

# CITY OF BOTANY BAY A THEMATIC HISTORY



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# A Thematic History of the former City of Botany Bay

prepared by  
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for

Bayside Council

This history has been written as part of the  
2015-2017 Heritage Review of the former City of Botany Bay

Cover image: *1873 Watercolour of Old Botany Road, looking towards the Bay.*

By Samuel Elyard

(State Library of NSW - DGD 5/a2085018)

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### WARNING

This report contains images and names of deceased Aboriginal persons.

This report contains several old images and drawings of Aboriginal people from the early decades of European settlement, as well as historical accounts from that time.

These are presented verbatim, and the language used may be of concern to some readers, however no offence or disrespect is intended and the material has been included for historical accuracy only.

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Fig.A.1 The area covered by this Thematic History is the former City of Botany Bay, now part of Bayside Council  
(NSWLPI SIX Maps)

# 1 INTRODUCTION TO THE THEMATIC HISTORY

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

Elizabeth Conroy, Historian, was commissioned by the former Botany Bay Council in November 2015 to review and consolidate Council's previous historical studies part of Council's Heritage Study Review Project 2015/2017.

The NSW Heritage Council has identified 35 historical themes as being relevant to the historical development of New South Wales. The purpose of a Thematic History is to provide a methodical way of documenting and analysing an area's history and in so doing, systematically identify which of the 35 NSW Historic Themes are relevant to a particular area. A Thematic History does not read as a traditional chronological narrative and the reference-style structure requires a certain amount of repetition of information, but wherever possible this is provided through cross-references within the text.

The preparation of the Thematic History has focused on the drawing-together of the existing historical narratives presented in the earlier Histories and more recent publications to place the historical development of the former Botany area within the context of the relevant historic theme/s. The Brief for the project did not provide for original research, although this has been included where considered necessary.

Several historical studies have been prepared by Council over the years, the most recent being part of the **Botany Heritage Study 1996** by Tropman & Tropman Architects. This 1996 Study included an overview of the historical development of Botany using a thematic approach which used the Heritage Council's framework at the time. Earlier studies, including **The History of Botany 1788-1970** by Frederick A. Larcombe (1970) and **A Jubilee History of The Municipality of Botany 1888-1938** compiled by James Jervis and Leo. Flack, used a more traditional chronological structure. The process of reviewing these earlier Histories has revealed that each contains relevant and useful research and historical narrative. The 1938 Jubilee History and the 1970 History of Botany in particular contain a wealth of information that is not available in other sources and are recommended reading for those interested in further research on a particular topic.

Since commencement of the project Botany Bay Council has amalgamated with Rockdale Council to form Bayside Council. The study area covered by this Thematic History is limited to the area of the former City of Botany Bay, being the suburbs of Botany, Banksmeadow, Daceyville, Eastgardens, Eastlakes, Hillside, Mascot, Pagewood and Rosebery. This study area is referred to as the 'former Botany Bay LGA'. 'Botany Bay area', or 'Botany District', will also be used where they assist understanding.

Note also that the former Botany Bay LGA was itself the product of the amalgamation of two earlier Council areas, North Botany (now Mascot) and Botany.

### 1.2 STRUCTURE OF THE THEMATIC HISTORY

This Thematic History is presented in three parts.

Part 1: Overview of the historical development of the former Botany Bay LGA. This Part provides a concise introduction to the history of the former Botany Bay LGA.

Part 2: Thematic History. This Part is arranged by the NSW Heritage Council's Historic Themes. It commences with an overview of the NSW Historical Themes that relate to the history of the Botany District.

Part 3: Suburb Histories and Subdivision Plans. This Part contains an overview of the historical evolution of each suburb and includes all the subdivision posters held by Council and the State Library of NSW that relate to the suburb. Each poster has been supplied alongside a contextual map and summary.

### 1.3 SOURCING AND REFERENCING OF IMAGES

Most images included in this study have been sourced from Bayside Council Archives and the Local History Files held by Bayside Council Historic Archives, referenced in this History as BCHA. Many of these are also held by other organisations and are available online through that organisation's website.

Where the image was not provided by Bayside Council Archives the source has been identified in the caption.

The annotated maps included in this Thematic History are the result of original research by the Author and were prepared by Robyn Conroy. The base images used include the aerial photographs held by the NSW LPI (1943 and 2014) which are available online via their website <http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au> (referenced in captions as 'NSW LPI SIX maps'); copies of original Parish and Historical mapping available from the NSW LPI (<http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au> Botany Parish, County of Cumberland) ('NSW LPI- HM'); original maps and plans held by Bayside Council's Archives ('BCHA'); and Plan 17 of the 1909 *Royal Commission for the Improvement of the City of Sydney and its Suburbs* provided by Sydney City Archives (1909 RCISS). Other base maps are identified in the caption where relevant.