

THE SYDNEY REGION



CAPTAIN JAMES COOK anchored in **Botany Bay** for just over a week in April and May of 1770. His crew were the first Europeans positively known to have set foot in New South Wales. Sailing north he noticed the entrance to Port Jackson, but did not stop to explore within the headlands. In 1786 the British government agreed to establish a convict settlement at Botany Bay. Whether or not there were other important strategic and trade reasons for the choice of location remains open to debate. The first fleet, under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, arrived in Botany Bay in January 1788. After a reconnaissance trip northwards he moved his fleet to Port Jackson because it was a better harbour and offered potentially superior soil and water supplies. Within a few weeks a fledgling town had arisen on the banks of the Tank Stream and the colony's first farm had been established at Farm Cove.

Food supplies were meagre and it quickly became imperative to locate better soils than those in the immediate vicinity of Sydney Cove. Together with curiosity as to what the strange new land held, this led to exploration of much of the Cumberland Plain within the first year or two of settlement. The Hawkesbury River was explored upstream to Richmond Hill by Phillip and his party in June 1789. Its upper reaches, then named and still known as the Nepean River, were explored by Watkin Tench in the same month. **Botany Bay** was also more fully explored and charted that year. Further afield, Phillip visited the **Gosford** area in 1790; the Georges River was explored by George Bass, Matthew Flinders and William Martin in 1795; and the **Picton** district was explored by John Wilson in 1798.

The **Blue Mountains** remained an intriguing but apparently impenetrable barrier to westward expansion in the search for arable land and pastures. Tench reached the foothills in 1789. Attempts at crossing them were made by William Dawes (1789), William Paterson (1793), Henry Hacking (1794), George Bass (1796) and John Wilson (1798). Francis Barrallier attempted a route further south in 1802. George Caley also explored the rugged ranges in 1802 and succeeded in travelling part of the way through the barrier in 1804. Then Gregory Blaxland, William Wentworth and William Lawson crossed the mountains in 1813, opening the way west to the fertile plains in the **Bathurst** district and beyond. A road was built over the range in 1815 by William Cox.

Meanwhile, many parts of the Cumberland Plain had been settled, although early reports considered the north shore too rugged and the sandy coastal areas between the town and **Botany Bay** too barren to be of any use. **Parramatta** (Rose Hill) was established in 1788 as a farming settlement to supply the colony with grain: laid out as a town in 1790, it was larger than **Sydney** until 1792. The first group of free settlers in the colony settled at Liberty Plains (between Strathfield and Bankstown) in 1792. Other settlers took up land at Ryde in the same year. Settlers were farming along the Nepean and Hawkesbury by 1794, gradually producing a larger and larger proportion of the food requirements of New South Wales. Devastating floods every few years were, however, a major problem. Land at Woolloomooloo was granted in 1793, while grants in many localities that later became suburbs of Sydney had been made by the end of the eighteenth century.

It is not known how many Aborigines inhabited the region when the first fleet arrived, nor is a great deal known about their way of life. Large numbers of rock carvings and other sites remain as witness of their presence throughout the region. Tensions soon arose and

resentment and resistance on the part of the Aborigines increased as more and more of their hunting and fishing territory was taken over by the Europeans. While Phillip and his men almost begged for help with fishing and hunting to augment dwindling food supplies in the settlements, they refused to share their grain and stock in return. Disease, as well as hunger, took its toll. The worst early epidemic — probably smallpox, perhaps simply chickenpox — seriously affected a people with no immunity and killed many. As more and more land was brought under European control, the remnants of the once-proud people became urban fringe dwellers relying on handouts or food earned in any number of ways, degrading and otherwise.

As its mercantile port function became increasingly important, **Sydney** supplanted **Parramatta** as the main settlement. Sealing and whaling products were the first important exports, trade in them beginning in about 1800. Despite the growth of the port, Sydney was a frontier town when Lachlan Macquarie arrived as governor in 1810. Soon afterwards he proclaimed the sites of the five 'Macquarie towns' of Castlereagh, **Richmond**, **Windsor**, Pitt Town and Wilberforce as well as that of **Liverpool**. A large public works and public building program was carried out by Macquarie, many of the buildings being designed by his ex-convict architect Francis Greenway. These programs were curbed by the Bigge report of 1819 which argued that too much wealth was being diverted to public rather than private projects, and that the governor had been too kindly disposed towards emancipists.

Virtually all of the colony's small cattle herd had strayed in the first years of settlement to be found at the Cowpastures near modern **Camden** in 1795. John Macarthur was granted about 2000 ha in the district in 1803, taking up the grant in 1805 and proceeding, with considerable assistance from his wife Elizabeth, to build up his flock of merino sheep. The area was opened for general settlement from 1809, while the first land grants in the **Campbelltown** district were in 1810–15. This area became a base for important explorations to the south and southwest in search of ever more grazing land.

Expansion of the town of **Sydney** into the modern inner suburbs began in the 1830s, although it remained a very compact urban area for some decades to come. The first railway, more a rural than urban line, opened from Redfern to Granville in 1855. It was only much



Circular Quay, the hub of the busy Sydney ferry system. Postcard, c1900.

BOOROWA PRODUCTIONS



*Looking across North Sydney to the city centre. High-rise development from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s obliterated much of nineteenth-century North Sydney.
Photograph by Leo Meier, c1984.*

WELDON TRANNIES

later that a suburban railway system emerged to allow the suburbs to increasingly outstrip the city, proclaimed in 1842, in terms of population. Even more important for that expansion was the extensive steam tramway network established from 1879 and converted to electric traction from 1893. The 1880s saw a suburban building boom partially deflated by the depression of the 1890s. By federation, however, metropolitan Sydney was poised to pass the half-million population mark and extended from the ocean to Strathfield, from Chatswood to Canterbury.

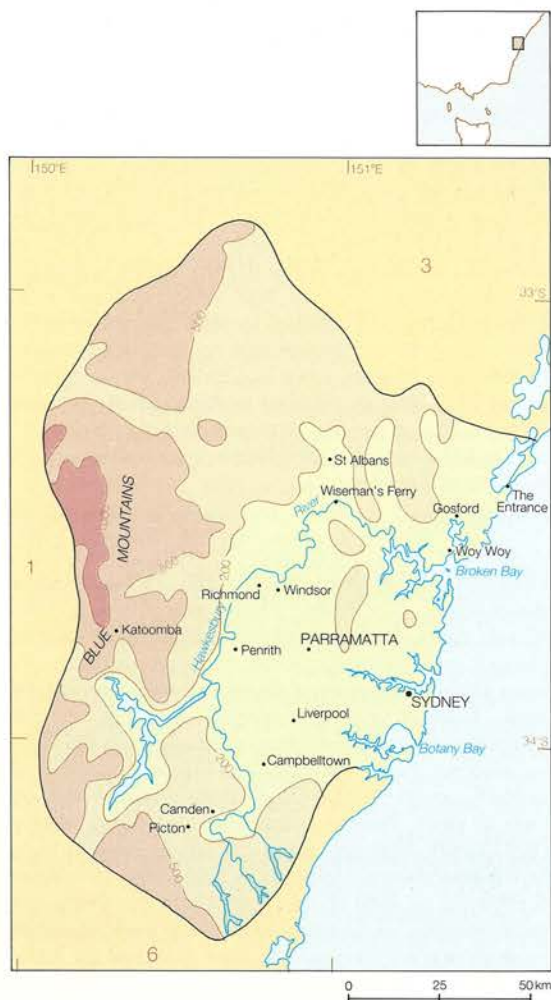
This century has been dominated by the expansion of metropolitan **Sydney** across more and more of the Cumberland Plain, not at a uniform rate, but with periods of intensive activity interrupted by economic depression and war. Developers and their clients took advantage of the comprehensive tramway and railway systems to move to what were then outer suburban locations in the 1900s and again in the 1920s. Owning a bungalow became the aspiration of an increasing proportion of the population. Depression, war, and postwar shortages of materials and finance temporarily halted this process, but it resumed with greater vigour than ever in the early to mid-1950s. The Sydney Harbour Bridge, opened in 1932 as growth had all but ceased, finally led to rapid expansion on the north shore. Massive outward expansion was now fuelled by the motor vehicle, which replaced the tram by 1961 and allowed a new locational freedom for most forms of landuse. For perhaps the first time, employment in factories and later offices also decentralised, as did shopping and other facilities.

By the mid-1980s, Sydney had taken in areas from Berowra to **Camden** and as far west as the **Blue Mountains**. To some extent, the **Gosford**, **Wollongong** and Blue Mountains areas were functionally parts of a single urban region centred on Sydney. This functional unity had been recognised in the County of Cumberland Plan of 1948 and, even more so, in the Sydney Region Outline Plan of 1967. Remaining rural areas have also come to serve the city, not only in traditional ways such as market gardening, but also in many recreational and service roles. Large areas have, over the years, been reserved as national parks. Equally large areas are devoted to such fringe activities as nurseries, riding schools and waste disposal sites. Virtually every nook and cranny of the region is now touched in some way by the dominant presence of Australia's largest city.

Graeme Aplin

SUGGESTED READING

- A. Birch and D.S. Macmillan (eds), *The Sydney scene 1788–1960*, Sydney 1982.
 D.G. Bowd, *Macquarie country: a history of the Hawkesbury*, Melbourne 1969.
 T.M. Perry, *Australia's first frontier*, Melbourne 1963.
 P. Spearritt, *Sydney since the twenties*, Sydney 1978.
 K. Willey, *When the sky fell down: the destruction of the tribes of the Sydney region*, Sydney 1979.



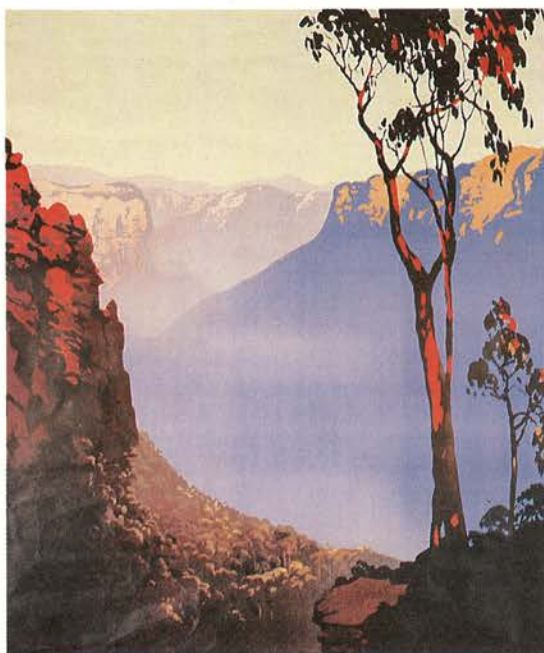
BLUE MOUNTAINS [33°36'S 150°19'E]

Popn (City of the Blue Mountains): 28 119 (1961), 55 877 (1981). Name from characteristic colour when seen in distance. When sighted in April 1788 by party under Capt Arthur Phillip, northern section named the Carmarthen Hills and southern section, the Lansdowne Hills. Lieut Watkin Tench reached foothills near **Penrith** in 1789. Attempts at crossing mountains were made by William Dawes (1789), William Paterson (1793), Henry Hacking (1794), George Bass (1796) and John Wilson (1798). In 1802 Francis Barrallier attempted a southern route via the Nattai R, Yerranderie and the Kowmung R. Botanist George Caley reached Mt Tomah and Mt King George in 1804 but turned back. Gregory Blaxland, William Wentworth and William Lawson in 1813 reached the River Lett at site of **Hartley**, leaving more rugged country ahead but having discov first practicable route over mountains. George Evans found route over remainder of barrier six months later; William Cox built road over very similar route in 1815 using convict labour. Military stockade estab at Springwood in 1816–17. Victoria Pass

road built in 1832 to replace descent from Mt York. Northern route known as Bell's line of road discov by Archibald Bell in 1823, road built along it in 1868. Lapstone Bridge built in 1832–33; oldest surviving bridge on mainland. Mt Victoria tollhouse built in 1849. Rlwy over mountains opened in 1869, having reached Wentworth Falls in 1867, Mt Victoria in 1868: steep ascents and descents first made possible by Lapstone Zigzag (1867–1913) and Great Zigzag (1869–1910, see Lithgow). City of the Blue Mountains proclaimed in 1947. Blackheath (popn 3027 (1981)) grew after rlwy opened; district settled by Europeans in 1815, rlwy station named Govetts Leap in 1869, renamed in 1871. Miles Dunphy explored much of Blue Mts area 1912–14 and led calls for reservations through Nat Pks and Primitive Areas Council. Blue Gum Forest reserved in 1932, first park in 1959, large southern area dedicated in 1977. Serious bushfires have occurred on many occasions, most recently in 1957, 1968–69, 1977 and 1980. Blue Mountains now an important commuter centre for Sydney with interurban rail services and roads improved in the 1960s–80s. (See also Katoomba.)

BOTANY BAY [33°59'S 151°12'E]

Capt James Cook anchored the *Endeavour* in bay in 1770 and named it after large number of botanical specimens collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander. One of Cook's crew, Forby Sutherland, buried here in 1770. First fleet entered bay in January 1788, as did French ships of the Comte de la Pérouse six days later. Pére le Recéveur of latter expedition buried here. Capt Arthur Phillip thought site unsuitable for first settlement and moved to Port Jackson (see Sydney). Bay explored and charted by Capt John Hunter in 1789. Convict fishing station estab by Phillip in 1789–90. Early Sydney merchant Simeon Lord estab woollen clothing factory on northern shore in 1814. Macquarie Watch Tower at La Perouse built c1820. Lord granted land in 1823 which he let out for market gardening, an activity that continued until modern times with many Chinese involved after gold rushes of the 1850s. Botany waterworks in swamps to north of bay supplied Sydney 1858–88. First, but unsuccessful, attempt at oyster farming in Aust was by Thomas Holt in Georges R in the 1860s. Coal jetty built at Banksmeadow in 1880. Bare Is fortified 1881–85 during Russian invasion scare. Botany municipality proclaimed in 1888. Cook's Landing Place dedicated as public reserve in 1899. Much industrial development early this century and again after World War II. Bunnerong power station on northern shore built in the late 1920s. Oil terminal estab in 1930. Oil refineries estab at Matraville in 1948 and at Kurnell on southern shore 1953–55. Botany Bay dredged in the 1960s to accommodate larger ships as part of plan to develop bay as second port for Sydney. Other recent developments include two major container terminals (commissioned in 1979 and 1982) and wharf for bulk liquid and petrochemical cargoes. Petrochemical plants and other industries have been attracted to reclaimed land adjacent to port development at northern end of bay.



The Blue Mountains have beckoned Sydneysiders and tourists from all over Australia for over a century. Poster by James Northfield for the Australian National Travel Association, c1935.

BOOROWA PRODUCTIONS

CAMDEN [34°03'S 150°42'E]

Popn: 342 (1851), 685 (1861), 505 (1881), 2394 (1933), 4847 (1954), 3427 (1966), 5360 (1971), 9000 (1981). Named after Lord Camden from whom John Macarthur received land grant of approx 2000 ha in area in 1803. District earlier known as Cowpasture Plains or the Cowpastures after cattle that had strayed from **Sydney** in first yrs of European settlement were found here in 1795. Road from Prospect surveyed in 1805. Macarthur took up his grant in 1805: he and his wife Elizabeth began building merino sheep flock. Land from **Liverpool** to the Cowpastures opened for general settlement in 1809, the Cowpastures proper in 1820. Kirkham Stables built in 1816, Hassell Cottage in 1817, Denbigh (Nat T) 1817–27, Gledswood (RNE) in c1830. Camden Park (Nat T, RNE, designed by John Verge) built for John Macarthur 1832–35: Home Farm House (or Belgenny, RNE) built for the Macarthurs in 1820 still stands on property. Macarthurs planted first vineyard in district in 1820, began dairying in 1826. Bridge across Nepean R built in 1826. Town site surveyed in 1836; township founded in 1840, leading to decline of earlier settlement of Cawdor. School opened on Macarthur estate in 1838, first state school in 1851. Camden Inn built 1840–42, St John the Evangelist Church (Nat T, RNE) 1840–49, Macaria (RNE) c1842. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1857. Wheat growing in district hit by rust 1861–63. Rlwy opened in 1882, closed in 1963. Woollen mill operated 1885–99. Proclaimed a municipality in 1889. Designated part of Macarthur Growth Centre (see Campbelltown) in 1975.

CAMPBELLTOWN [34°04'S 150°49'E]

Popn: 446 (1841), 1429 (1911), 9690 (1954), 16374 (1961), now in **Sydney** metropolitan area. Named by Gov Macquarie in 1820 after his wife's family. District earlier known as Airds; first settled 1810–15. Town site marked out in 1820, town estab in 1829. St Peter's Anglican church (RNE) consecrated in 1823; St John's Roman Catholic church (RNE) built 1825–41. Denfield (RNE) built in 1837, Glenalvon (RNE) in 1839–40, Richmond Villa (RNE) c1840. Anglican grammar school estab in 1837. Migrant depot estab here by Caroline Chisholm in 1841. Rlwy opened in 1858. Municipality proclaimed in 1882. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1889, town hall in 1891. Rapid growth in the 1970s–80s as planned satellite urban centre to **Sydney**: Macarthur Development Board estab in 1975 to plan Macarthur Growth Centre which also includes Appin and Camden.

GOSFORD [33°25'S 151°21'E]

Popn: 199 (1841), 53 (1846), 211 (1851), 1100 (1911), 5164 (1954), 11310 (1966), 56373 (1971), 71984 (Brisbane Water, 1981). Gov Arthur Phillip visited area in 1790. Private town of East Gosford estab in 1822 to rival planned govt township. Active timbercutting industry from c1824: settlement of about 100, half convicts, by 1828. Govt township surveyed in 1839: private township remained more important through the 1840s but two eventually merged. Poet Henry Kendall lived in 1838 cottage in 1874–75. Courthouse and lock-up built in 1848. Present courthouse and police station (RNE) built 1866–68. Technical college built in 1876. Incorporated as municipality in 1886. Rlwy to **Sydney** completed in 1889. Rapid growth in the 1960s–70s with opening of sections of freeway and improved interurban rlwy service to **Sydney**. Old **Sydney** Town to southwest attempts to recreate **Sydney** of c1810.

KATOOMBA [33°43'S 150°19'E]

Popn: 1592 (1891), 8781 (1947), 6975 (1954), 13942 (1981). Aborig name: known earlier as Crushers. Tree marked by one of the expedition which first crossed the **Blue Mountains** in 1813. Coal in area reported by George Clarke in 1841. Kerosene shale discov in Kanimbla valley c1870. Rlwy station opened in 1876. Katoomba coalmine opened in 1879, also mining kerosene shale from 1885. Carrington Hotel opened in 1882. Town became important resort late last century with rapid proliferation of hotels and guesthouses 1910–30. Scenic rlwy, built in the 1880s to transport miners and coal up 45° incline, now a tourist attraction. Aust Kerosene Oil and Mineral Co mining kerosene shale here and in Megalong valley by 1891 with small mining settlement at latter site. Coal mine closed in the 1920s. Became part of City of the **Blue Mountains** in 1947. Skyway, first horizontal passenger-carrying ropeway in Southern Hemisphere, built in 1958.

LIVERPOOL [33°54'S 150°56'E]

Popn: 597 (1836), 690 (1841), 392 (1851), 3081 (1911), 12642 (1947), 26610 (1954), now in **Sydney** metropolitan area. Town site proclaimed by Gov Lachlan Macquarie

in 1810 and named after British prime minister Lord Liverpool. Collingwood (RNE) built in 1810. Army barracks built in 1811. St Luke's Church (RNE) built 1818–24 to design of Francis Greenway. Town founded in 1819. Former hospital, probably designed by Francis Greenway, built c1825–30, now part of technical college. Liverpool Weir on Georges R built in 1836 to supply water to town. Proclaimed a municipality in 1872, a city in 1960. Has grown rapidly as industrial and residential suburb since World War II.

PARRAMATTA [33°49'S 151°00'E]

Popn: 3600 (1836), 5389 (1841), 4128 (1851), 12 520 (1911), 20 816 (1947), now included in **Sydney**. Name: Aborig = 'head of the river'. Earlier known as Rose Hill, renamed in 1791. Founded as farming area for Sydney settlement in 1788: first wheat grown in Aust harvested here in 1789 on govt farm; first land grant in Aust, that to James Ruse, made in 1789, enlarged in 1791. Ferry from Sydney began in 1789. Laid out as town in 1790, second settlement in Aust and largest until 1792 when Hawkesbury River district supplanted it as agric area and Sydney grew in importance. Hospital estab in 1790. St John's cemetery, Aust's oldest, estab in 1791. Elizabeth Farm House (RNE, restored in 1984) built in 1793 for John Macarthur, oldest house in Aust, extended c1826–28. First road to Sydney opened in 1794; toll road estab in 1811. Govt farm with convict labour operated 1795–1800. Old Government House (Nat T, RNE), oldest public building in Aust, built in 1799, enlarged in 1815–16: used as viceregal residence until 1847; grounds proclaimed public park and house leased in 1857–58; acquired by Nat T in 1967. First church to be consecrated in NSW built here in 1796; second finished in 1803; that replaced by St John's Church (RNE) in 1852–55. First Roman Catholic service in Aust held here in 1803. Govt school opened in

1810. First race meeting in Aust claimed to have been held here in 1810. Town laid out and streets named more formally by Gov Lachlan Macquarie in 1811. Female factory built in 1819–20, produced cloth on commercial basis 1821–31. Rose Farm cottage (RNE) built in 1820 on land granted to Alexander MacDonald in 1792. Experiment Farm Cottage (Nat T, RNE) built c1820 by surgeon John Harris on Ruse's original grant. Regular ferry from Sydney estab in 1831, ran until 1928. Rlwy from Sydney opened to Parramatta Junction (Granville) in 1855, first in NSW; extended to Parramatta in 1860. Proclaimed a municipality in 1861. Proclaimed a city in 1938. Now an industrial and residential suburb of Sydney and increasingly important as a commercial and office centre since the 1960s. Growth aided by relocation of sections of state and federal govt departments here from the 1970s.

PENRITH [33°45'S 150°42'E]

Popn: 416 (1851), 2452 (1911), 4961 (1947), 17 924 (1954), 27 461 (1961), now included in **Sydney**. Named after town in Cumberland, England, probably by Gov Macquarie in 1818. Watkin Tench explored Nepean R nearby in 1789. First land grants on river in 1803, first on western side in 1806. Road over **Blue Mountains** opened in 1815 and courthouse and gaol built. Bushranger John (Bold Jack) Donohoe active in area in the 1820s. Aust's first commercial vineyard estab here by Macarthur family in the 1820s. St Stephen's Church built by convicts, opened in 1838. Bridge over Nepean R opened in 1856. Rlwy opened in 1863: terminus until 1867, giving brisk coaching trade to the west. Attempt in 1864 to start an Aust silk industry here failed. Declared a municipality in 1871. Town hall opened in 1881. Airfield estab in 1911, Hart's Aviation School in 1912: first land in Aust set aside for aviation purposes and first flying school. Solar radio spectrograph erected here



The earliest view of Rose Hill, later known as Parramatta, c1791. The amphitheatre adjacent to the Parramatta River was excavated prior to the building of Old Government House in 1799. Watercolour by an unknown artist.

DIXSON GALLERY

by CSIRO in 1949. Proclaimed a city in 1959. Nylon factory, one of first two in Aust, opened in 1966. Castlereagh to north was least successful of five 'Macquarie towns' estab in 1810: first (private) secondary school in Aust opened there in 1812, first Methodist chapel in Australia built there in 1817.

PICTON [34°11'S 150°38'E]

Popn: 142 (1851), 1244 (1911), 1037 (1933), 1817 (1981). Named by Gov Brisbane after general he had served under during Napoleonic wars. Known as Stonequarry until 1845. John Wilson explored area in 1798. Stockyards estab c1805. George IV Inn licensed in 1819. Gov Macquarie chose site for town in 1820. Land grants in district from 1822. Sites for township of Stonequarry and another nearby private township surveyed in 1841–42. Private village on Stonequarry site proclaimed as Picton in 1845; higher government village named Upper Picton but always known as Redbank. St Mark's Anglican church begun in 1850, completed in 1857. Rlwy opened in 1863 and third village formed around station. The three villages merged to form town of Picton. Courthouse built in 1864. Became a borough in 1895. The Creamery built in 1899 as dairy industry developed. Furrier and millinery establishment opened in 1920 to supply needs of Aust cavalry regiments. Parkhall at Douglas Park built for Thomas Mitchell 1842–45. Cement works estab at Maldon to northeast 1949–51.

RICHMOND [33°48'S 150°17'E]

Popn: 982 (1836), 514 (1841), 736 (1851), 3410 (1947), 9933 (1966, including Windsor), 15491 (1981, including Windsor). Earlier known as Richmond Hill, perhaps after town and hill on River Thames near London. Gov Arthur Phillip and party explored Hawkesbury River as far upstream as Richmond Hill in 1789. Proclaimed a town in 1810 on site above flood level chosen by Gov Lachlan Macquarie. Mountain View built in 1812, Clear Oaks homestead (RNE) c1820, Hobartville (RNE) c1828, Josieville (RNE) in the 1830s. St Peter's Church (RNE) built 1837–41. Post office built in 1844. Rlwy opened in 1864. Hawkesbury Agric College estab in 1891. W.E. Hart moved his aerodrome and flying school here from Penrith in 1912. School of Aviation estab in 1916. Became an RAAF base in 1927. Cyclonic rains led to floods causing 22 deaths in 1954. Richmond now serves as a residential satellite for Sydney as well as a district centre.

ST ALBANS [33°17'S 150°58'E]

Popn: 60 (1851), 236 (1911), 81 (1961). First settled by Europeans in the 1820s. Called Bullock Wharf, was to be known as Macdonald, but became St Albans after town north of London when gazetted in 1841. Gov Phillip explored Macdonald R in 1790, naming it the First Branch. First land grants in upper valley in 1810 although landholders in lower valley by 1803; John Macdonald took up land in valley in the late 1820s. Smaller farms surveyed along river in 1833–34. The Settler's Arms Hotel built c1842; Anglican church opened in 1843. Floods in 1867 and 1889 silted river, severely damaged village and forced many to leave.

Courthouse and police station built c1890. Valley did not receive electricity until 1961, was yet again isolated by floods in 1978.

SYDNEY [33°50'S 151°04'E]

Popn: 1030 (1788), 19 729 (1836), 56 394 (1856), 99 857 (1881), 636 353 (1911) 1 235 267 (1933), 2 876 508 (1981). Named after British home secretary, Viscount Sydney. Capt Cook entered **Botany Bay** and noted entrance to Port Jackson in 1770. British govt agreed in 1786 to estab convict settlement at Botany Bay.

Struggle for survival (1788–1809) First fleet under Capt Arthur Phillip arrived at **Botany Bay** in January 1788 with 1030 persons, 736 of them convicts. Phillip chose Port Jackson in preference to Botany Bay as site for the settlement and landed in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788 to raise flag and proclaim new colony of NSW. Colony's first vegetable garden estab on Garden Is in 1788, first farm at Farm Cove (Botanic Gardens). Bridge, hospital and govt house also built in 1788. Epidemic, probably smallpox but of unknown origin, killed many Aboriges in 1789. Severe food shortages in early yrs led to rations being progressively reduced. *Rose Hill Packet*, first vessel built in Aust, launched in 1789 and used on regular service to **Parramatta** from that yr. In 1790, 180 ha of Glebe land set aside for church. Agric settlement at present Ryde began in 1792. First church built in 1793, burned down in 1798. Gaol built in the Rocks area in 1797. John Palmer granted land at Woolloomooloo in 1793 and other grants occurred in many of modern suburbs in the 1790s. First private wharf built for Robert Campbell in 1800. Whaling activities based in Port Jackson from 1802. *Sydney Gazette*, first (semiofficial) newspaper, estab in 1803. Short-lived convict uprising took place at Castle Hill in 1804. Fort Phillip on Flagstaff (Observatory) Hill built in 1804. Gov William Bligh deposed in 'Rum Rebellion' of 1808.

Mature town (1810–41) Gov Lachlan Macquarie took office in 1810 and set about an ambitious public works program. Rum Hospital built 1810–15: so named because contractors were paid with a monopoly on importation of rum. Racecourse estab in Hyde Park in 1810. Post office estab in 1809. First mental asylum in Aust estab at Castle Hill by Macquarie in 1811. Market Wharf, first in Darling Harbour, built in 1811. Road to South Head built 1811–13. Commissariat stores built in 1812. City's oldest surviving dwelling, Cadman's Cottage, built in 1813. Military hospital built on Flagstaff (Observatory) Hill in 1815, later became Fort St School, now Nat T headquarters (RNE). Macquarie Lighthouse on South Head built to Francis Greenway design 1816–18. Government House stables' designed by Greenway, built 1816–21, adapted as NSW Conservatorium of Music (RNE) in 1914–15. Hyde Park Barracks (RNE) to another Greenway design, built 1817–19; used as immigration depot from 1848, as courthouse 1887–1976, recently restored as museum. Botanic Gardens originally dedicated, in 1816: earlier wall of c1812 (RNE) remains. Fort Macquarie built on Bennelong Point in 1817. First Methodist church built in 1819, first Presbyterian church in 1824.

St James' Anglican church, oldest remaining church in Sydney (RNE, 1819–24) and supreme court (RNE, 1820–28) both built to Greenway designs. Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, first Roman Catholic church in NSW, built in 1821. Judge's House (RNE) built in 1821. New gaol (RNE) built at Darlinghurst 1822–41 with later additions up to 1885: now technical college. Juniper Hall (Nat T, RNE) completed in 1824, to be restored by 1988. First private newspaper, the *Australian*, founded in 1824. St Anne's Church, Ryde, (RNE) built in 1825–26. Argyle Stores (RNE) in the Rocks begun in 1826. Town's first library estab in 1826. Busby's Bore (RNE), a sandstone tunnel, built 1827–37 to bring water from Lachlan Swamps (Centennial Park area) to the city; used until c1886. Vaucluse House (RNE) built 1827–50, for politician W.C. Wentworth, incorporating cottage of c1803. Aust Subscription Library, forerunner of State Library, estab in 1826. Glebe estate sold off and subdivided from c1828. North wing of Rum Hospital became seat of NSW Legislative Council in 1829. Whaling station on Mosman Bay in the 1830s. *Sydney Herald* estab in 1831. Original building (RNE) of Sydney College (Grammar School) built 1831–35. Randwick Racecourse first used in 1833. Theatre Royal, first purpose-built theatre, built in 1833. Guard room (1833) and barracks (1838–42) (both RNE) built on Cockatoo Is for convicts. Lord Nelson Hotel built in 1834, oldest remaining licensed premises in Sydney. Lindesay (Nat T, RNE) built on Mrs Darling's Point in 1834. Gladesville Lunatic Asylum estab and original buildings (RNE) erected 1836–38. Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts (RNE) built in 1836. Powder magazine (RNE) excavated and wharf built by convicts on Goat Is 1836–39; used in 1900 as bacteriological station following outbreak of bubonic plague. New Government House

begun in 1837, first occupied in 1845. St Andrew's Anglican cathedral (RNE) begun in 1837 to Edmund Blacket's design (although foundation stone laid in 1819); completed in present form in 1949. Elizabeth Bay House (RNE), designed by John Verge, completed in 1838 for the colonial secretary Alexander Macleay. Convicts used to cut underground grain stores from solid rock on Cockatoo Is in 1839. Suburban subdivision took place in the 1830s in Newtown, Pyrmont, Redfern, Surry Hills, and Woolloomooloo. Transportation of convicts to NSW abolished in 1840. Fortifications on Bradley's Head (RNE) begun in 1840, extended in 1871. Canadian exiles held at Longbottom (Concord) stockade c1840. Victoria Barracks (RNE) built 1841–48 by convict labour. Fort Denison (RNE) built on island 1841–57. Gas works opened in 1841 and streets lit by gas soon afterwards. First known photograph in Aust taken on harbour in 1841. Paddington first settled in the 1840s: municipal council estab in 1860, town hall (RNE) built in 1890–91.

Early city (1842–65) Sydney Municipal Council estab in 1842. Sugar refinery estab at Canterbury in 1842. Admiralty House built in 1842 and substantially extended 1897–1900: Sydney residence of Aust governors-general since 1913. Campbell's Store (RNE) built 1842–61, third floor added in the 1890s. Holy Trinity (Garrison) Church (RNE) begun in 1844. Original customs house built in 1844. Fort Denison built from the 1840s to 1857. First clipper ship, the *Phoenician*, reached Port Jackson in 1850. University of Sydney estab in 1853: main quadrangle and Great Hall (RNE) built to Edmund Blacket design 1855–62. Southern wing of Rum Hospital (RNE) became Royal Mint in 1853, now a museum of social history. Royal Exchange built 1853–57: later saw introduction of



Reclaiming the head of Sydney Cove to form a semicircular quay. On the right is the new Government House, begun in 1837 and first occupied in 1845. Oil by Heriot Anley, early 1840s.

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telegraph (1857), telephone (1880) and electric light (1882). Seawall and reclamation of head of Sydney Cove completed in 1853. Regular Manly ferry service estab in 1854. Kirribilli House built in 1854: resumed by commonwealth in 1920 for use of visiting dignitaries. Mort's dockyard estab at Balmain in 1854–55. Legislative assembly estab in 1855. Rlwy opened between Redfern and Granville in 1855, first in NSW. Observatory (RNE) built on Observatory Hill 1856–58. *Dunbar* wrecked near South Head in 1857: only one of 122 people on board survived. Combined stormwater drains and sewers built from 1857 to empty into harbour. First wing of Australian Museum (RNE) opened in 1857, although institution estab over 20 yrs earlier. Original Pyrmont Bridge opened as toll bridge in 1858. Fitzroy Dock on Cockatoo Is opened in 1858. First suburban municipal councils declared 1859–61, including Hunters Hill, Randwick, Redfern, Waterloo. Horse-trams operated 1861–66. First St Mary's Cathedral destroyed by fire in 1865.

Victorian city (1866–1900) Garden Is granted to Royal Navy in 1866, developed as major naval base in 1883–84: rigging-house, sail loft and barracks built 1886–88 (all RNE). General post office (RNE) begun in 1866, completed in 1874, tower added in 1887. St Mary's Roman Catholic cathedral (RNE) built 1868–1928. Foundation stone of town hall (RNE) laid in 1868; first stage completed in 1874, Centennial Hall added by 1889. Alexandria incorporated as municipality in 1868, Leichhardt in 1872. Middle Head fortifications (RNE) built from 1871. Lands Dept building (RNE) erected 1876–90 to James Barnet design. Callan Park Asylum (RNE) built 1877–84. St Peters proclaimed a municipality in 1877, Canterbury in 1879, Concord in 1883, Kogarah in 1886, Hurstville in 1887. Great Synagogue (RNE) built c1878. Royal Nat Pk dedicated in 1879: second nat pk in world and first in Aust. Garden Palace built in 1879 (gates in Botanic Gardens RNE) for International Exhibition, gutted by fire in 1882. First steam tramway built in 1879 to connect rlwy station with exhibition: beginning of widespread network built from 1883 onwards. Metropolitan Water Board estab in 1880, broadened to include sewerage undertakings c1890. New Macquarie Lighthouse (RNE) completed in 1883 to almost same design as original: temporarily used electricity though reverted to more reliable kerosene. New customs house (RNE) built 1885, later extended. Art Gallery of NSW (RNE) built in 1885–1909, extended in 1971–72. Rlwy from Strathfield to Hornsby opened in 1886. Centennial Park laid out in 1888 to mark first century of city's history: proclaimed common land in 1820. Ocean outfall sewer completed in 1889. Sutherland Dock completed on Cockatoo Is in 1890. Strand Arcade (RNE) completed in 1891. North Shore rlwy opened 1890–93. Queen Victoria Building (RNE) built 1893–98 as shopping arcade. Electric trams first operated regular services in 1893 using, from 1899, power generated at new Ultimo power station. Ku-ring-gai Chase Nat Pk dedicated in 1894. Main Sydney Hospital building (RNE) opened in 1894. Outbreak of bubonic plague in 1899–1900 claimed 103 lives and much demolition and



Herbert Badham's Hyde Park portrays Sydneysiders with art deco stylishness. Oil, 1933.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ART MUSEUM

redevelopment by Sydney Harbour Trust in the Rocks and Millers Point area followed.

Early twentieth century (1901–18) Central Rlwy Station (RNE) built 1901–06 to bring rlwy terminus closer to central city. New Pyrmont Bridge opened in 1902: incorporated in Darling Harbour redevelopment to commemorate Bicentenary. State Library of NSW founded in 1869: present building (RNE) begun in 1906, Mitchell Library opened in 1910, remainder built over next 32 yrs with further extensions from 1984. First surf lifesaving club in Aust estab and surf reel first used at Bondi in 1906. Surfboard riding introduced to Aust at Harbord in 1915 by Duke Kahanamoku of Hawaii. Capitol Theatre (RNE) built in 1915. Bill to estab a Greater Sydney Council rejected in 1915. Many woolstores built in Pyrmont in early decades of this century.

Interwar years and World War II (1919–45) Airfield estab at Mascot in 1919–20. Initial section of City Circle underground rlwy completed in 1926. Suburban rlyws electrified from 1926. State Theatre (RNE) built in 1929. Sydney Harbour Bridge (RNE) begun in 1923, opened in 1932: contains 60 000 tonnes of steel, reaches 134 m above water level, and was then the widest arch-span bridge in world at 509 m. Led to more rapid growth of north shore suburbs. Anzac memorial (RNE) in Hyde Park completed in 1934. HMAS *Kuttabul* sunk by Japanese midget submarine while moored at Garden Is in 1942. Captain Cook naval graving dock completed in 1945, joining Garden Is to mainland.

Postwar expansion (1946–) University of NSW estab in 1949 as NSW University of Technology; Macquarie University in 1964. Building height restrictions lifted in 1957, allowing high-rise office development in central city. Similar development spread to North Sydney but most buildings there date from 1965–80. Atomic Energy Commission research facility estab at Lucas Heights in 1955; includes reactor. Last tram in Sydney ran in 1961, although buses gradually replaced trams from the early 1930s. Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority estab in 1968 to revitalise the Rocks.

Green bans first applied by Builders Labourers Federation to prevent developments deemed undesirable in 1971. Martin Place progressively converted to a pedestrian plaza in the 1970s. Sydney Opera House (RNE) design competition won by Joern Utzon in 1957, opened in 1973. Aust's worst rlwy disaster killed 83 at Granville in 1977. Eastern suburbs rlwy, begun in the 1880s, finally opened in 1979. Sydney Harbour Nat Pk estab in 1979 from existing reserves and freed defence land. Sydney Entertainment Centre opened in 1983. (See also Botany Bay, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith).

THE ENTRANCE [33°22'S 151°29'E]

Popn (including Terrigal): 569 (1933), 2651 (1947), 8390 (1961), 20 107 (1976), 37 891 (1981). Area known as Toowon, Tuggerah Beach and Karagi in succession, then given present name after position at entrance from ocean to Tuggerah Lake. First European settler in 1828 at Picnic Point. Chinese fishermen there after gold rushes of the 1850s–60s. First guesthouse opened in 1895 and became holiday destination despite lack of good road access until the 1920s. Post office opened in 1911. Waterfront resumed by govt in 1914. Public school built in 1915. First subdivision of land in 1920. Area's first church (Roman Catholic) opened in 1926. Bridge over entrance channel opened in 1934. Popular holiday resort and retirement centre since the 1960s.

WINDSOR [33°36'S 150°48'E]

Popn: 1145 (1836), 1679 (1846), 1435 (1851), 1900 (1881), 1732 (1871), 1990 (1881), 1674 (1911), 4523 (1961), 15 491 (1981, including **Richmond**). Named after town on River Thames near London. Formerly called Green Hills. Lieut-Gov Grose allowed 22 settlers to begin farming in district in 1794. Road to **Sydney** built that yr. First recorded flood on Hawkesbury River damaged large areas of crops in 1799. Town site one of five chosen by Gov Lachlan Macquarie on high ground above flood levels along Hawkesbury valley in 1810. Village square planned by Macquarie in 1811: one of oldest public squares in Aust. Macquarie Arms Hotel (RNE) built in 1815. Wharf built here in 1814: trading vessels could reach town until 1870. St Matthew's Anglican church (RNE), a Francis Greenway design, built 1817–22, although in use from 1820: associated rectory (RNE) built in 1822. Courthouse (RNE), also a Greenway design, built in 1821–22. Claremont Cottage (RNE) built c1822 with a detached kitchen from 1796. Bushranger John (Bold Jack) Donohoe active in district in the late 1820s. Fairfield House (RNE) built c1831–33. Tollhouse (RNE) built c1835 to replace earlier one, used until 1887. St Matthew's Roman Catholic church built in 1840. Bell Inn and Peninsula Inn (both RNE) built c1841. Peninsula House (RNE) built in 1844: lifelong home of astronomer John Tebbutt who discov large comet, later named after him, in 1861 and

built observatories behind house in 1864 and 1879. Former School of Arts (RNE) built in 1861.

WISEMAN'S FERRY [33°22S 151°00'E]

Popn: 124 (1911), 122 (1966). Named after ex-convict Solomon Wiseman who settled here on land grant in 1817, then won govt contract to feed convict labourers working on road. He opened inn in 1826–27. Ferry has operated here since 1827 when Wiseman obtained lease, taken over by govt in 1832: first crossing place on the Hawkesbury River. On Old North Road from **Sydney** to Hunter valley built by gangs totalling up to 300 convicts in the 1820s–30s. Route surveyed in 1825 and section from Dural built 1826–30. Construction of section north of Hawkesbury R began opposite town in 1829 and followed plan of Thomas Mitchell: retaining walls, drainage ditches, culverts and ruins of bridges remain. Aborig engravings 5000–8000 yrs old discov across river from town in 1895: small reserve gazetted in 1914, Dharug Nat Pk created in 1967.

WOY WOY [33°31'S 151°19'E]

Popn: 660 (1911), 1710 (1947), 7396 (1954), 16 287 (1966), included in Brisbane Water since 1971 (see Gosford). Gov Arthur Phillip camped here in 1789. Earlier called Webb's Flat: first European settler was James Webb on grant of 1794; in 1834 he bought the land that the town now stands on: hence early name. Rlwy station named Woy Woy in 1888. Brisbane Water surveyed and named in 1825. Shipbuilding in area in the 1830s–40s. Earliest recorded oyster lease in Brisbane Water c1884; 93 leases in 1953. Woy Woy rlwy tunnel, longest in Aust, built in the 1880s: store and post office opened in 1886 to cater for workers. Duplication of line completed in 1910. Became a fishing and tourist resort in the 1890s after rlwy from **Sydney** completed. Woy Woy estate sold by auction in 1912; permanent, official post office opened in 1913. First road to town built in 1923 under unemployment relief scheme. Brisbane Water Nat Pk to west and south estab in 1959. Rapid growth since the late 1950s due to growth of **Gosford** and, later, to role as service centre for resort and retirement centres in district.



Woy Woy. Postcard, c1895.

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