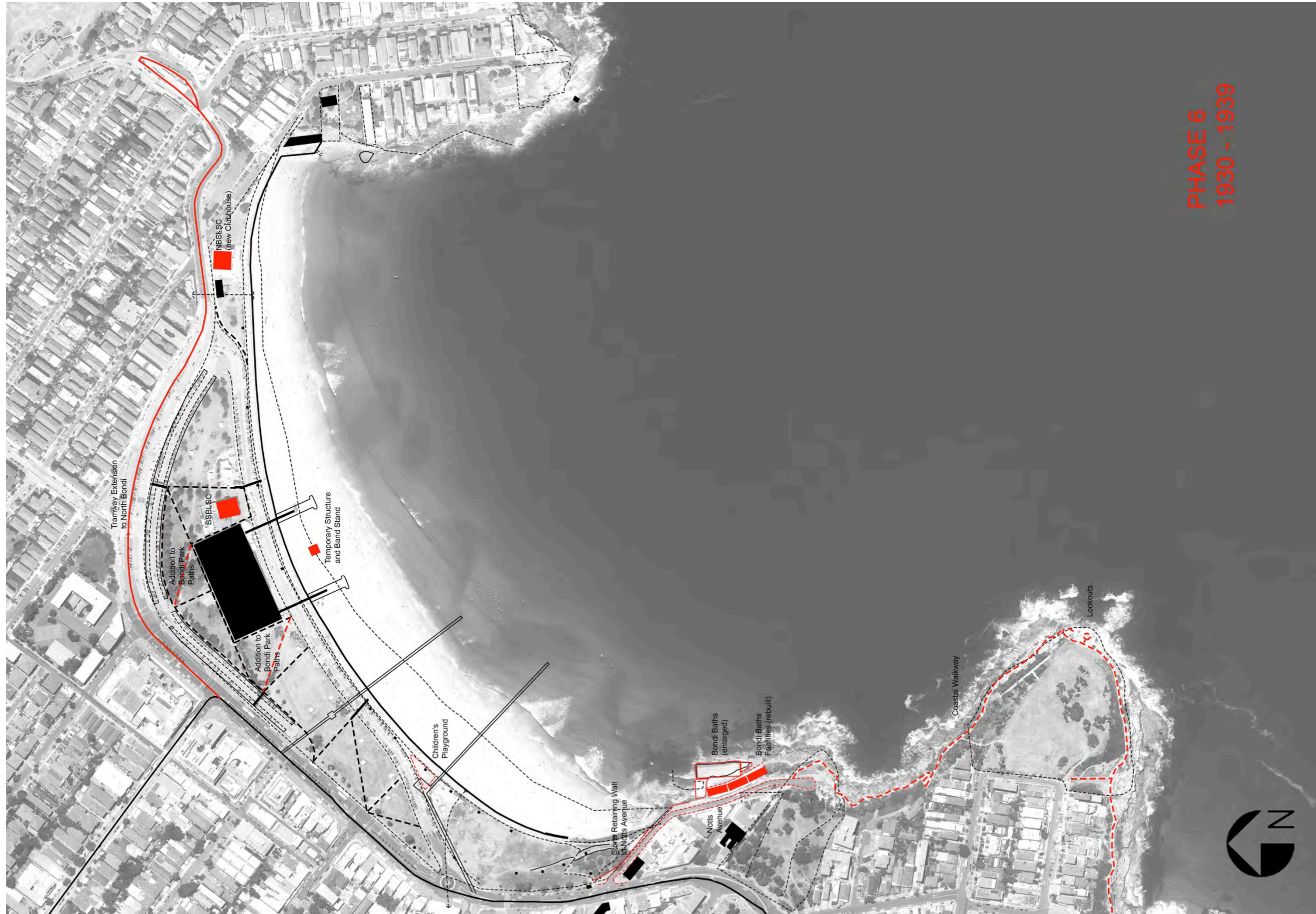


PHASE 5  
1921 - 1930

**1921 to 1930**  
 This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.5: Phase 5 - development 1921 – 1930. Source: JRA

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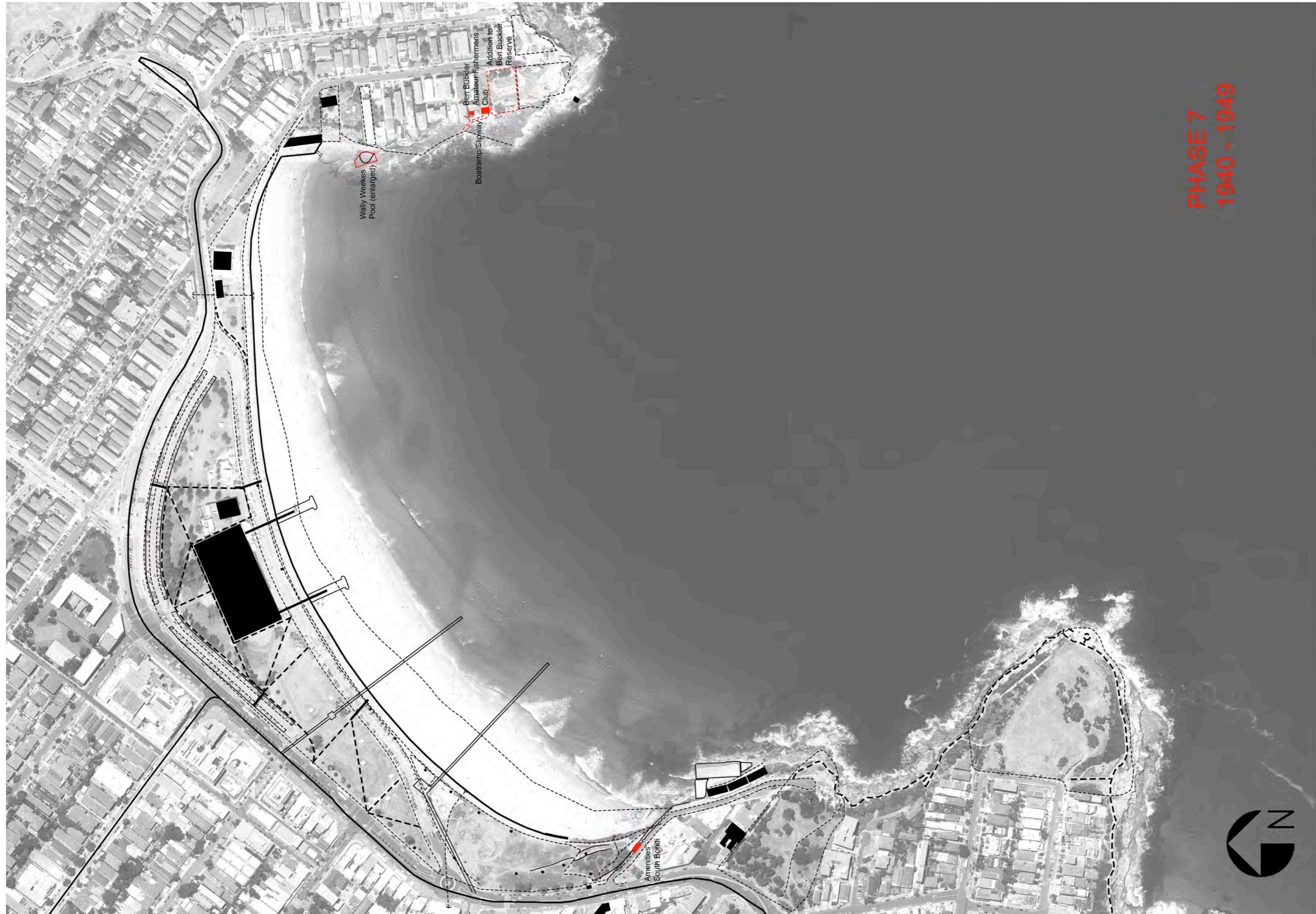


**PHASE 6**  
**1930 - 1939**

**1930 to 1939**  
This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.6: Phase 6 - development 1930 – 1939. Source: JRA

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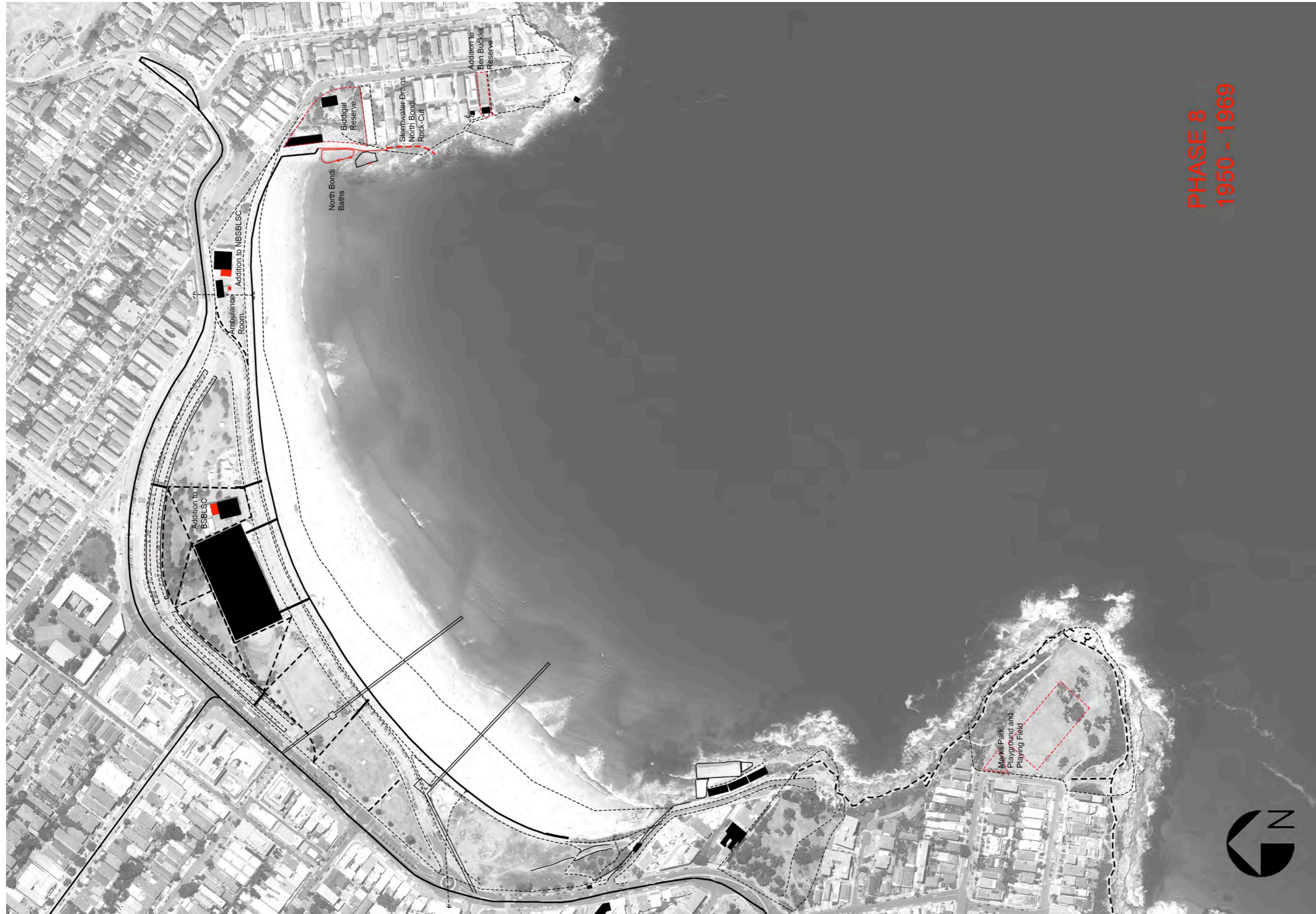


**PHASE 7**  
**1940 - 1949**

**1940 to 1949**  
This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.7: Phase 7 - development 1940 – 1949. Source: JRA

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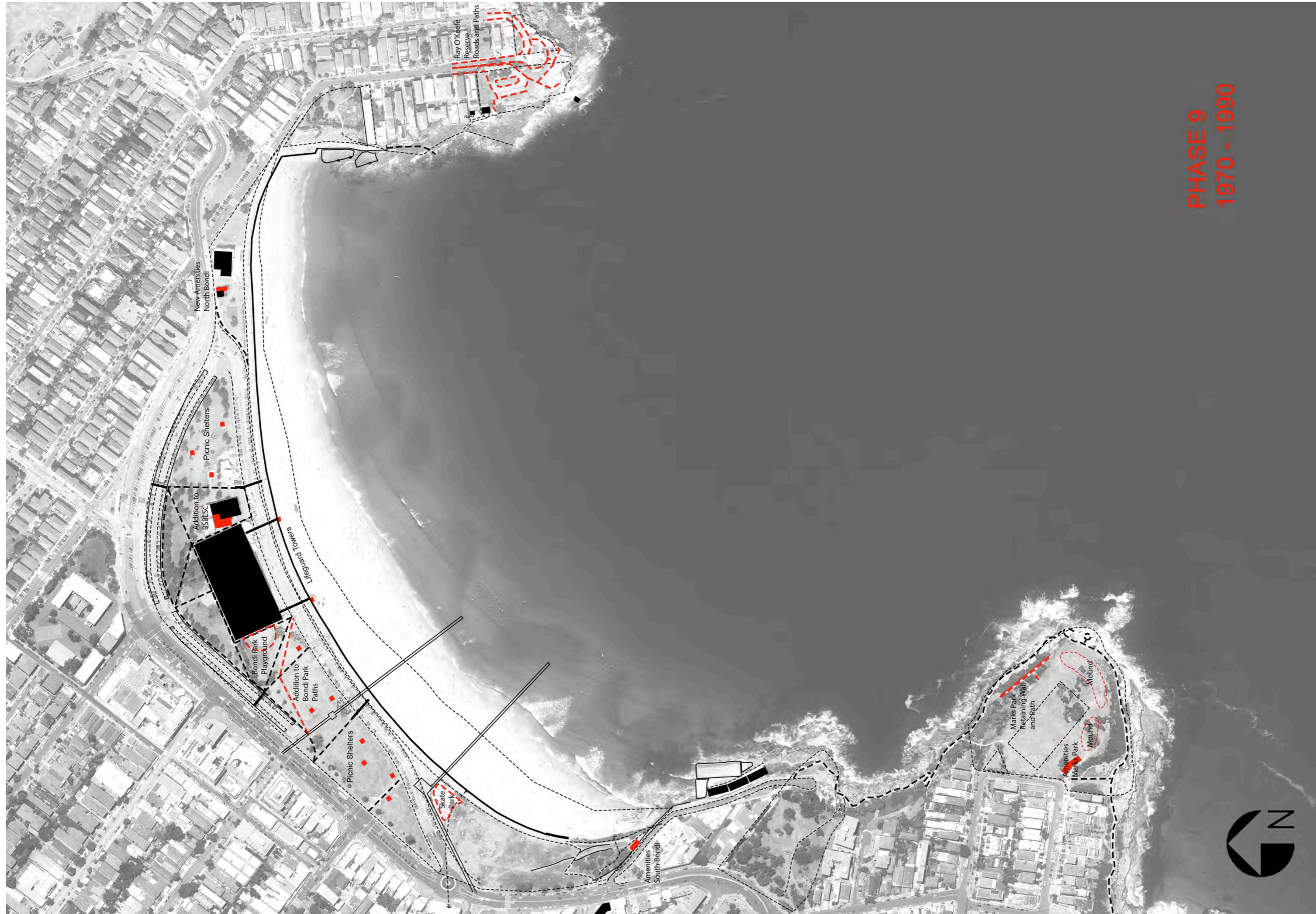
**PHASE 8**  
**1950 - 1969**

**1950 to 1969**  
This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.8: Phase 8 - development 1950 – 1969. Source: JRA

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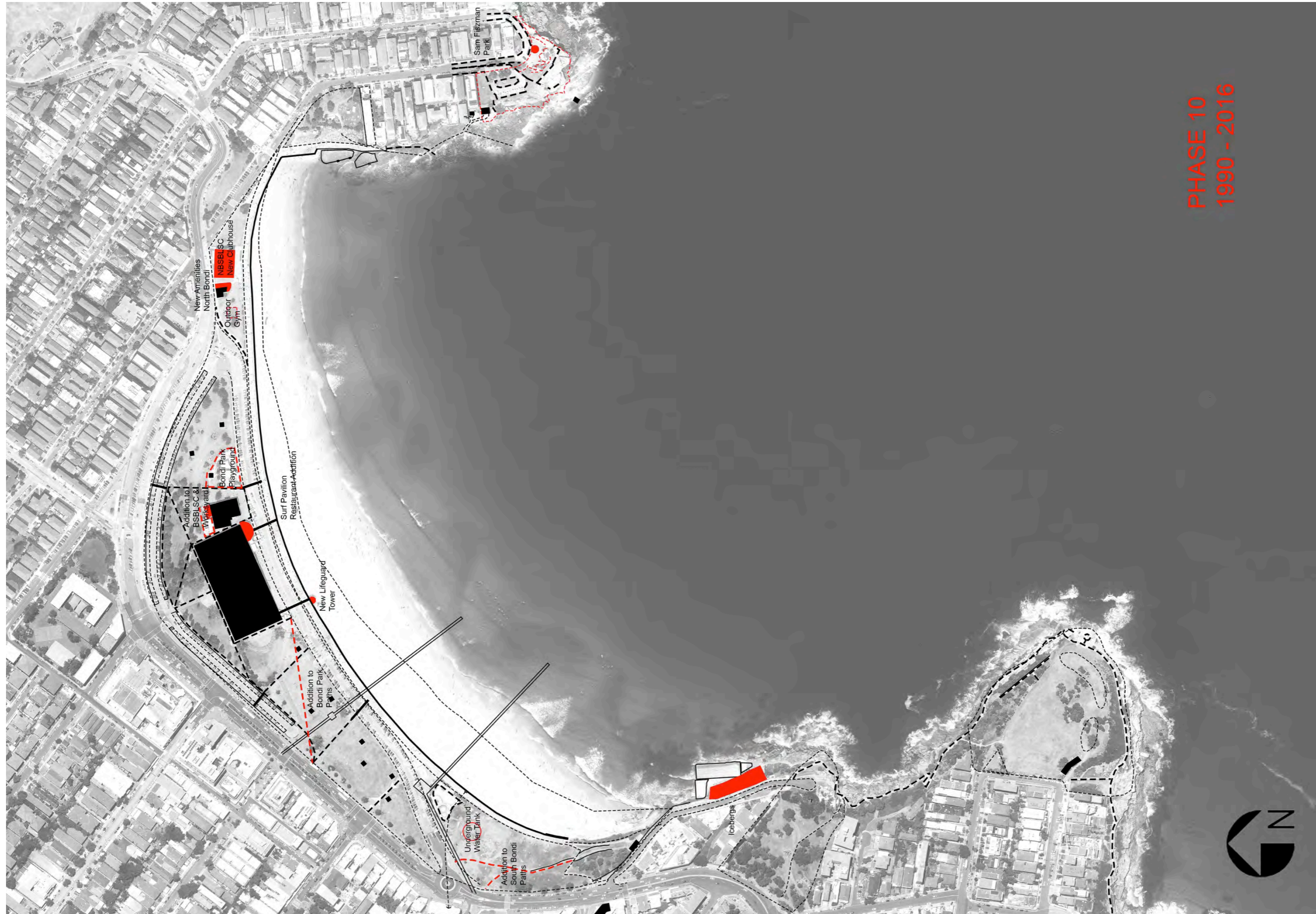


PHASE 9  
1970 - 1990

**1970 to 1990**  
 This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.9: Phase 9 - development 1970 – 1990. Source: JRA

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**PHASE 10**  
**1990 - 2016**

**1990 to 2016**  
 This diagram is to be read in conjunction with Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, where each element is discussed in detail. Planting is not shown. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. The beach is about 1km long.

Figure 3.10: Phase 10 - development 1990 - 2016. Source: JRA

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### 3.4 Chart of Continuing and Significant Uses

In the BBCL use is a major contributor to heritage significance. The most obvious of these are beach swimming, surfing and surf live saving but there are many other uses that have been undertaken at Bondi since the 19<sup>th</sup> century or before. When uses are identified as significant, conserving them, or enabling them to continue, is part of the necessary conservation of the place. The tolerance for change in heritage items is higher if it is for a use identified as of heritage significance.

As part of the analysis for this CMP a chart of significant uses was prepared. It identified uses and researched when they were first undertaken at Bondi and whether they continue today. The analysis is based on historical records and reports of the activity. Research concentrated on the first historical record of an activity. Some of the surprising continuity and early use is a function of the natural landscape, which encouraged and enabled the use. That chart is too detailed to include in this report and is summarised in the following table and text. In the table several uses are included under a theme heading. These are discussed in the text after the table. In several cases the significant uses identified as originating or being popularised at Bondi have gone on to influence regional and the broader Australian culture and this is discussed in the Comparative Analysis (Section 5.0). In the table each 'x' indicates a specific report of the occurrence of an activity in the more detailed chart. The shading in the table indicates that the use continued in that period.

Table 3.4 : Chart of Continuing Significant Uses

PERIOD	THEMES											
	FISHING (Hunting or food gathering, Boating)	BEACH SWIMMING (Ordinances, Sea Bathing Life Saving, Life Saving Clubs, Lifesaver Training, Life Guards, Surf Carnivals, Dressing Sheds, Body Surfing, Board Surfing)	OCEAN POOLS (Ocean Baths, Swimming Carnivals, Competition, Clubs, pool sports)	SPORTS AND FITNESS (Volleyball, Squash, Tennis, Running, Fitness equipment, Gymnastics, Football, Snorkelling, Diving, Cycling)	PASSIVE RECREATION (Sun Bathing, Taking Sea Air, Paddling, Viewing)	PARKS AND RESERVES (Reserves, parklands, playgrounds, picnic, refreshments)	EVENTS (Dancing, Bands, Public Holidays, Events, Carnivals, Car Trials, Fundraising, Re-enactments, Skating)	TOURISM (Accommodation, Shacks, Camping, Day Trips, Excursions, Picnic, Tour Buses, Runs – Cycling or Motor bikes)	TRANSPORT (Walking, Road, Horses, Tram, Bus, Driving to the Beach)	SERVICES (Surveys, Water Supply, Stormwater, Sewer, Cable Stations, Dune Stabilisation)	ART Inspiration for (Sketching, Painting, Photography, Art Installations)	QUARRYING (Stone, Sand, Garbage Disposal, Filling)
Pre 1788	x	Likely			x			x				
1788 - 1829		Likely			x				x			
1830s	xx				xx		x		x	x		
1840s												
1850s	xx	x			x	x		x	xx	x	x	
1860s	x				xx	xx	x	x	x			x
1870s	x	x	x		x	xx		x	x			
1880s	x	x	xx		xx	xx	xxx	xx	xxxx	x	x	
1890s	x	xx	xxxxx	x	xx	xxxx	xx	x	xx	x		x
1900s	x	xxxxxxxx	xx		x	xxx	xxxx	xx		x	x	x
1910s	x	xxx	x	xx	xx	xxxx	xxxxx	x	x	x	x	xx
1920s	x	x	x		x	xxxx	xxxx					x
1930s		xx	x	x	x	xxx	xxx	x				
1940s	x	x				xx	xx	x				x
1950s		x	x	x		xx	xx		x			
1960s		x	x	x		xx	xx					
1970s		x		xx		xx	xx	x				
1980s		x				xx	x		x	x		
1990s		x		x		xx	xxx	x		xx		
2000s		x				xx	x					
2010s	x	x		x		xx	xx	x				

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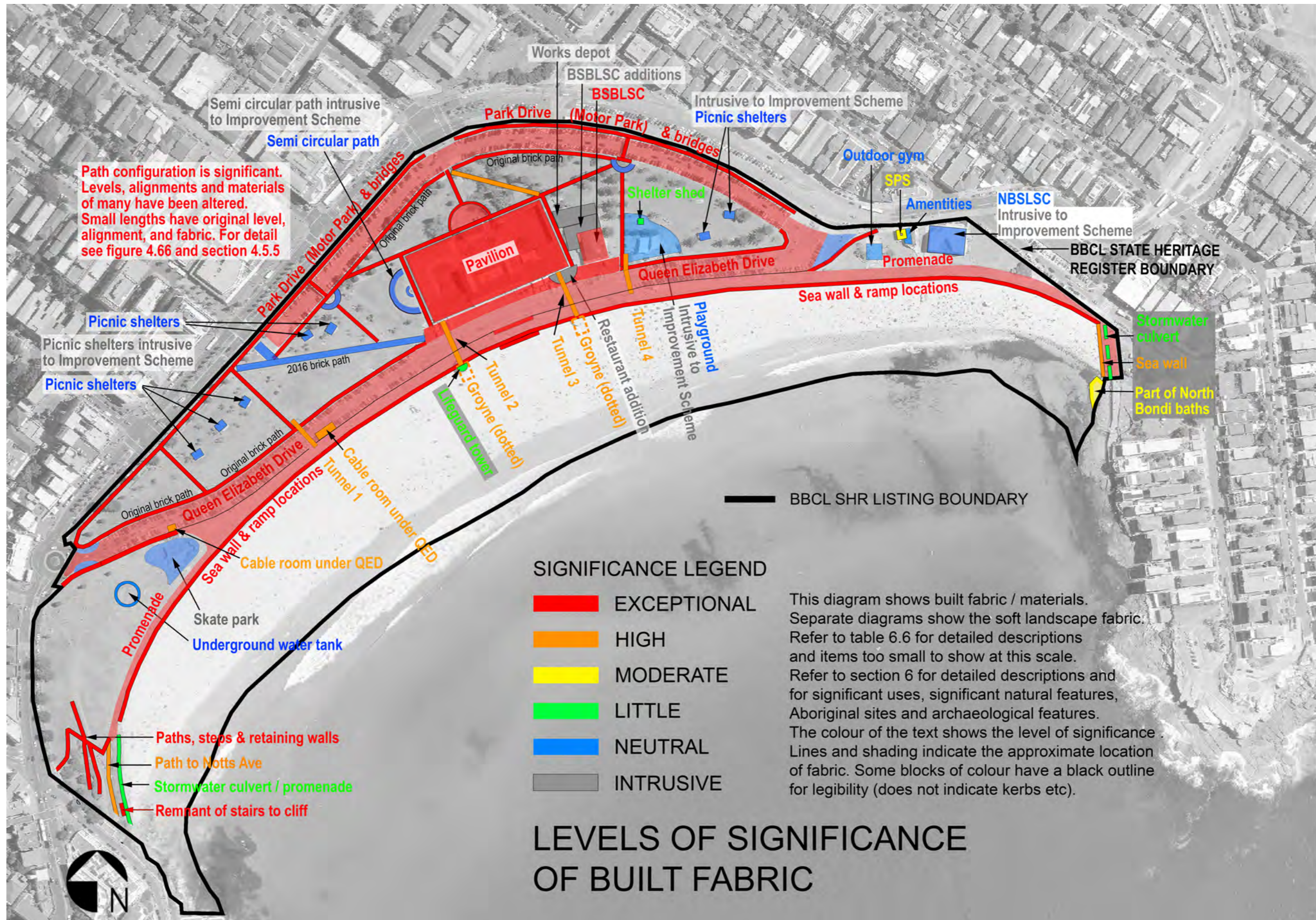


Figure 6.7: Diagram of the levels of significance of built fabric. It should be read in conjunction with Section 6.6, table 6.6 and figures 6.5, 6.6 and 6.8. This figure is diagrammatic and not to scale. The distance between the headlands is about 850m. Source: JRA

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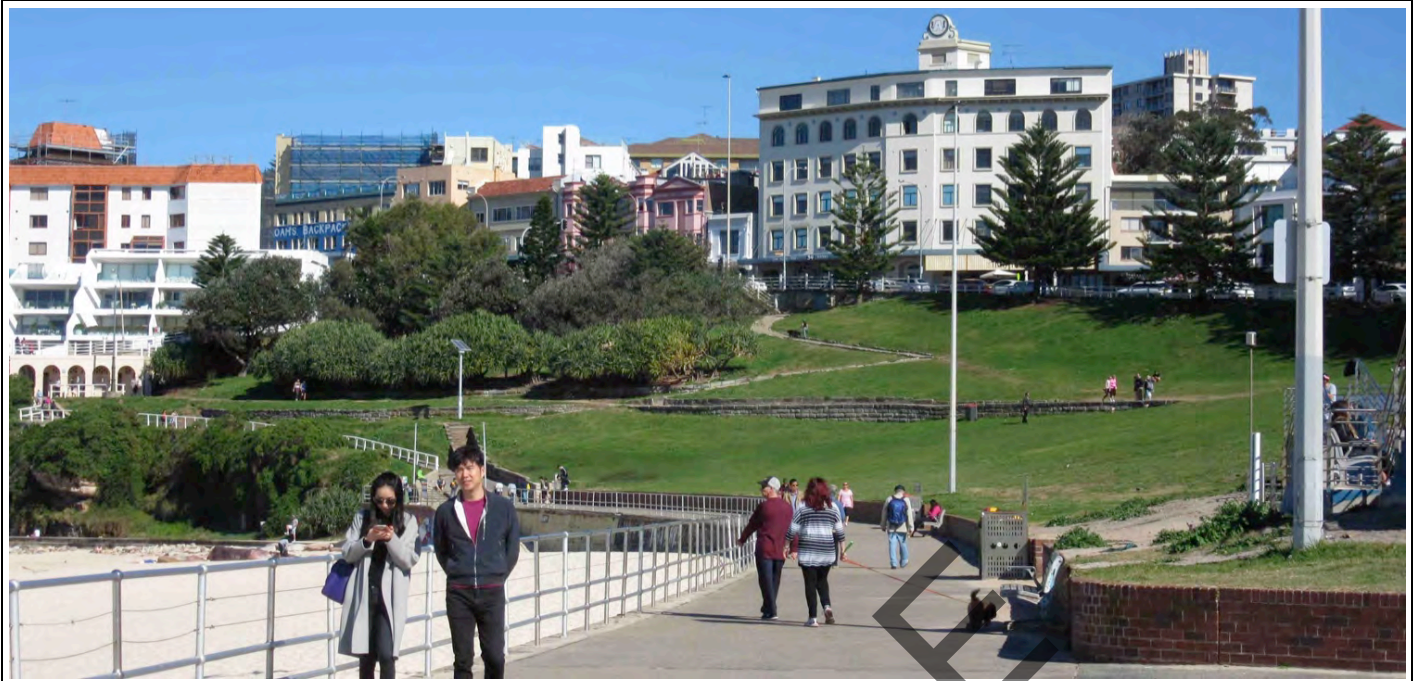
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## Sample Inventory Sheet

This inventory sheet was prepared in December 2016 and diagrams updated in 2018. It has not been updated since and does not have the versions of diagrams updated in 2020 or 2023. It is intended as an example of an inventory sheet.

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<b>BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE</b>	<b>INVENTORY</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	BPS-01
<b>NAME:</b> PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		<b>PRECINCT</b>	Bondi Park South
<b>LOCATION:</b> Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		<b>PREPARED</b>	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018



Paths and terracing in the original section of the reserve, seen from the promenade added in the 1910s. Note the zig-zag path and stone retaining walls date from the initial improvement of the reserve in the late nineteenth century. The brick wall adjacent the promenade is modern. The slope was originally on grade with the promenade. Source: JRA

#### HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

From 1850 the beach front at Bondi was in private ownership of the Hall / O'Brien family and would remain so until 1882 when resumed for a public reserve, part of a series of resumptions of foreshore land for parks around Sydney. The O'Brien family permitted the public to utilize the beach for picnics. Those wishing to use the beach walked down the hill from the tram stop on Waverley (Bondi) Road and had to negotiate the sand dune which extended to approximately the intersection of Sir Thomas Mitchell Road and Bondi Road. The extension of Sir Thomas Mitchell Road (later Notts Avenue) formed the southern boundary of the reserve. Early photographs of the southern end of the beach show the Dancing Pavilion erected in the 1880s and the surrounding scrub and sand dune but do not show the reserve or paths in any detail. This area was popular for picnics prior to the improvements made by Waverley Council. Accounts by visitors note that there was a freshwater spring, the exact location of which has not been determined.

The initial improvements to the Bondi Reserve included the construction of ocean baths nearby with access paths and flights of steps to the rocks at the southern end of the beach. Seats were installed on the terraced slope between what is now Notts Avenue and the beach. Newspaper reports from the 1880s record that there was a track down to the beach (Evening News, 29 Dec 1883) and that seating had been installed (1885). Further unspecified works were undertaken by Council in 1887. No plans of the initial layout of the reserve have been found in Council's records. In the Sands Directory this area is referred to as The Reserve until at least 1909.

The path layout is thought to date from the extension of the tram line in 1894, as the paths commence at the now demolished tram waiting shed which was at the junction of what is now Notts Avenue and Bondi Road. One path zig-zagged down the hill (extant) and the other went along the slope to the east in the direction of the baths (either removed or buried). The sandstone retaining walls that terrace the slope were also likely built in conjunction with the paths and seating. By 1897 it was reported that the "Bondi reserve, near the Cliff Hotel, is beginning to look very pretty, and already shows signs of how carefully it has been looked after" (Evening News, 8 July 1897). Initially there was remnant vegetation along the south edge showing in photos until c1910.

Photographs taken of the southern end of the beach between 1900 and 1910 show that a series of grassed terraces with sandstone retaining walls had been created and that these were popular with visitors. Seats were provided and a path wound down from the tram waiting shed with small flights of steps at intervals. Photographs of The Reserve were made into post cards. When the foreshore promenade was extended in 1913, the zig-zag path from the reserve was connected to the promenade. The second path from the tram waiting shed was still in existence. This layout can be seen on the Waverley Engineer's Plan 3935 dated 1913. The terraces and paths at the southern end of the beach can be seen in a photograph of the recently completed promenade in 1919 and in E B Studios panorama of Bondi Beach taken in 1920. A series of small timber picnic shelters with lattice sides had been constructed along the promenade and with some on the terraced hillside, however these have been removed.

Norfolk Island pines were planted during several periods. There were several rows along Bondi Road, some specimens along Notts Avenue, on the terraces and along the promenade and a substantial copse north of the end of the retaining walls. These appear to have been planted between 1910 and 1920 and were substantial trees by the time of the plantings around the Pavilion after 1928. The large trees remain evident in the 1961 aerial but after this die or are removed.

<b>BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE</b>	<b>INVENTORY</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	BPS-01
<b>NAME:</b> PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		<b>PRECINCT</b>	Bondi Park South
<b>LOCATION:</b> Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		<b>PREPARED</b>	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018

The detail survey of the southern end of Bondi Beach prepared around 1920 shows that a connecting path and concrete footbridge had been installed from the cliffs at the southern end of the beach to the promenade (Waverley Engineer's Plan 3918, undated). It was probably built soon after the promenade was completed to the south (1913). The flights of steps down to the rocks remained with a landing part way down the cliff overlooking the southern end of the beach. This new path and fence line from the promenade follows the line of the cliff towards the baths and part of this path remains today. It included a concrete footbridge over the flight of steps and connected directly, without steps, to the street – then at a lower level. The layout of the paths can also be seen on the 1923 topographical plan of Bondi Beach Improvements. Aerial photographs in the Fairfax Collection dated c1930 (actually c1926) show the path layout, the terraces and also a series of lamp standards.

In the late 1930s Notts Avenue was widened and raised with a stone retaining wall to Bondi Park South. It is likely that the toilet, partly under the road, and the stairs adjacent were built at this time or soon after. A new path branch was built and another section of the path abandoned. In 1942, when it was believed that there would be a Japanese attack on Sydney Harbour, the beach was fenced off and public access restricted. The concrete steps below the footbridge and the ramp at the bottom of the zig-zag path were demolished in an attempt to make landing more difficult. Barbed wire barriers were built and gun emplacements in the park and on the promenade.

Further alterations to the path layout were made in the 1970s, when the stormwater outfall was built. The Engineers plan shows the steps down from Notts Avenue at the toilet block. The initial toilet block, built before 1950s partly under the road, has been subsequently reworked twice. The foot bridge was still in place on the stormwater culvert plan with the former access path shown terminating just south of it. The stairs to the rocks were still shown with a note to "reconstruct approach" but this was not done and the stairs are not shown on the "as built" drawings. The 1979 General Plan of Bondi Beach held by Council shows the zig-zag path but not the footbridge (WLS hanging plan 6465). No detailed documentation regarding the alterations to the path layout has been located. The sequence of aerial photographs held by Waverley Council shows that the zig-zag path and the terraces remain. Brick paths were added along one of the terraces in the 1980s and a small length of reused stone retaining wall added above that path. From c1980 there were several different plantings of indigenous species above the stone retaining walls, now pandanus and other coastal species. At about this time brick retaining walls were built along the promenade raising the level of the adjacent park.

<b>HISTORIC IMAGES</b>	
	
	
Undated view of south end of Bondi Beach before the terracing. Note the remnant indigenous vegetation. 1880s. Source: WLS collection	View of the southern end of Bondi Beach showing, in the foreground, the popularity of the seating and terraces c1905. Source: SLNSW
View of the reserve at the southern end of Bondi Beach showing the low stone retaining walls and paths that remain today in the park. Source: ML Broadhurst photo c1910 or SL Star a116186	View of the reserve at the Southern end of Bondi Beach, in 1920 showing the grassed slope and the tram waiting shed behind the tree at top right. Source: ML Panorama by E B Studios



BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	INVENTORY	ITEM	BPS-01
NAME: PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		PRECINCT	Bondi Park South
LOCATION: Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		PREPARED	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018



View of the reserve from the tram stop c1920 showing the picnic shelters and Norfolk Island pine plantings. Source: Waverley Image Library 000058



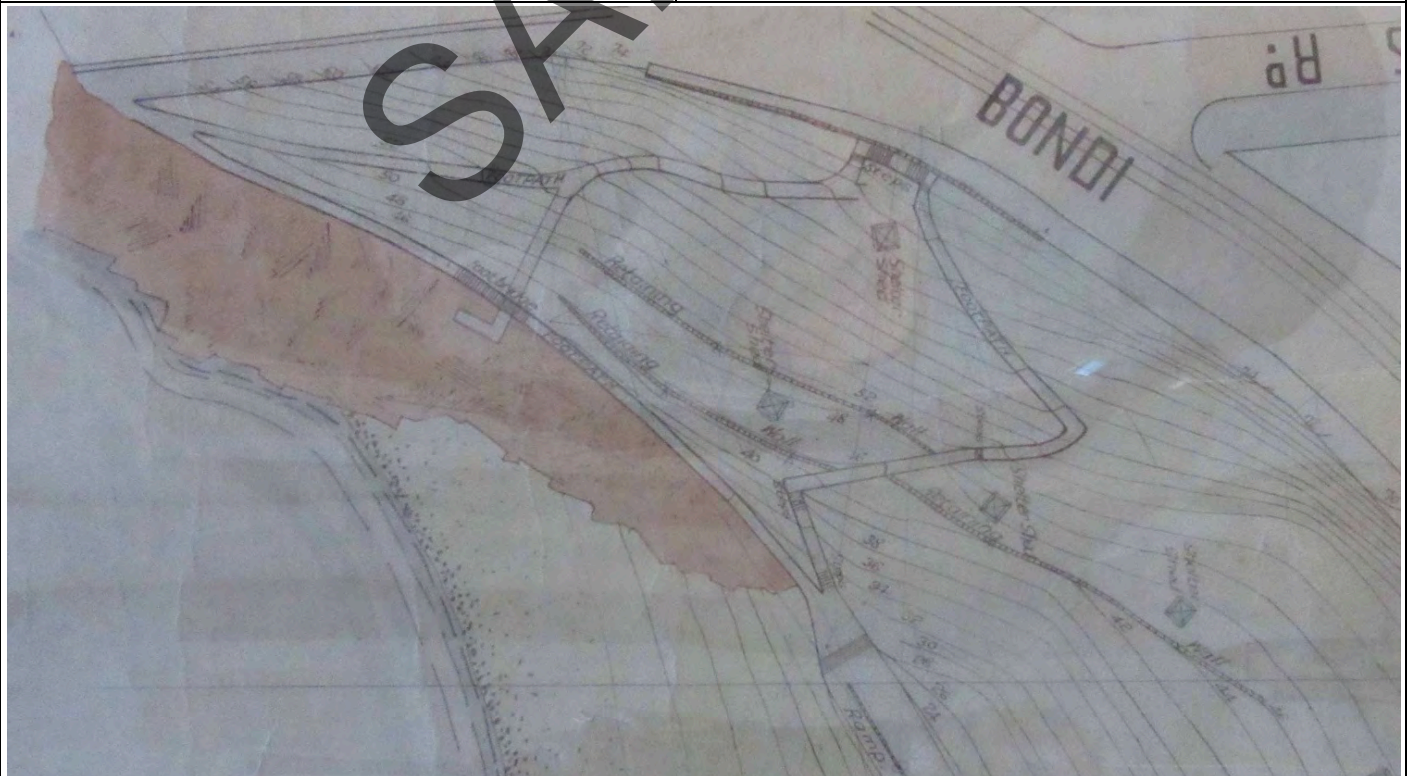
View of the reserve at the southern end of Bondi Beach dated c1930 but actually before the construction of the Astra Hotel in 1926. Lamp standards had been installed. Source: NLA PIC/15611/1-12000 LOC Cold store Fairfax archive of glass plate negatives



View of area c1928 showing path configuration and large Norfolk Island pines to the right. Note the tree guards of the recently planted trees in the foreground. Source: ML Samuel Wood a1470148h



View of the reserve at the southern end of Bondi Beach. The date of the photo is c1940 as it contains both the Balconies and Maxwell Court flats and the retaining wall to Notts Avenue, which looks white suggesting recent completion. Source: NMA Postcard, The Balconies, Bondi Beach, NSW

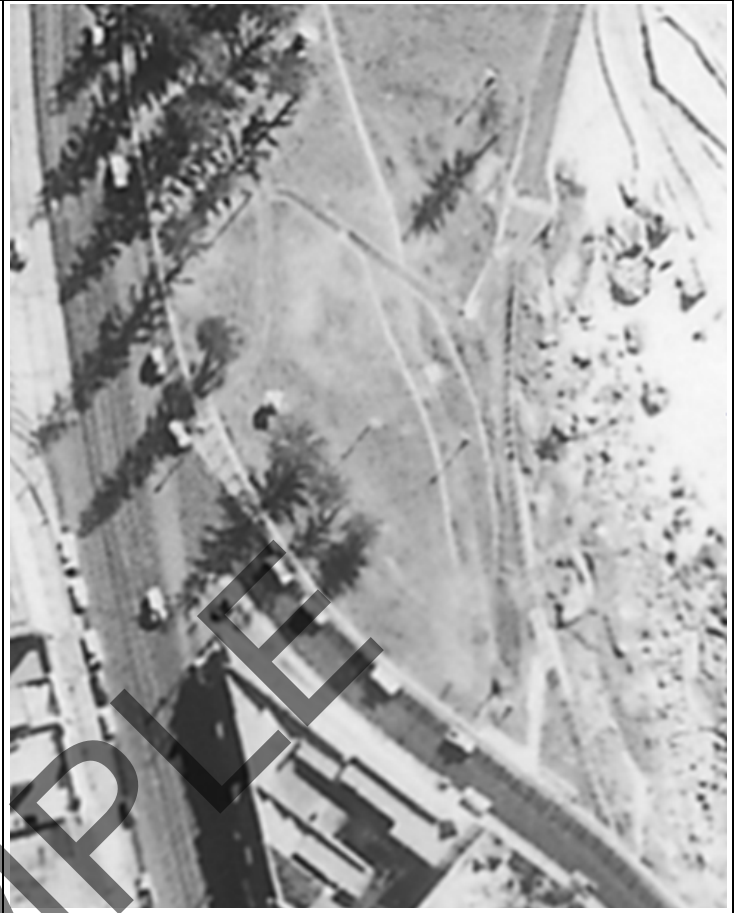


Extract from the 1923 General Plan of the Layout of Bondi Beach Improvements showing the location of the paths, shelter sheds and retaining walls at the southern end of Bondi Beach. Source: Waverley Local Studies Collection Plan 3930

BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	INVENTORY	ITEM	BPS-01
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1943 Aerial photograph



1961 Aerial photograph



1971 Aerial Photograph



1982 Aerial Photograph

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NAME: PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		PRECINCT	Bondi Park South
LOCATION: Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		PREPARED	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018



1991 Aerial Photograph



2007 Aerial Photograph

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	DATE:
<b>The slope</b> is steep and grassed and overlooks the southern end of Bondi Beach. The paths and steps provide access from the former tram stop to the beach. The retaining walls form terraces stabilising the slope and forming viewing areas. Original plantings were Norfolk Island pines concentrated along Bondi Rd. The terraces, formerly open, now have dense plantings. The raising of Notts Avenue with a sandstone wall changed the relationship to the street and the raised level of Bondi Rd for the tram also resulted in a steep bank.	From 1889
<b>Zig-Zag Path and Steps</b> – the earliest surviving path within the Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape. The paths have sandstone edging and concrete paving. There are sandstone steps at intervals along the path with sandstone walls at the side of the steps. At the bottom the path is steeper with several flights of about 6 steps and substantial stone walls on each side of the steps. These predate the promenade and seawall.	From c1889 Probably 1894
<b>Sandstone retaining walls</b> and grassed terraces. Two walls are south of the zig-zag path and one north. The walls are roughly coursed sandstone, probably from a local source. There were formerly picnic shelters and seats on the terraces. The ground levels have been altered, generally raised, above and below the walls changing the form of the terraces, and there are pandanus plantings above the highest wall.	Probably 1894
<b>Former South Western Path</b> - from the tram waiting shed to the cliff top. Altered c1940 and no longer visible. May have been removed when Notts Avenue was raised and widened. Archaeological potential only.	Probably 1894
<b>Path (former footbridge) to Notts Avenue</b> from promenade, above sandstone cliffs. The path originally had a concrete bridge over the earlier steps to the beach (remains of steps survive at beach level) and joined Notts Avenue on grade continuing along the top of the cliff (remains survive). The path is concrete paving with no stone edging. There are some sandstone retaining walls below the path but the area is overgrown and could not be seen clearly. There is a modern timber fence of a typical type used in municipal parks.	Between 1913 and c1920
<b>Path between retaining walls</b> from the North East near QED to the toilet block and stairs to Notts Avenue. Some aerial images indicate possible earlier informal paths but the path was not formed until after 1991. Modern brick paving with a herringbone pattern and a paler soldier course edging. This work is typical of the period. Terrace levels raised for path and stone wall added above north section.	South part c1980. North part c1990. Paving and extension to QED c2000.

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**CURRENT VIEWS – EXTANT ELEMENTS**



View of area showing grassed slope, retaining walls and paths, stairs and plantings. Source: JRA



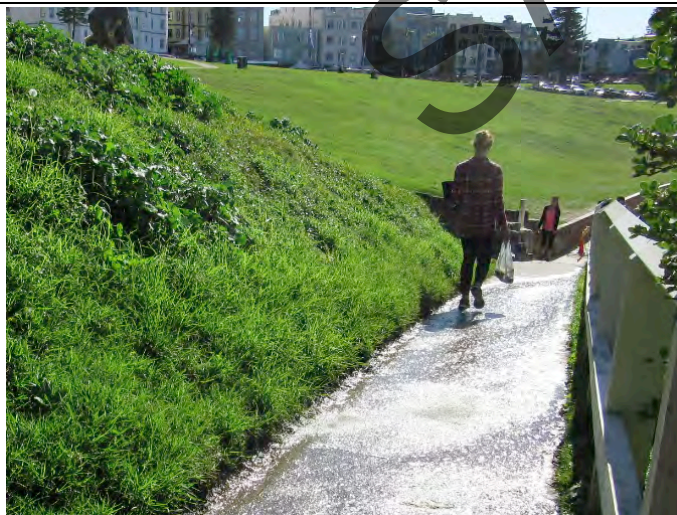
1894 sandstone steps and path with stone edging. The right path and the retaining wall above it is modern but the wall below is 1894. Source: JRA



Zig Zag Path – Concrete panels with sandstone edging. Source: JRA



Sandstone Retaining Wall – roughly coursed rock face sandstone. Source: JRA



Path. Concrete panels with no edging. A sandstone retaining wall to the edge of the path is below to the right. Source: JRA



Modern path between retaining walls from the near QED to the Toilet Block – herringbone brick with soldier course to the edges. Source: JRA

**Refer also the Inventory Sheets for [example only of typical approach – sheets not prepared]**

Bondi Park South	Plantings including Norfolk Island Pines	BPS-02
	Cliff face (including memorials, remnant of steps & stormwater drain)	BPS-03
	Retaining Wall and Steps to Notts Avenue	BPS-04
	Amenities Block – South Bondi	BPS-05

<b>BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE</b>	<b>INVENTORY</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	BPS-01
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State Criterion			
<b>A</b>	Historical Significance	<b>E</b>	Research Potential
<b>B</b>	Associative Significance	<b>F</b>	Rarity
<b>C</b>	Aesthetic Significance	<b>G</b>	Representativeness
<b>D</b>	Community Association		

SIGNIFICANCE according to the NSW state criteria											
Item	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	CONFIGURATION	LEVEL	FABRIC	LEVEL
Zig Zag Path and Steps	A	-	C	-	E	F	-	Alignment	EXCEPTIONAL	Concrete paving	MODERATE
										Sandstone steps, walls and edging	HIGH
Sandstone Retaining Walls	A	-	C	-	E	-	G	Alignment	EXCEPTIONAL	Sandstone walls	HIGH
										Hard cement mortar	INTRUSIVE
Former South Western Path					E			Only Archaeological	Potential	N/A	N/A
Path (former footbridge) to Notts Avenue	A	-	C	-	E	-	G	Alignment	HIGH	Concrete	LITTLE
										Sandstone walls below	HIGH
Path between retaining walls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Alignment / levels	INTRUSIVE? – takes up terrace space	Brick paving	NEUTRAL

CONSERVATION POLICIES relating to Paths. Refer also to the General Policies in the CMP for the Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape.		
1.3 Authenticity	Policy 1.3.1	<p>Conserve the authenticity of the place by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting public use of the beach and park for recreation particularly swimming;</li> <li>Interpreting historic patterns of use of the place; including aspects not evident today;</li> <li>Preserving significant fabric;</li> <li>Clearly distinguishing authentic historical fabric from modern elements;</li> <li>Respecting the community regard for the place.</li> </ul>
	Policy 1.3.2	Balance retention of significant uses with preservation of authentic fabric, practicality and public risk to conserve the overall heritage significance of the place.
4.2 Natural Heritage	Policy 4.2.8	Construction of structures and paths in areas of cliffs and bushland remnants will incorporate features which are capable of providing habitat for fauna such as skinks, geckos and frogs.
4.3 Character	Policy 4.3.4	Consider the character of each area when designing and planning development proposals.
4.4 Landscape Setting, Curtilage and Views	Policy 4.4.3	Continue to provide access and opportunities for visitors to appreciate the views and setting.
	Policy 4.4.7	Significant views, precincts, landscape and urban design layouts and elements should be retained and conserved to maintain the significant landscape character and fabric of the place.
4.5 Cultural Plantings & Designed Landscape	Policy 4.5.3	Design new paths so as not to camouflage historic pedestrian movement corridors.
7.1 Treatment of Building Fabric	Policy 7.1.1	Conserve the significant fabric in situ.
	Policy 7.1.2	<p>Continue to prioritise conservation works according to conservation needs. Unstable fabric or deterioration which endangers the significance of fabric or which poses a safety risk should be addressed first. Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>killing and then removing fig seedling, weeds and other biological growth from masonry</li> <li>filling undercuts in stone walls and voids behind them</li> <li>treating rusted reinforcing in concrete (concrete cancer)</li> <li>stabilising or removing rusted fixings in masonry to limit further cracking</li> <li>repair of stormwater drains associated with paths (especially the coastal walk)</li> </ul>
	Policy 7.1.3	Periodic replacement of individual elements or significant fabric with an identical element is acceptable provided there is no change to the overall design and the same material used. This policy applies particularly to timber elements such as fences and deteriorated stones or bricks in walls.
	Policy 7.1.4	Treat existing components and fabric as set out in the table following and according to their assessed level and nature of significance and as set out in Section 6.7 [of the main BBCL CMP].
7.5 Building Materials	Policy 7.5.1	Use matching techniques and materials appropriate to each structure, particularly stone, timber and

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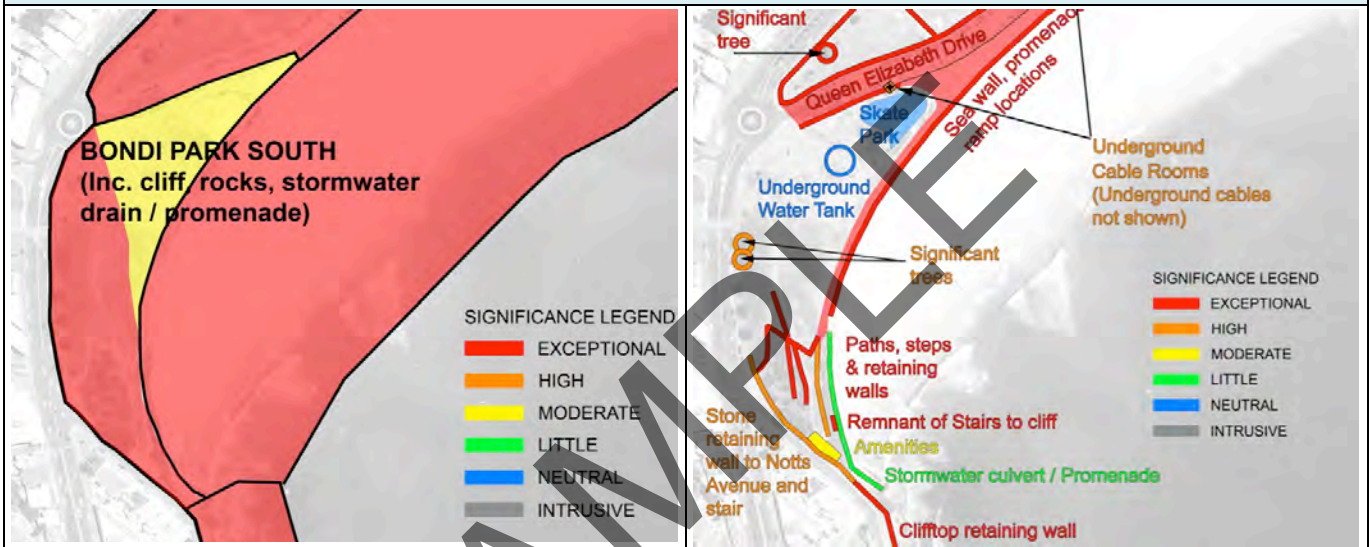
and Techniques		mortars. In particular match handmade finishes to stone.
7.6 Managing Incremental Change	Policy 7.6.1	Manage incremental change so it does not result in the gradual loss of cultural significance by assessing the impact of minor works on heritage values before such works proceed.
7.7 Documenting Conservation Works	Policy 7.7.1	Ensure at planning stage that retention of significant fabric is shown on drawings and where existing fabric (not significant) is removed so that the documents form a record of changes made.
8.1 Maintenance	Policy 8.1.8	Provide those undertaking maintenance with relevant technical information, eg repair methods for the sandstone paths and walls, including suitable mortar types.
8.2 New Work to Heritage Structures	Policy 8.2.1	New work or changes are to be compatible with heritage significance of the place, i.e. minimise impact, be distinguishable from the original and be reversible.
	Policy 8.2.4	Design new elements based on an understanding of the pattern of development of the place, the palette of materials and the typologies traditionally used within the area and maintain the character of the place.
8.6 New Landscaping and Park Amenities	Policy 8.6.1	Base proposals for new landscaping on an understanding of the historic pattern of development of the place and its character. Bondi Park in particular should be a predominantly open space.
10.1 Research, Recording & Monitoring	Policy 10.1.2	Establish a sequence of photographs recording the state of the fabric, taken at regular time intervals recording the place, especially erosion sites and deteriorated sea walls and paths.

<b>TREATMENT OF THE FABRIC</b>		
<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>RATIONALE FOR LEVEL</b>	<b>TREATMENT</b>
Exceptional	Element that makes a direct and irreplaceable contribution to the overall heritage significance of the BBCL. Provides evidence of a key phase in the development. Has a high degree of integrity and interpretability to allow the value to be understood and communicated. Any alterations are of a minor nature and generally reversible. Demolition / removal or inappropriate alteration would substantially diminish the heritage significance of the place.	Retain and conserve all fabric, replacing like with like if absolutely necessary. Preserve and maintain in accord with the Burra Charter. Allow minor adaptation only if necessary for significant use of the place. Minimise change, do not remove or obscure significant fabric. Design changes so they are reversible. In preference, modify areas of lesser significance, or areas already modified or reconstructed, particularly if installing new services, fixings &c. There is a very limited tolerance for change and any change must be to ensure the conservation of significant fabric. Fabric of exceptional significance is not to be altered for temporary uses.
High	Element that makes a substantial contribution to the overall heritage significance of the BBCL. It may have alterations that do not detract from its significance and that demonstrate adaptation over time. Easily interpreted providing information about the changing patterns of use or development phase. Demolition/removal or inappropriate alteration would diminish the heritage significance of the place.	Aim to retain all of the significant fabric, as above. Adaptation or removal in part is accepted if it is to allow for significant long term uses to continue, or for a new compatible use that provides for the long-term conservation of the place. In adaptation, minimise changes, do not remove or obscure significant fabric. Design changes so that they are reversible. Install services in areas that have already been modified or have already been re-constructed. More change is acceptable than for fabric of exceptional significance. There is a very limited tolerance for change and any change must be to ensure continuation of significant use, the conservation of significant fabric or the conservation of fabric of higher significance. The condition of some items may affect the feasibility of conserving them or the extent of conservation.
Moderate	Element that makes a moderate contribution to the overall heritage significance of the BBCL. It may have undergone alteration that detracts from its heritage significance but still contributes to the overall significance of the place. Changes may be significant but relate to the function and historical development and be capable of being interpreted. Demolition / removal or inappropriate alteration may diminish the heritage significance.	Aim to retain most of the significant fabric. Conservation of overall form and configuration is desirable. Compatible new construction may be added and fabric removed in part to accommodate compatible uses. If adaptation is necessary more changes can be made than to fabric of High significance and the same principles apply. Where possible, make change reversible. The tolerance for change is higher than with fabric of exceptional and high significance however changes to fabric must benefit long-term conservation of the place. Retention may depend on factors other than significance such as condition and functionality.
Little	Makes only a minor contribution to the overall heritage significance of the BBCL. It may have undergone substantial and irreversible alteration and be difficult to interpret. Modifications may indicate change over time but the actual fabric or the type of change is not significant. Demolition / removal would not diminish the heritage significance of the place.	Fabric of little significance may be retained, modified or removed as required for future use, provided removal does not damage fabric of higher significance or assists in its conservation.
Neutral	Has no impact on significance and could remain or be	Fabric which is neither significant nor intrusive and which may remain or

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NAME: PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		PRECINCT	Bondi Park South
LOCATION: Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		PREPARED	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018

TREATMENT OF THE FABRIC		
LEVEL	RATIONALE FOR LEVEL	TREATMENT
	removed with little impact on the heritage significance of the BBCL.	be removed without impact on heritage values. Reconstructed fabric is also considered to be of neutral significance, but it should be noted that its configuration may be of significance
Intrusive	Element (or component of an element) that adversely impacts on the overall heritage significance of the BBCL. May be introduced fabric that has resulted in damage to significant fabric or be visually obtrusive and / or obscure the reading of significant fabric or development phases. Demolition / removal would enhance the heritage significance of the place.	Reverse or alter intrusive fabric to reduce the adverse impact, when the opportunity arises. Ensure that removal does not damage significant fabric. In many cases intrusive elements can be redesigned to improve their appearance rather than removed, if the function is necessary. Components that are actively contributing to the physical deterioration of significant fabric should be removed as a priority.

**SIGNIFICANCE** Extracts of Plans Illustrating Significance. Refer to BBCL CMP Section 6.

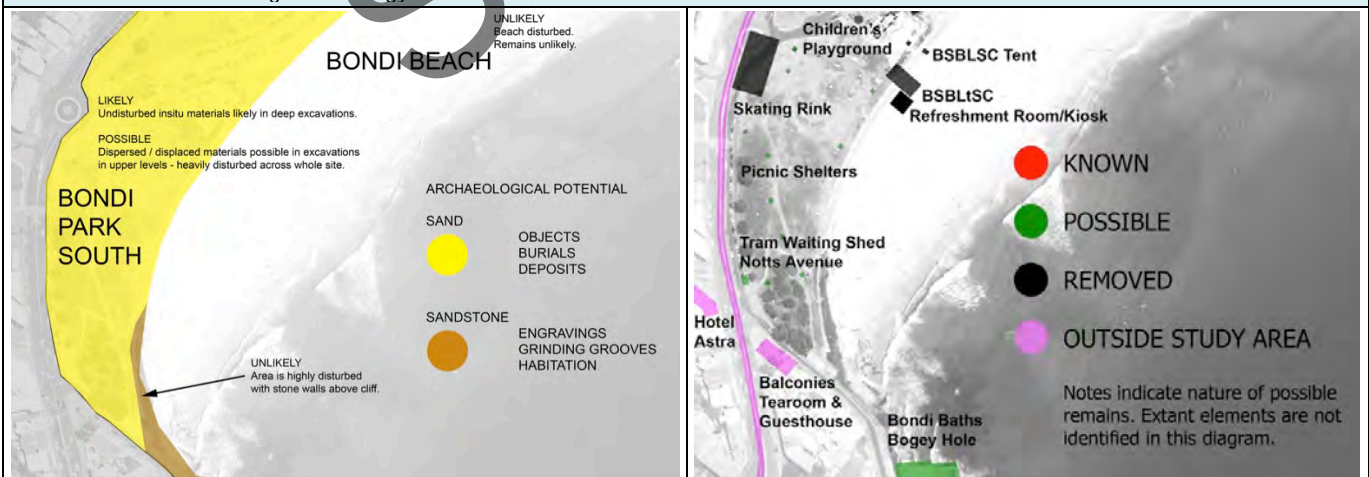


Levels of Significance of Character Areas (Figure 6.4)

Levels of Significance of Fabric (Figure 6.6)

**ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY AND HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY**

Extracts of Plans Illustrating Archaeology. Refer to BBCL CMP Section 4.

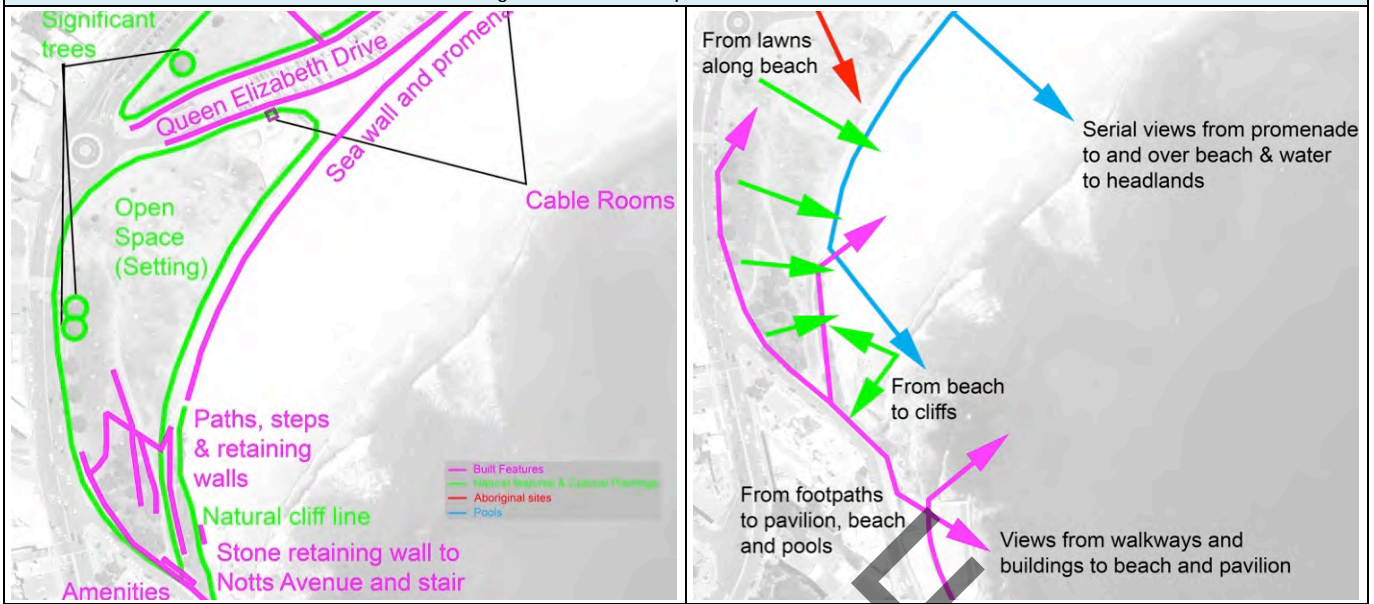


Aboriginal Archaeological Sensitivity Map (Figure 4.27)

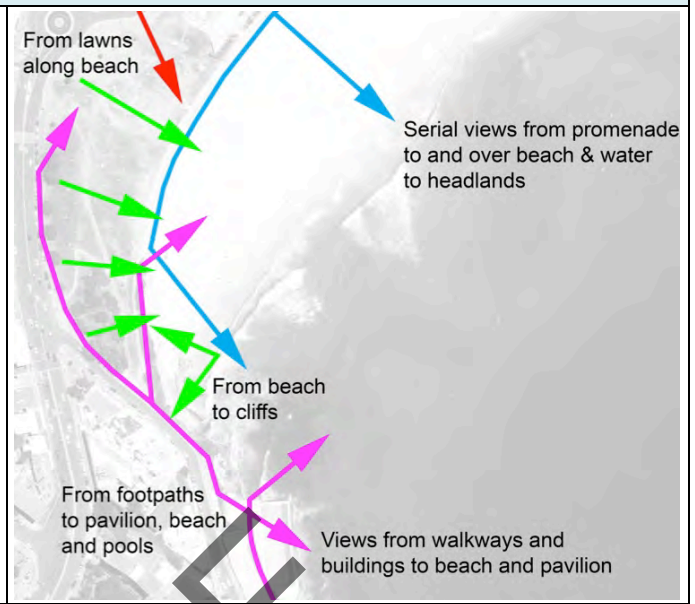
Historical Archaeological Sensitivity (Figure 4.28)

BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	INVENTORY	ITEM	BPS-01
NAME: PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		PRECINCT	Bondi Park South
LOCATION: Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		PREPARED	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018

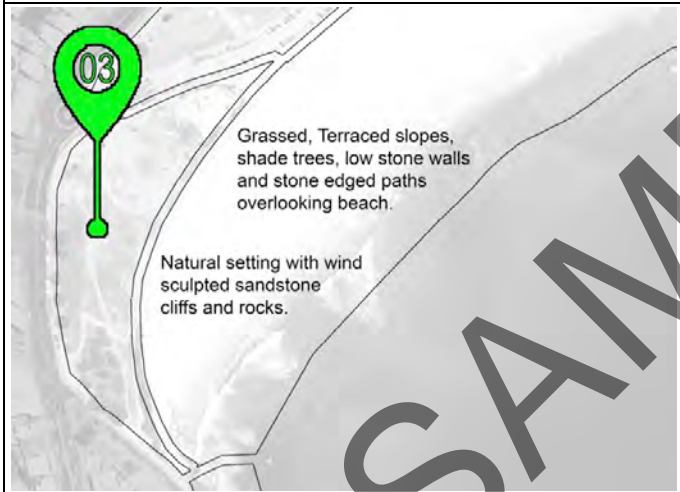
**IMPLEMENTATION** Extracts of Plans Illustrating Conservation Implementation. Refer to BBCL CMP Section 9.



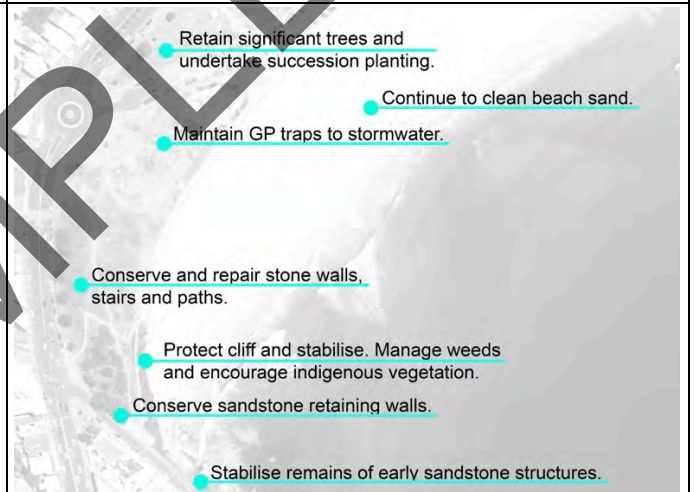
Key Heritage Items. Location plan (Figure 9.1)



Views to be Retained (Figure 9.2)



Character Areas and significant Attributes to be retained (Figure 9.3)



Conservation Actions (Figure 9.4)



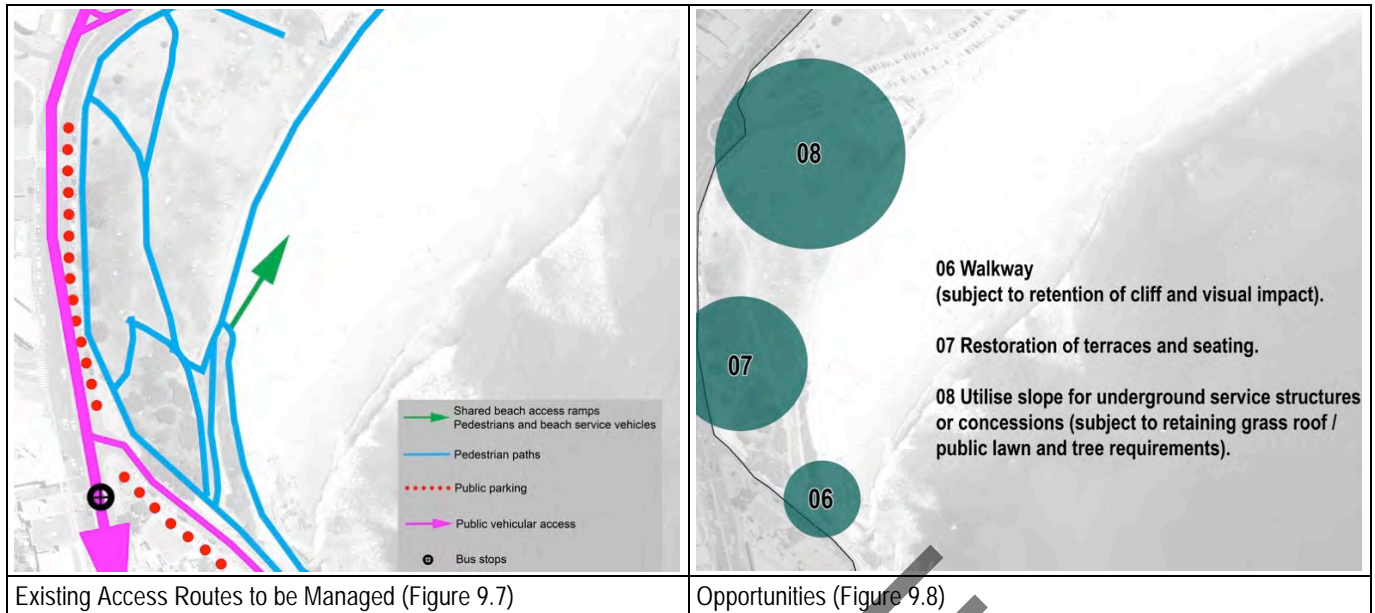
Significant Continuing Uses to be retained (Figure 9.5)



Interpretation - Existing (blue) and Potential (pink). (Figure 9.6)



BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	INVENTORY	ITEM	BPS-01
NAME: PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		PRECINCT	Bondi Park South
LOCATION: Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		PREPARED	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018



#### APPROVALS REQUIRED

In addition to standard exemptions Site Specific Exemptions from approval under the Heritage Act have been gazetted for the Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape. These exemptions allow Waverley Council to manage and maintain the precinct and undertake temporary events.

#### Standard Exemptions

**The NSW Heritage Office has to be notified of works undertaken under exemptions and a signed exemption obtained.**

There are a range of standard exemptions from Section 60 Approval under the Heritage Act. The standard exemptions are for:

1. Maintenance and Cleaning
2. Repairs
3. Painting
4. Excavation
5. Restoration
6. Development endorsed by Heritage Council or Director-General
7. Minor activities with little or no adverse impact on heritage significance
8. Non-significant fabric
9. Change of use
10. New buildings
11. Temporary structures
12. Landscape maintenance
13. Signage
14. Burial sites and cemeteries
15. Compliance with minimum standards and orders
16. Safety and security
17. Movable heritage items

The detailed schedule indicates the submission requirements for each type of standard exemption (see also Section 6 and 7 of the BBCL CMP).

**For works other than repair, maintenance and minor alterations approval under the NSW Heritage Act is required.**

BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	INVENTORY	ITEM	BPS-01
NAME: PATHS & RETAINING WALLS		PRECINCT	Bondi Park South
LOCATION: Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach		PREPARED	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018

### Site Specific Exemptions

The site specific exemptions for this cultural landscape are:

- (A) General maintenance and repair:
- (i) Pruning of 20 to 30% of the canopy of trees within a 2 year period as recommended by a qualified arborist and approved by Council's Tree Management Officer for the tree's health or public safety reasons.
  - (ii) Minor works to improve public access, provide disabled access and to eliminate or reduce risks to public safety.
  - (iii) Repair of damage caused by erosion and implementation of erosion control measures.
  - (iv) Maintenance, repair and resurfacing of existing roads, paths, fences and gates.
  - (v) Maintenance and repair of any building, structure, monument or work within the parkland, including temporary relocation for conservation or protection.
  - (vi) Upgrade of services where Waverley Council is satisfied that the activity will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.
- (B) Maintenance of services and utilities:
- (i) Maintenance and repair of existing services and public utilities including communications, gas, electricity, water supply, waste disposal, sewerage, irrigation and drainage.
  - (ii) Upgrade of services and public utilities where the Waverley Council is satisfied that the activity will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.
  - (iii) Installation, maintenance and removal of waste bins to implement Waverley Council's waste management policies.
- (C) Management of lawns, recreation areas and plantings:
- (i) Removal and replacement of existing plantings other than trees.
  - (ii) Removal of dead or dying trees.
  - (iii) Removal, construction or alteration of garden beds, hard landscaping and plantings where the activity will not materially effect the heritage significance of the Bondi Beach area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.
  - (iv) Routine horticultural maintenance, including lawn mowing, cultivation and pruning.
- (D) Management of interpretive, information and directional signage:
- (i) Installation, removal and alteration of interpretative, information and directional signage and labels in accordance with signage policies adopted by Waverley Council and / or Waverley Traffic Committee and / or the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW.
- (E) Management of artworks, statues and monuments:
- (i) Temporary installation of artworks, statues and monuments for temporary exhibitions or events.
  - (ii) Installation, relocation and removal of artworks, statues and monuments to implement Council's policies.
- (F) Activities undertaken in accordance with the Bondi Park and Pavilion Plan of Management adopted under the provisions of Section 114 of the Crown Lands Act 1989, by the Honourable Kim Yeadon MP, on 24 November, 1995.
- (G) Management of temporary events:
- (i) Temporary use of sections of the Bondi Beach area, including Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Surf Bathing Life Saving Club, North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and Bondi Park, temporary road closures and the installation of temporary buildings, structures, fencing, facilities, exhibitions, artworks, crowd control barriers, stages, lighting, sound and public address equipment and signage for a period not exceeding 6 months where Waverley Council is satisfied that the activity will not affect critical views to and from Bondi Beach or materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which the temporary events are to be undertaken.
- (H) Alterations of roads, pathways and fences:
- (i) Parking management measures to implement Waverley Council's Transportation policies and / or the requirements of the Roads and Traffic Authority and / or Waverley Traffic Committee that will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken.
- (I) Alterations to buildings and / or works:
- (i) Minor alterations to buildings and / or works (including alterations to provide disabled access) which do not increase the area of a building and will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area in which they are to be undertaken
  - (ii) Installation, relocation, removal and maintenance of park furniture in accordance with Council's policies and Public Domain Improvement Plans.
- (J) Existing approved development:  
All works and activities in accordance with a current and valid development consent from Waverley Council or the Land and Environment Court in force at the date of gazettal for listing on the State Heritage Register:

<b>BEACH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE</b>	<b>INVENTORY</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	BPS-01
<b>NAME: PATHS &amp; RETAINING WALLS</b>		<b>PRECINCT</b>	Bondi Park South
<b>LOCATION: Grassed slope at the southern end of Bondi Beach</b>		<b>PREPARED</b>	JRA Dec 2016, updated 2018

- (i) Bondi Pavilion: DA-171/2000; DA-198/2006; DA-726/2005; DA-850/2003; DA-850/2003A; DA-850/2003B; DA-810/2004; DA-172/2004; DA-484/2003; DA-477/2003; and DA-465/2003.
- (ii) Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club: DA-630/2003 and DA-630/2003A.
- (iii) North Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club [sic]: DA-190/2003
- (iv) Bondi Park: DA-808/2003 and DA-326/2003.

(K) Alterations to existing recent development:

All works and activities for minor alterations and additions to a current and valid development consent in force at the date of gazettal for listing on the State Heritage Register for the Bondi Beach area, including Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and Bondi Park where the Executive Director of the Heritage Office, Department of Planning, is satisfied that:

- (i) The proposed works are substantially the same as the development for which consent was originally granted, before any modifications to that consent, for the purpose of this exemption only; and
- (ii) The proposed works will not incrementally or materially increase the impact of the original development consent on significant elements or characteristics of the Bondi Beach area, including Bondi Surf Pavilion, Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and Bondi Park, such as (but not limited to) its setting, tree canopy, curtilage, subdivision and ownership patterns, remnant significant fabric, relics, landscape and natural features, current and historic access routes to significant elements, views to and from the item and its significant features, and the capacity for interpretation of its significance; and
- (iii) The Executive Director of the Heritage Office has been notified in writing of the works proposed to be undertaken under this exemption prior to commencement of works, including details of the works and their location in the subject Precinct, and the Executive Director has provided written confirmation that the works are exempt.

(L) Change of Use:

The change of use of an item located in the Bondi Beach area where Waverley Council is satisfied that the use will not materially affect the heritage significance of the listed area as a whole or the area.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

BBCL	Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape	CMP	Conservation Management Plan
ML	Mitchell Library	SLNSW	State Library of NSW
WLS	Waverley Council Local Studies Collection	PoM	Plan of Management



# G

# Property Information

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Figures G.2, G.3 and G.4 are not included in this SHR only version of the CMP as they cover areas outside the SHR listing boundary





Figure G.5: Lot Boundaries at Bondi Baths and Clubs (Icebergs). Source: Six Viewer

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Figure G.6: Lot Boundaries at Bondi Park South and Bondi Beach. Source: Six Viewer

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Figure G.7: Lot Boundaries at Bondi Park Core Precinct 1 and Bondi Beach. Source: Six Viewer

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Figure G.8: Lot Boundaries at Bondi Park Core Precinct 2 and 3. Source: Six Viewer

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Figure G.9: Lot Boundaries at Bondi Park North and Core Precinct 3. Source: Six Viewer

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Figure G.10: Lot Boundaries at Biddigal Reserve. Source: Six Viewer

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Figure G.11 is not included in this SHR only version of the CMP as it covers areas outside the SHR listing boundary

# H

# Project Brief

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## CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN – BONDI BEACH, NSW

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this engagement is to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Bondi Beach which is on the National Heritage List. The CMP will:

- provide a clear sense of direction and approach for the ongoing conservation and management of the place including a prioritised approach for the Plan's implementation with consideration of the management regime and available resources
- it will complement the two CMPs currently being prepared for the Bondi Pavilion and the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, and be the overarching CMP for the entire place.
- meet the standards of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
- be a 'plain English' and practical document for a non-heritage expert audience

### 2. BACKGROUND

Bondi Beach is of outstanding significance to the nation as recognised by its listing on the National Heritage List (NHL). It is Crown Land largely managed by Waverley Council.

Bondi Beach is an urban beach cultural landscape of waters and sands, where the natural features have been altered by development associated with beach use and consisting of promenades, parks, sea baths, the surf pavilion and pedestrian bridges. The predominant feature of the beach is the vastness of the open space within an urban setting.

### 3. STUDY AREA

The study area is defined by the National Heritage Listing curtilage.



#### 4. BRIEF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bondi Beach is one of the world's most famous beaches and is of important social value to both the Australian community and to visitors. It is significant because of its special associations for Australians as a central place in the development of beach culture in Australia. It is the site of the foundation of Australia's first recognised surf lifesaving club in 1907. From Bondi the surf lifesaving movement spread initially to NSW, then to the rest of Australia and to the world. Along with the 'digger' and the 'bushman', the lifesaver has achieved an iconic place in Australia's cultural imagery.

The constructed features, such as the sea baths and the surf pavilion demonstrate the development of the natural features of the beach to accord with daylight swimming, recreational beach culture, surf life saving, and associated beach sports. The Bondi Surf Pavilion building within its developed parkland setting is an important element of the site. Built in 'Inter War Mediterranean style', the Pavilion is outstanding for its place in the development of beach and leisure culture and is a famous landmark at Bondi Beach. The pool complex is significant for its strong associations with the famous 'Bondi Icebergs' winter swimming club as well as other swimming groups. The site has been used continuously for organized swimming since before 1900 and has a strong social importance as a meeting place as well as a sporting and recreational facility.

#### 5. CURRENT SITUATION

Waverley Council has developed a masterplan to provide a strategic framework to guide the sustainable use, improvement, maintenance and management of Bondi Park, Bondi Beach and the Bondi Pavilion which are key components of this NHL place.

This conservation management plan (CMP) is being commissioned to guide Bondi Beach's day-to-day management, assist in decision-making and to support local, state and commonwealth approval processes. It will govern the management of the place's heritage values and provide guidance on the preparation of project proposals to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on heritage values. It will also meet the standards of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

This CMP is required to be prepared and endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council as a matter of priority to enable the progression of Waverley Council's planned major projects for the place, in particular the upgrade of the Bondi Pavilion.

#### 6. SCOPE OF WORKS

##### 6.1 Aim

The purpose of this engagement is to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Bondi Beach which is on the National Heritage List. The CMP will:

- provide a clear sense of direction and approach for the ongoing conservation and management of the place including a prioritised approach for the Plan's implementation with consideration of the management regime and available resources
- it will complement the two CMPs currently being prepared for the Bondi Pavilion and the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, and be the overarching CMP for the entire place.
- meet the standards of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
- be a 'plain English' and practical document for a non-heritage expert audience

The CMP's development will build on the existing reports prepared and being prepared for the place.



## 6.2 General Information

The project will be conducted in four stages.

1. Desktop review of all relevant existing documents, and undertake additional research as required.
2. Gap and risk analysis to identify what further work is required to fulfil the requirements of this engagement.
3. Consultation and workshops with stakeholders.
4. Preparation of draft and the final CMP.

Several of the stages can be programmed concurrently. However, given the body of information already developed for the site, the desktop review and gap and risk analysis are critical stages of work and should be completed prior to any further research and/or fieldwork.

## 6.3 Tasks

The Heritage Consultant should address at a minimum the following tasks.

- Conduct a thorough desktop review of all relevant documentation. Documents will include other CMPs, heritage assessments and studies, and completed works programs where the information will contribute to the development of the CMP.
- Review all recommendations/issues raised in the previous reports and address as required.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation – national, state and local.
- Ensure consistency with the National Heritage Management Principles and meet the standards of the EPBC Act.
- Develop a brief illustrated history of the site.
- Develop an inventory of the place's elements and components.
- Assess and identify tolerances for change and detail what changes are acceptable and unacceptable.
- Conduct an 'opportunities and constraints' workshop with the key stakeholders.
- Set out realistic conservation and management requirements which will protect the heritage values and fabric and provide clear guidance for a non-heritage audience.
- Develop a prioritised implementation plan for the CMP.
- Consult with relevant stakeholders during preparation of the CMP.
- Undertake any necessary site visits during preparation of the CMP.
- Facilitate a workshop with key stakeholders to identify key conservation and management issues and how they may be managed through the HMP.
- Prepare the draft CMP.

- Amend the draft as required following provision of written comments received by Waverley Council and NSW Heritage Division.
- Provide the final versions of the CMP.
- Review and update the NSW State Heritage Inventory listing as required.
- The Contractor will chair co-ordination meetings, keep minutes of the proceedings, and shall within one (1) working day provide copies of the minutes. Regular meetings must be held for the purpose of assessing progress and coordinating the work.

#### 6.4 Content & Format

##### General

The CMP must be a stand-alone document which includes sufficient information to clearly articulate the heritage values of the site for conservation and management purposes. It is to be a "plain English" document targeted towards a non-heritage expert audience, assisting the Council personnel in the ongoing conservation and management of Bondi Beach. The format of the CMP is to follow the format and table of contents of the draft

#### 7. DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables are required.

- Meet with the Council on a fortnightly bases and provide regular progress reports (no more than one page, dot points are acceptable), provided by email. This could be submitted at the same time as the invoice (via separate email) at a time agreed between the Council and the consultant.
- Amended project program and schedule (following Project Start-up meeting).
- Facilitated 'opportunities and constraints' workshop with the key stakeholders.
- The draft CMP will be provided to the Council and agreed stakeholders for comment. It must be provided in MS Word format such that the Council's comments in 'track changes' mode is possible. Allow for up to two reviews of the draft HMP.
- The revised draft will be provided to the Council for comment prior to finalisation.
- The final CMP is required in two hard copies and as both MS Word and PDF documents on CD, navigable by both thumbnails and bookmarks. The hard copy reports should be presented in a ring-bound folder, with tabulated sections, and should include PDF photos and relevant plans and maps.
- Presentation of the CMP to all relevant stakeholders as required.
- Update the NSW State Heritage Inventory listing as required.

#### 8. MIILESTONES AND PAYMENTS

The timely completion of this project is a condition of the contract between the Contractor and the Council.

A project inception meeting is to be undertaken to reach agreement on:

- required outcomes

- expectations
- roles and responsibilities
- timing for any research, fieldwork, consultation, workshop, comment rounds, drafts and finalisation

The following is the broad program for the delivery of the project. The detailed program and schedule will be finalised pending discussion with the Project Manager.

Milestone	Deliverable	Indicative Date
1	Award Contract (AC)	20 May 2016
2	Project start up meeting	1 week after AC
3	Workshop	3 weeks after AC
5	First draft CMP	6 weeks after AC
7	Final CMP & presentation	10 weeks after AC

Any anticipated delays need to be discussed with the Council immediately.

This will be a fixed price contract with fees billed against the delivery of milestones. Any variation must be approved *in writing* by the Council prior to the cost being incurred.

#### 9. STAKEHOLDERS

The consultant must carry out all necessary consultation with the Council and relevant stakeholders including:

- Director, Waverley Life, Waverley Council
- Strategic Heritage Planner, Waverley Council
- Cultural Heritage Advisor, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council
- NSW Crown Lands
- Department of the Environment (Commonwealth)
- NSW Heritage Division

#### 10. RESOURCES TO BE SUPPLIED BY WAVERLEY COUNCIL

The Council will support the project by:

- providing a detailed briefing
- providing access to all relevant material and resources
- arranging site access
- ensuring availability of management and relevant staff
- negotiating and agreeing response time from the NSW Heritage Division to the draft CMP

#### 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The representative contact for the project is

Hugh Thornton  
M: 0410 342 264  
Email: hugh.thornton@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Hugh Thornton is the Senior Project Manager, Renewal, and is the first and primary point of contact for this project.

The Contractor is required to work in consultation with the Council's representative and others as directed. This will include providing project progress updates (timing and format to be agreed upon between the Council's contact and successful tenderer) and is likely to involve telephone calls and occasional meetings.

The assignment will be undertaken under the Council's standard term and conditions for engagement of contractors.

## 12. REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

The key references for this project will be provided to the successful tenderer.

### General

- *Ask First: A guided to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values 2002* (Australian Heritage Commission)
- *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *The Conservation Plan, James Semple Kerr (revised 2013)*

### Bondi Beach

- *Aboriginal and Historical Archaeological Assessment Bondi Pavilion, Bondi Beach (draft) prepared by Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology, April 2016*
- *Bondi Park and Pavilion Heritage Review prepared by Mayne-Wilson and Associates, November 2012*
- *Bondi Pavilion and surroundings conservation analysis and conservation guidelines prepared by Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners, May 1997.*
- *Bondi Pavilion and surroundings conservation management plan prepared by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects, June 2015*
- *Statement of Heritage Impact Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club and works year (draft) being prepared by Jean Rice Architect, 2016.*

## 12. CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL

Your proposal must include:

- your address, facsimile number, electronic mail address and contact person for the purpose of communication
- your appreciation of the tasks involved and the proposed methodology, including your proposed program to undertake the Project. *Note that repetition of information from this scope of works does not demonstrate an understanding of the project*
- your understanding of the key issues and risks for this Project and your suggested approach(es) to the issues and risks
- the key personnel who you intend to employ in the performance of the Services and their relevant experience in undertaking similar projects. The skills and attributes they offer to the Project, as well as their capability to undertake the project should also be included
- the amount of time allocated to each person and the total time allocated for the performance of the Services
- a list of any sub-consultants that will be engaged in the carrying out of the Services, describing details of:
  - the Services to be subcontracted to the sub-consultant
  - the basis of engagement of the sub-consultant and the sub-contract price

- Fees for the Project and details of any assumptions as they relate to the Fees

Your proposal must be no more than 20 pages in length, excluding CV's. CV's should be limited to no more than two pages each for the key personnel nominated for the Project and cover only experience throughout the last five years as it relates to the Project.

The information requested above should be provided in the tabular format set out below.

Task / item	Deliverable / disbursement	Personnel	Hours	Rate	Cost
<i>As per tender proposal plus additional disbursements</i>	<i>Name deliverable or list disbursements as "disbursement"</i>	<i>Individual line for each person involved</i>	<i>Per person</i>	<i>Per person</i>	<i>For each person/line item</i>

#### Fee Proposal

A fixed price quote for the project is to be provided along with identified milestones/activities, designated hourly rates for the nominated project team member/s and estimated time inputs for and specific responsibilities of each member of the project team. All costs should be detailed (include disbursements such as travel and accommodation etc).



# I

# Supplementary Recommended Treatment of Fabric Table

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This table was replaced in version 6 of the BBCL CMP by a standard table provided by Heritage NSW which takes precedence. This table includes some additional guidance tailored to the BBCL and is included for reference.

Table 8.1: Guide to recommended treatment for fabric according to its level of significance - subject to obtaining required approvals. Refer also to the Burra Charter and its practice notes to guide conservation.

LEVEL	RECOMMENDED TREATMENT (subject to obtaining approval)
Exceptional	<p>Retain and conserve all fabric (including trees and other landscape items), replacing like with like if absolutely necessary. Preserve and maintain in accord with the Burra Charter.</p> <p>Minor adaptation may be allowed but only if necessary for a significant use of the place to continue. Minimise change, do not remove or obscure significant fabric. Design changes so they are reversible. In preference, modify areas of lesser significance, or areas already modified or reconstructed, particularly if installing new services, fixings etc.</p> <p>There is a very limited tolerance for change and any change must be to ensure the conservation of significant fabric. Fabric of exceptional significance is not to be altered for temporary uses.</p>
High	<p>Aim to retain all of the significant fabric (including trees and other landscape items), as above.</p> <p>Adaptation or removal in part may be acceptable if it is to allow for significant long term uses to continue, or for a new compatible use that provides for the long-term conservation of the place. In adaptation, minimise changes, do not remove or obscure significant fabric. Design changes so that they are reversible. Install services in areas that have already been modified or have already been re-constructed. More change is acceptable than for fabric of exceptional significance.</p> <p>There is a very limited tolerance for change and any change must be to ensure continuation of significant use, the conservation of significant fabric or the conservation of fabric of higher significance. The condition of some items may affect the feasibility of conserving them or the extent of conservation.</p>
Moderate	<p>Aim to retain most of the significant fabric. Conservation of overall form and configuration is desirable. Sympathetic new construction may be added and fabric removed in part to accommodate compatible uses. If adaptation is necessary more changes can be made than to fabric of High significance and the same principles apply. Where possible, make change reversible.</p> <p>The tolerance for change is higher than with fabric of exceptional and high significance however changes to fabric must benefit long-term conservation of the place. Retention may depend on factors other than significance such as condition and functionality.</p>
Little	<p>Fabric of little significance may be retained, modified or removed as required for future use, provided removal does not damage fabric of higher significance or assists in its conservation.</p>
Neutral	<p>Fabric which is neither significant nor intrusive and which may remain or be removed without impact on heritage values.</p> <p>Reconstructed fabric is also considered to be of neutral significance, but it should be noted that its configuration may be of significance (refer to the table in Section 6.7) eg the reconstructed sea wall ramps.</p>
Intrusive	<p>Reverse or alter intrusive fabric to reduce the adverse impact, when the opportunity arises. Ensure that removal does not damage significant fabric. In many cases intrusive elements can be redesigned to improve their appearance rather than removed, if the function is necessary.</p> <p>Components that are actively contributing to the physical deterioration of significant fabric should be removed as a priority.</p>
	Refer also to policy section 4.5 Cultural Plantings

