

Northern Beaches Thematic History Community Advisory Group - Output from 1st meeting

At the first Thematic History Community Advisory Group meeting, the group discussed a number of questions in relation to the history of the Northern Beaches.

This is a summary of the outcomes from the discussion of these questions. It provides a useful trigger for further discussion on these 3 questions.

What is most significant about the history of the Northern Beaches?

- Relative isolation for first 50–60 years and really up until World War II
- An area of beaches and bush
 - Poor agricultural land other than in wetlands
 - Steep terrain – high building cost
- An area of opportunity for the less wealthy
- Blossoming cultural activities from the 1920s – for less wealthy and beautiful bush and beach.
- Much of the coastal area owned by Salvation Army and previously by the Jenkins family.
- Aboriginal / Explorers – when they charted the area.
- Convicts to Pittwater
- Holiday Zone – isolation from rest of Sydney due to water / tourist feel
- Early industrial - Market gardens & Farming
- Immigration - Quarantine Station from 1830's/Italian enclaves/Dutch enclaves
- Military - North Head/Dobroyd
- Natural Heritage – Beaches/National Parks/Waterways - urban nature
- Social cultures - Dance halls/ RSL, Bowling & Sport clubs/ Pubs/ Beach Culture
- People - Successful identifies – individuals or families
- Sport - Manly Sea Eagles - Surfing – Freshwater SLSC, the Duke – Fishing - Yachting

- Transport - No trains - Trams, buses, ferries, car-ferries - Main roads
- Dark history / underworld / Nazi camp – Deep Creek - Criminals / murders / ghost tales (urban myths)
- Cemeteries - Barrenjoey, Church Point, Mona Vale and Frenchs Forest.
- Beach formation - artificial and natural change.
- Lagoon formation - artificial and natural change.
- Geography and how it shaped our land use and change.
- Formation of 3 Councils - amalgamation
- Formation of sporting clubs and impact on the overall community.
- Insularity/Villages/Northern Beaches.
- Community Associations – rise of, operation and significance.
- Landscape / environment – history as a result / consequence
- Geological variety
- Vegetation and Fauna
- Preservation of Parks and Reserves
- Industry – fishing, farming, boat building
- Isolation – walking + boats – motor vehicles
- Aboriginal Heritage – rock shelters – western foreshores (Ku-ring-gai Chase)
- Tourism – walking 1860 to now
- Narrabeen Camping ground, camping at Palm Beach, Avalon Beach etc.
- Leisure – Golf courses
- Sport – Sportspeople (Olympians)
- Streetscapes – no kerb and guttering by request in some areas
- Significant architecture by Jolly, Burley Griffin, Seidler, Le Plastrier.etc.

What are some of most important places (i.e. natural, historical, architectural)?

Natural	Historical	Architectural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches • Bays, Waterways, Harbours • Flora • Fauna – Penguins (Manly / Narrabeen) • Lakes, Lagoons • National Parks, Reserves, Stony Range, Walking Trails • Swans – Dee Why • Freshwater Spring – Wakehurst Parkway • Coast: beaches and dunes, headlands and rock platforms wetlands. • Types of vegetation habitats – identify types and groupings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland Island • Manly Wharf • Bangaroo – Governor Macquarie • Quarantine Station • Aboriginal Engravings • Botany Bay • Beacon Hill flag pole • Blinking light • Bushrangers Hill • Dobroyd head squatters huts • Historic ferries • Powderworks • Soldiers settlement Forestville • Crown of the hill • Tumbledown Dick Hill • Waratah Park • Nudist Colony • Things important to the history of the area. • Pick themes – things that support the themes – identified as important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonds, Top Dog Dee Why • Bahai Temple • St Kevin's Dee Why • The Rock Lily • Salvation Army House -Dee Why, Collaroy • Military fortifications • Schools, Churches • Aquatic Centre • Beach Holiday Homes • Bungan Castle • Cardinals Palace • Brookvale House • Caravan Park Narrabeen • Clubs, Pubs • Far West, Stewart House • 600 vaults in FF cemetery (Italian) • Library • Hospitals • Cinemas • Shopping • Skyline theatre • Warriewood Drive • Sunnyfield • Tram sheds • War Vets • The Corso • examples of Important Architectural periods/styles on northern beaches • Examples: original weekenders, temporary dwellings, 1960s–1970s architecture, domestic and public architecture.

What do you think are some of the unknown stories?

- “Arts” – Painters Pde (e.g Enplein Air DY)
- Veterans
- Dark History
- Origins of place names
- Successful Identifies
- Jenkins Road and its significance
- Impact of Trams on development of Northern Beaches
- Bridges – Spit, Roseville
- North Harbour vs Manly
- World War II – at home – coast fortified / school bomb shelters / front line re Japanese Invasion
- Radar – radio telescope
- Real-estate agents
- Industry
- Individual stories – e.g. Gilbert Smith, Orlando Kempthorne