

Art Strategy

6.0 ART STRATEGY

6.1 AIM

The River Walk is a recreation route that engages with the Parramatta River as a place of beauty, with a deep and rich history, as well as offering the amenity of contemporary parks in their current form.

Artists' interpretation of the Parramatta River and its history will contribute to the perception and experience of the River Walk, by creating artworks that are woven into the fabric of the landscape, that celebrate, educate, and acknowledge key project themes in an unfolding series of dramatic and subtle sculptural experiences.

6.2 BENEFITS

The benefits of implementing a public art program will be:

- Increased sense of place
- Community cohesion
- Higher quality environment
- Heritage awareness
- Greater usage of public space
- Enhance a spirit of cultural investment and innovation for the municipality

6.3 GUIDELINES

Proposed artworks need to:

- Respond to the research themes from the history and environment,
- Show understanding, engagement and relevance to the specific site of installation,
- Consider placement and scale, for visibility and engagement of the viewer.

Site interpretation

The River Walk's interesting history and riverside environment suggests that artwork subject matter to concentrate on site specificity and historic interpretation.

Permanent Artworks

The public art strategy recommends commissioning of permanent works so that building blocks of creativity and innovation are established to attract funding opportunities.

The Viewer

At some points of the River Walk, the majority of users will be cyclists and joggers, and the artworks therefore should respond to the speed of the viewer. Artworks could also be used to measure distances ie: milestones. Other areas of the River Walk will be slower speed and quieter, and therefore the artworks have potential for greater detail or depth of information.

Indigenous

There are opportunities for indigenous artists to be commissioned for artworks particularly in Bennelong Park and Glades Bay.

Site specificity

The form and scale of the artworks need to respond to the location and setting within the landscape.

Environment

Artworks could utilise environmental conditions such as wind and tides, and naturally occurring materials such as sandstone.

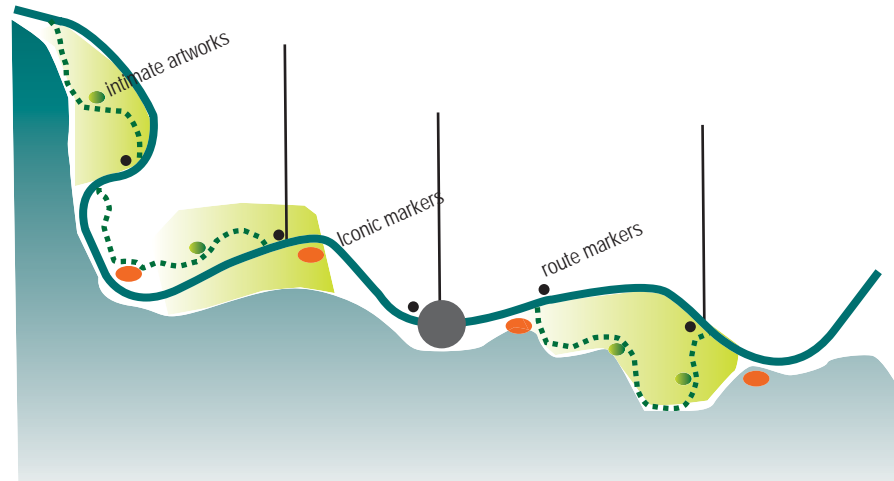


Diagram of the River Walk public art system
Three levels of artwork placement responding to path type, location and scale.



Precedent Images of Artworks
The artworks contributes to the experience of the site through the form of the work, revealing environmental conditions and raising awareness of local fauna.

Precedent Image of Iconic Markers
Abstract sculpture by R.W. Van der Wint.



Precedent Image of Route Markers
Artist designed way finding totems located on the Sustrans Network, U.K



Precedent Image of Route Markers
Fairfield Cycle Way

Route Marker Precedents

The wayfinding totems provide a distinctive and site responsive element along the trail. The totems are visible at a distance and have a repeating materials and construction methods, therefore providing a legible consistency to the markers. The detail design of the markers refers to the history and stories of the site they are located, as well as a repeating cyclist motif for the River Walk.

Scale

Some artworks would be able to be viewed from the water or other side of the river and should address the scale of the river as well as the land. The variety of scale and placement considerations include the following:

Route Markers

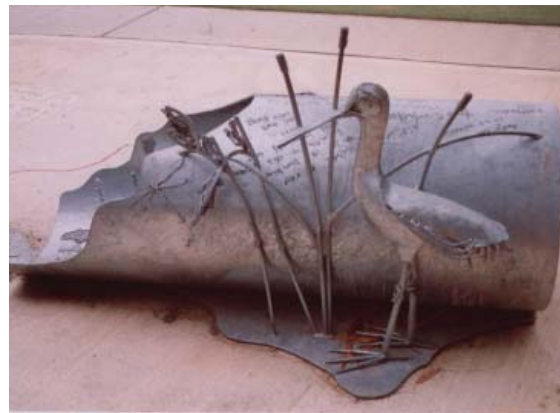
The route markers are a system of artworks that have a similarity of form and scale, and are located at strategic points along the route. They establish a visual language of artworks that act as totems along the route, at entries and nodal points. The design of the individual markers should respond to the immediate context.

Iconic Markers

The larger scale iconic artworks are to be located within view of the main recreation path, at a scale appropriate to the river foreshore. They provide engagement for the passer by on land at near and far distances, as well as potentially from the river or opposite shore.

Intimate Experience Artworks

Small scale works that offer opportunity for more detailed exploration and engagement. Potential for integration with interpretation. These are to be located along slower speed recreation paths, integrated with the walking route. The artworks can acknowledge this through offering a more intimate experience in the form and content as well as the placement of the work.



Precedents of Intimate Experience Artworks

Urban elements

Artists can provide an inventive and probing link when working collaboratively with a design team to upgrade existing parks and playgrounds, planning interpretation routes, and elements such as signage, seating, and fencing.

Event Based and Temporary

Cultural festivals and events. If Council wanted to invest in a program of temporary works, it may wish to seek a partnering program with adjoining agencies such as Parramatta Council in the George Kendall Riverside Reserve, or Meadowbank TAFE.



Precedent of Intimate Artworks Integrated to Landscape
Shelter along Sustrans Cycleway in the UK



Precedent of Ephemeral Artwork (J.Cavanough)
Cooks River corridor



Precedent of Intimate Artworks Integrated to Landscape
Change in pavement materials



Precedent of Interpretive Walk (Jane Cavanaugh)
Artwork illustrating history of land grants and impact on native flora and fauna in north west Sydney.



8.4 INTERPRETATION METHODS

As a separate yet integrated process, the overall interpretation strategy of the route needs to be further investigated. The historic interpretation needs to be considered as part of a design and information package across the length of the cycle route and linked with landscape, public art and signage considerations. An interpretation strategy should be linked to a Cultural Interpretation Plan.

Public Art and Interpretation

Public art has the opportunity to enhance awareness of the local history, its natural environment and culture through animation, representation and interpretation. The role of public art is not to formally document the history of the area, however through referencing the history of the Parramatta River and local environment, the public art will be more relevant and site specific. There is potential for public artists to work in conjunction with interpretation consultants to explore means of representation and story telling with the aim of engaging the public.

8.5 COMMISSIONING ARTISTS

Artists can be commissioned separately through the City of Ryde, or be included on a design team. There are opportunities for a range of artists to be involved in the development of artworks along the cycle route, and this will provide variation of styles, materials and approach. There are also advantages in engaging one artist, or a lead artist to design and make a suite of works that are thematically and stylistically linked – for example it would be appropriate for one artist to make a series of way finding totems/signs.

8.6 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Keeping the local community involved in the process of developing the Ryde River Walk will generate enthusiasm and support for the project. Key stakeholder groups and specialists such as the Ryde District Historical Society should be consulted with each project.

Workshops with school children are advantageous across the range of projects. This can be a valuable forum for kids to become familiar with their local history and natural environment, to become acquainted with working artists and the processes of making an artwork, and a great way for parents to get to know what is happening in their area.

- A variety of specialists can be introduced to the students to layer the workshops, such as historians, indigenous artists, park rangers, scientists and other artists such as writers. For example, if the focus of an artist's involvement was for making a work for Banjo Paterson Park, a scientist could talk about water quality and pollution in the Parramatta River, indigenous performers could discuss indigenous way of life, an historian could cover the landing of Governor Phillip and naming of Looking Glass Bay, transport on the Parramatta River and establishment of the punt, the building of the Great North Road by convicts, artists and writers who frequented Banjo Paterson's Grandmother's house, life on the river, and the move towards the Parramatta River becoming a waste dump for industry. A writer could take the students through works of Banjo Paterson and the students could learn how to construct a poem.
- A project where community involvement encouraged designs by students for example, would be a wayfinding project, whereby students could illustrate particular aspects of historical information.



Precedent of Intimate Artworks Integrated to Playground
Playground at Abbotsford by Jane Cavanaugh and Philippa Playford referencing the maritime and boat building history of the site



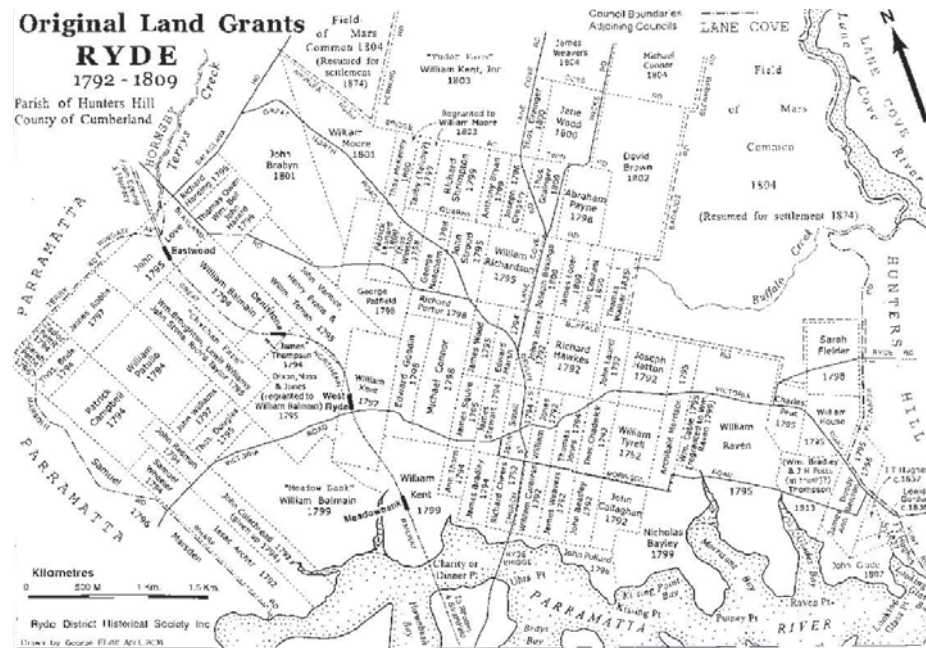
Precedent of Interpretive Artwork
Edge of the Trees by Janet Laurence and Fiona Foley, 1995
The sculptural installation symbolises the first encounter between the Cadigal people and the First Fleet. The artwork includes embedded materials and text to evoke layers of memory, people and place.



Precedent of Intimate Artworks Integrated to Built Structure
Industrial remnants integrated into shelter walling



Precedent of Interpretation Panels (J.Cavanaugh)
Interpretation information panel in custom art frame.



Source: Philip Geeves. A Place of Pioneers, the Centenary History of the Municipality of Ryde, Ryde Municipal Council, 1970

8.7 A BRIEF HISTORY

The Parramatta River and its foreshore is significant for its indigenous heritage and to the colonial development of Sydney. Every bay has an interesting past, and there are wonderful stories to be told. Artworks located along the route of the River Walk are a perfect medium to tell some of those stories. (Please refer to Appendix A for a detailed historical account including references).

Indigenous past

The history of Wallumetta – the indigenous name for Ryde - is still visible, with both rock carvings and stencil paintings at Glades Bay. The Wallumedegal or the Wallumede clan lived between Lane Cove and Parramatta on the northern side of the river .

Food included “kangaroo, opossum, flying-squirrels, wallabies, koalas, goannas; and birds, -bronze wing pigeons, ducks, parrots, gill-birds, which, at times, abounded in the forests of huge trees that grew along the river banks and stretched, inland, to, and beyond the Hawkesbury.” Aborigines collected oysters and molluscs, caught fish with spears, hand lines and nets. Women caught fish with hand lines made from inner bark of shrubs and trees. String bags made from inner bark or aerial roots of fig trees, and strips of leaves woven into baskets. Spears made from flower spike of *Xanthorea resinifera* (grass tree). Resin from grass trees glued sharp implements onto the spear, made from hardwood, stone, bone or shark’s tooth. Ripe fruit, edible roots, birds, eggs and animals were eaten. They would not eat plants or animals of their own totem.

Bennelong was from the Wangal clan, whose traditional lands were on the south side of the river. Bennelong was taken to England by Governor Phillip to showcase how the aborigines could be civilized. He lived between cultures, and succumbed to the disastrous impact of white mans alcohol. His death notice described him as a drunk prone to public disorder. James Squire, the ex convict brewer befriended Bennelong and buried him in his garden which is close to Bennelong Park. Nanbaree is also buried in the same vicinity as Bennelong; he accompanied explorer Mathew Flinders on his voyage that circumnavigated Australia in the Investigator in 1803.

Many of the local aborigines died from smallpox and other white man’s diseases soon after the Europeans settled in the area.

Colonial Settlement

Kissing Point (later named Ryde) was the third settlement in New South Wales, after Sydney and Parramatta. The name refers to a naval term, where the keel of a boat kisses the riverbed in shallow water. Land grants were awarded to ex-marines and ex-convicts from the 1790’s. The first settlers planted maize and wheat. They had very few farming implements and scant agricultural knowledge.

James Squire was an entrepreneurial ex-convict who took advantage of struggling farmers, and purchased many of the land grants between Rhodes Bridge and Putney (formerly the Eastern Farms). He grew hops on his 1000 acre farm, and established the first brewery in the settlement at Kissing Point. Consequently, Kissing Point was a popular ferry stop to quench the thirst with beer, the production of which was supported by the Governor to help quell the monopoly of rum as a form of currency and the conduit for disorder and corruption. By 1798, James Squire was licensee of the “Malting Shovel”, the first brewery and public house in the colony, located on the foreshore adjacent to his wharf at Kissing Point. By 1812, 5 acres of hops were grown at Kissing Point. His operation expanded and by 1817, he multiplied his original grant of 30 acres to 1000 acres

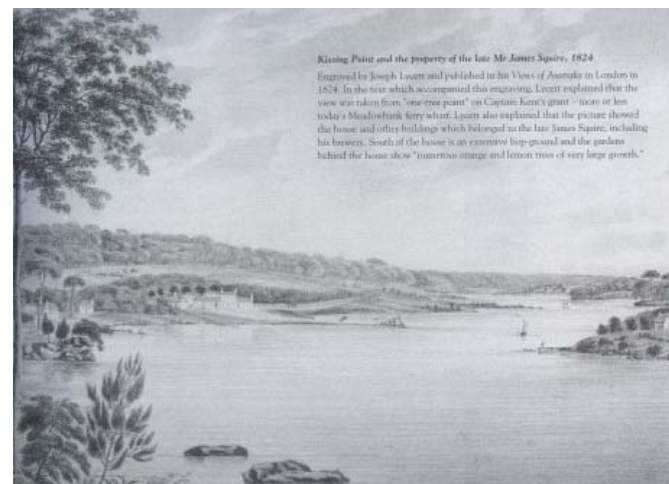
Kissing Point supplied both Sydney and Parramatta with much needed food supplies, which proved easy to grow in Ryde’s rich soil, and easy to transport up and down the Parramatta River. In addition, the Parramatta River was abundant with fish. Many people made nets to catch fish, using a netting needle, or from fruit bags. Snapper, red bream, flathead, blackfish, mullet and garfish were plentiful. The white settlers ate the native fruits, which were collected and sold at the Sydney Markets. Oysters were gathered from the mudflats at Shepherds Bay and Bedlam Bay. The shells were used to make mortar for buildings. Orchards flourished - by the 1880’s, the Ivanhoe orchard grew Siletta and St Michael oranges, Lisbon lemons, Briggs’ Red may Peaches, apricots, pears, plums, nectarines, guavas, loquats, passion fruit and black Hamburg grapes.



Gentlemen’s Marine Villas on the shore of the Parramatta River between Looking Glass Bay and Glades Bay 1879
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998, p21



Parramatta River 1798
M.C.I Levy, Wallumeta, A History of Ryde and its District, 1792-1945



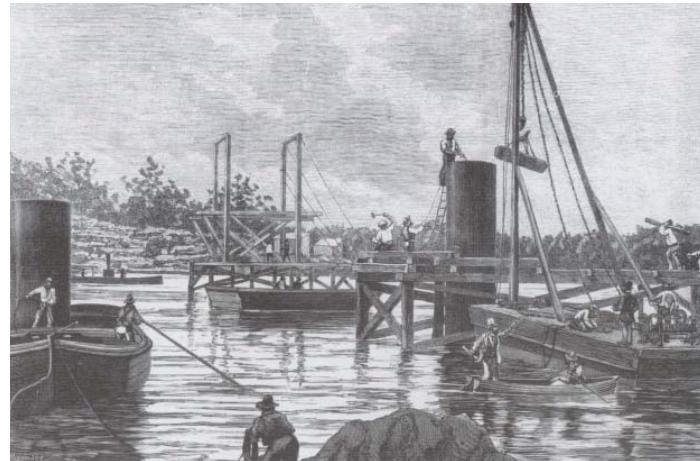
View to James Squire’s property, Kissing Point. 1824 (from Meadowbank)
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998, p7



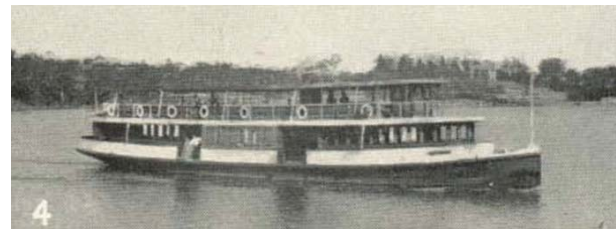
Original bushland in the Ryde area



Bennelong Portrait
M.C.I Levy, Wallumeta, A History of Ryde and its District, 1792-1945



Constructing the Gladesville Bridge, 1879.
Illustration by George Collingridge published in Illustrated Sydney News 22 Feb 1879



The SS Bronzewing
M.C.I Levy, Wallumeta, A History of Ryde and its District, 1792-1945



Ryde Wharf c.1900
M.C.I Levy, Wallumeta, A History of Ryde and its District, 1792-1945



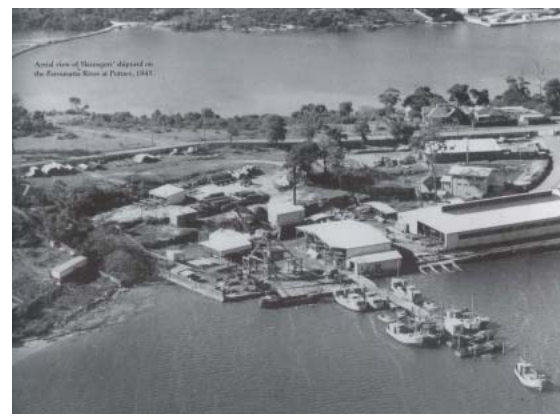
Barrier Gate on the Northern approach to the Ryde Punt
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde. Kingsclear Books, 1998, p100



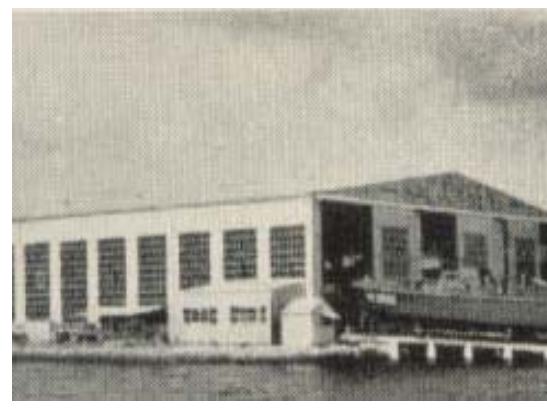
Meadowbank Rhodes Railway Bridge c1920
Source: Focus in Ryde, a local studies resource. 1992.



The abandoned Burnside at Kissing Point, 1922
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde. Kingsclear Books, 1998, p78



Slazengers' Ship Yard, 1945
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998, p 109



Halvorsen's Boat Shed, Kissing Point
M.C.I Levy, Wallumeta, A History of Ryde and its District, 1792-1945 .

River Transport

The Parramatta River was the major transport route for the first fifty years of the colony, and was consequently a highway for every type of vessel, including boats and punts which frequently lost cattle down river. The Parramatta River was a vital source of communication between the two white settlements at Sydney Cove and Parramatta. By 1794, ferries were carrying food produced in Kissing Point and other agricultural districts in the west of Sydney, to the Sydney markets.

The first boat built in Australia in 1879 was for the Parramatta River. The Rose Hill Packet, was known locally as The Lump. The boats that sailed the river remained the main form of transport for almost 60 years up until 1855 when the railway was built, as roads remained difficult to build due to the many creek crossings between Sydney and Parramatta.

Crossing the River

Shepherds Bay Rowing Boat service was established as early as 1794, taking passengers to the Concord shore. The Meadowbank - Rhodes bridge was completed in 1886, to carry trains on the Strathfield to Hornsby train line which opened the same year. Several punts operated at Bedlam Bay, Putney and Ryde. The Ryde to Rhodes punt operated between 1898 to 1935. The Ryde Bridge took 2 years to build, and opened in 1935.

Industry

Meadowbank Manufacturing Company Works was established on 95 acres of land in 1890 with frontage to the Parramatta River and easy access to the railway. Other industry followed - at Morrison's Bay the Tennyson Textile Mills were established, and at the location of Banjo Paterson Park, Halmeg manufactured linseed oil.

In 1919, the Darling Flour mills established on the Rhodes Peninsula on the opposite side of the river was later to become Allied Feeds. The foreshore mudflats and mangroves were reclaimed from the 1940's, and filled with dioxins, heavy metals and ground pesticides. The Timbrol site was established in 1928, next to Allied Feeds. The company manufactured creosote - a timber preservative, and xanthes for the mining industry. During World War 11, they manufactured organo - chlorines, and by the late 1940's, they produced the pesticide DDT and herbicides 2 4-D and 245-T, an ingredient in Agent Orange. In 1957, Timbrol was purchased by Union Carbide. Waste products were dumped into the land reclamation area, and discharged as effluent into Homebush Bay. In 1970, it was established that the production of organo-chlorine produced highly toxic dioxin. Between 1970-1976, waste products were stored in drums on site. The plant closed in 1986, and sold to the government for \$1. The state government was responsible for remediation. South of Union Carbide, was ICI Chemicals, who manufactured phthalic anhydrides and plasticisers. These products were used in Berger paints and polyester resins. In 1986, an explosion at the factory killed five workers and injured fourteen others. ICI Chemicals closed in 1997. The site was contaminated with lead from paint production, and other volatile organics. The site has been remediated

Boat Building

Kidman and Mayoh's Shipyard was located at Kissing Point in 1918, to construct 2 new wooden freight ships. The Braeside, when launched, was found to be faulty in both design and construction. The ship was eventually burnt at sea. The Burnside never sailed; it was sold for salvage to the Union Box and Timber Company.

The Halvorsen boat building shed located in Kissing Point. During World War 2, the Halvorsen company made timber 34 metre submarine -chasers, and following the war, its famous motor cruisers. In 1943, Slazengers (Australia) Pty Ltd established a ship building yard on Pellisier Road, Putney. The company manufactured wartime equipment during the Second World War.



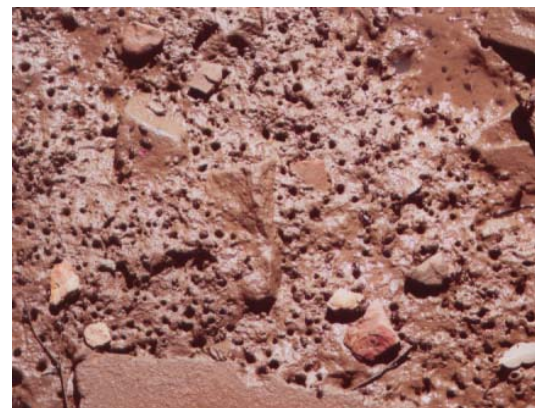
Meadowbank baths 1925
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998, p83



Rowing Regatta on the Parramatta River
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998, p 50



Mangrove habitat area in Meadowbank Park. Mangroves have been regenerating and adapting to the changing landform over time. Ducks in canal outflow.



Soldier Crabs in muddy sediment.



Regeneration of bush habitat areas in Glades Bay Park.

Baths

The Meadowbank Baths, opened in 1895, and the Ryde Swimming Baths were opened in 1905. Mixed bathing was not permitted. Other baths were opened in Glades Bay in 1908/9, Tennyson in 1918/19, and in the Putney Pleasure Grounds (Putney Park). They were eventually closed down because of pollution.

Rowing

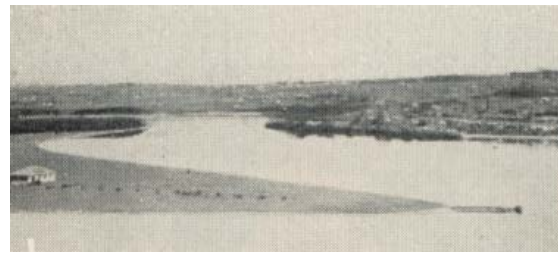
The river is also famous for championship rowing – from the late 1800's to 1930's, Sydney - siders would gather along the river to watch world champions skull the river between Gladesville and Ryde. The first regatta was held in 1847 at Kissing Point. By the 1880's the river was a focus for thousands watching the world championship sculling races. The course ran between Kissing Point and Uhr's Point.

People

The old stone building in Banjo Paterson park was formerly owned by Banjo's grandmother. Banjo lived at the cottage for several years with his extended family whilst he attended Sydney Grammar School. Many descriptions exist written by Banjo of the activity on the River.

Ecological

- Increased awareness and understanding of the relationships of flora, fauna and habitat in an urban environment.
- Changing habitat values and attitudes to the environment of the area over time - mangroves regrow since the 1970s.
- Environmental rehabilitation and restoration past and present.



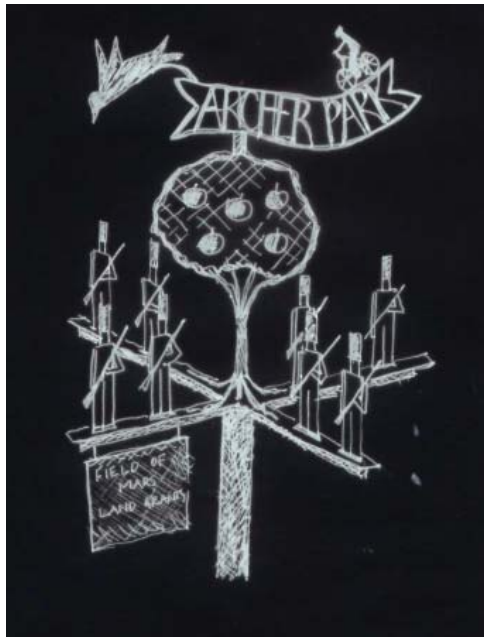
Mudflats, Field of Mars
M.C.I Levy, Wallumeta, A History of Ryde and its District, 1792-1945



Wharf Rd jetty
Lookout to water with potential interpretive signage integrated to balustrade



Entry to Archer Park
River Walk entry point from Wharf Rd, site for Route Marker



Route Marker Concept (J. Cavanaugh)
Referring to history of land grants to returned soldiers and agricultural land use

8.8 PLACEMENT ALONG THE ROUTE

The following sections illustrate the public art opportunities along the length of the route for each of the precincts.

Precinct 1: Wharf Rd to Lancaster Ave

History

- Meadowbank was granted to William Balmain, surgeon of the first fleet in 1794. The name is derived from the River Thames, as is Putney, Rhodes and Henley.
- The "Field of Mars" was granted in 1792 to eight marines. Governor Philip named the district the "Field of Mars" to honour the former soldiers occupation, as mars was the Roman god of War. Two of the original grants are where the Ryde-Parramatta Golf Course stands today. The Field Of Mars extended from the western side of Meadowbank to Ermington.
- Agriculture flourished
- Transportation of materials from former jetty

Environment

- Saltmarsh regeneration in Melrose Park

Existing Site Conditions

- Route Marker at starting point of cycleway at Wharf Rd
- Existing bronze plaque about Field of Mars located near Wharf Rd toilet block

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totem

Intimate Scale

- Display the original Land Grants map 1792 – 1809
- Detail naming of Meadowbank and the "Field of Mars"



Mangrove habitat area in Meadowbank Park.
Mangroves have been regenerating and adapting to the changing landform over time. Ducks in canal outflow.



Bridge crossing channel in Meadowbank Park.
Potential to link bridge into recreational loop paths. Modify handrail to include integrated artwork.



Stormwater channel in Meadowbank Park.
Existing channel with potential to interpret changes in landform, water flow and ecology. Selective rehabilitation potential.

Precinct 2: Meadowbank Park to Rhodes Bridge

History

- Charity Point is attributed to early Settler William Bennet, who was both a farmer and south sea trader. When his ships need repairing, a large number of south- sea islander crew camped on the shore. His kind treatment to them earned the names Charity Creek and Charity Headland
- Meadowbank Public Baths established in 1895 - former recreation destination. They were closed in 1943 due to pollution from Homebush Bay.

Environment

- Potential rehabilitation of stormwater channel
- Ecological and habitat value of the mangroves. Formerly removed when bay was filled, and has undergone natural regeneration in recent history.

Existing Site Conditions

- Route Marker in Meadowbank Park
- Path crosses existing canal and runs adjacent to mangroves.
- This is a high activity area on the weekends with sporting matches attended by many families
- A site of natural interest for kids looking at crabs, ducks and exploring the mangroves

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totem

Iconic Marker

- Grassy area at bottom of Memorial Park is an appropriate location for environmental artwork

Intimate Scale

- Replace existing bridge railings with interpretative railings
- Explore themes of habitat and ecology of canals and Parramatta River



Precedent of Intimate Experience Artworks
Forged steel panels illustrating duck habitat by Jane Cavanaugh



Precedent of Intimate Artworks Integrated to Landscape
Balsustrade to pedestrian bridge in Fairfield by Susan Milne and Greg Milhouse



Precedent of Iconic Artworks Integrated to Landscape
'Restoring the Waters - Memory Line' J.Turpin and M.Crawford
Ephemeral artwork representing the former creek alignment prior to channelisation. Project was a catalyst for the future creek restoration



Charity Point
Location of former baths and open views to Homebush Bay.



Precedent of Intimate Experience Artworks
Beachside installation in Adelaide



Precedent of Iconic Artworks
Geelong Waterfront - Cargo Boxes M.Fooke and I.Pengilly
Representing maritime and trading history



Precedent of Iconic Artworks
The Domain Sydney - Dual Nature Woolloomooloo Bay by Nigel Helyer
Large scale objects reflecting the maritime, natural and social history of the site and animated by sound



Lookout at Meadowbank Ferry wharf.
Location for signage integration to balustrades.



Precedent Images of Balustrades
Artwork integrated to site specific barriers.



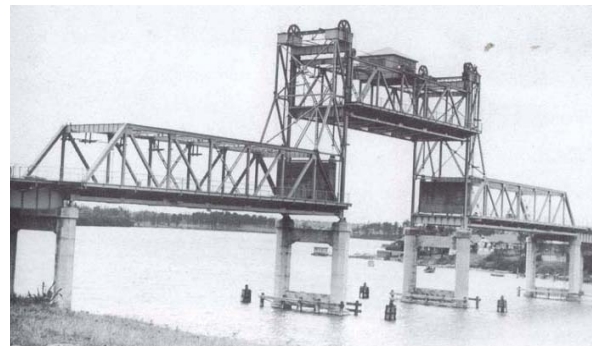
Precinct 3: Rhodes Bridge to Ryde Bridge

History

- The Meadowbank - Rhodes bridge was completed in 1886, to carry trains on the Strathfield to Hornsby train line which opened the same year.
- River ferries – Parramatta River a vital source of communication between white settlements of Sydney and Parramatta.
- Row Boat ferry services from 1794 from Schooner Wharf (Belmore Rd, near Helene Park)
- Meadowbank Manufacturing Company location. This was the first industry in Meadowbank and produced agricultural equipment for the local area and throughout the country . The existing seawall is made from the remnants of the original sandstone.
- Shepherds Bay is named after early settler James Shepherd, transported as a convict in 1791. Vineyard terraces were located on the upper slopes
- Former Ryde Wharf and punt located in Shepherds Bay Park. Remnants of wharf walling visible at low tide.
- The Ryde to Rhodes punt operated between 1898 to 1935. Passengers included employees of the State Timber yards at Rhodes, and cattle. The punt was unreliable; “the cable continually gave way and cargoes of cattle went sailing downstream”.
- Ryde Baths In 1877, Ryde Council investigated potential sites and the desirability of having public baths. Ten years later, when a man was killed whilst bathing at Ryde Wharf, the issue was raised again. In 1904, a site was chosen at the bottom of Waterview Road. The Ryde Swimming Baths were opened in 1905. Mixed bathing was not permitted.
- Ryde Bridge - the bridge took 2 years to build, and opened in 1935. A series of tolls were applied, and were ceased to be collected in 1949.
- State Timber Yards were opposite on Rhodes Peninsula



Route Marker Concept (J. Cavanough)
Referring to history of row boat ferry service.



Former Ryde Bridge 1935
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998,

Ryde Bridge tolls:

Motor cars, motor cycles with side cars	6d
Motor cycles without side cars, bicycles and tricycles	3d
Sulkies, 4 wheeled buggies, hand carts	3d
Vans, empty or loaded, lorries, drays, wagons	
Tare weight not exceeding 2 tons	1/-
Trade vehicles of 2 wheels, horse drawn	6d
Vans, empty or loaded between 2 and 3 tons	
Vehicles not otherwise specified	3/-
Horse and rider	3d
Horses and cattle –livestock	2d
Sheep and pigs, per head	1d

Existing Site Conditions

- Route Markers are located at Meadowbank Ferry Wharf, and Shepherds Bay Park.
- Helene Park - Existing sculptural markers at entry, a narrow linear corridor with seating, sea wall is made from sandstone from original Meadowbank Works

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totems

Iconic Marker

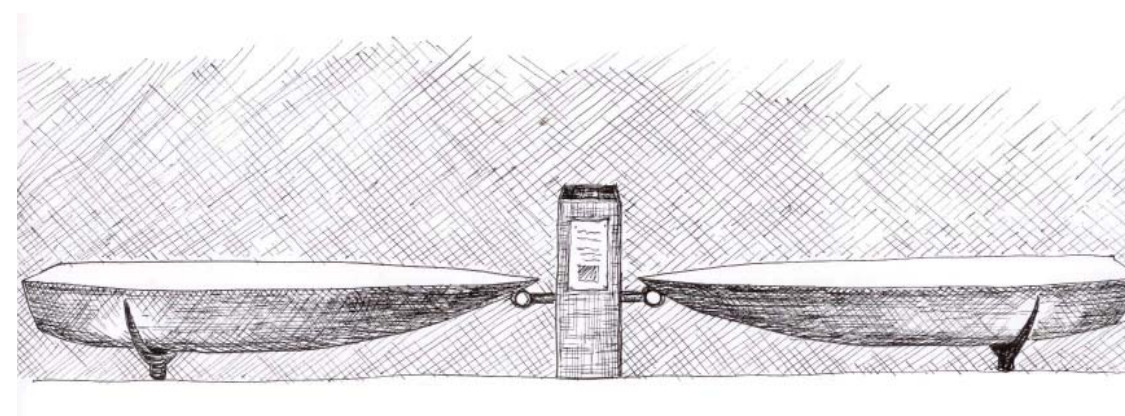
- Shepherds Bay depot site - former wharf location revealed through maritime interpretive artwork

Intimate Scale

- Helene Park - Upgrade existing seats with artist designed seats that interprets original rowing boat service



Helene Park
Existing pathway lining between Rhodes Bridge and Ryde Bridge



Intimate Artwork Integrated to Landscape (J.Cavanough)
Rowing boat benches located in position of rowing boat ferry service



Settlers Park
View to park from Loop Road pathway



Settlers Park
Existing signage at Settlers Park alongside pathway.



Route Marker Concept (J. Cavanaugh)
Referring to history of land grants and agricultural land use

Precinct 4a: Ryde Bridge to Bennelong Park

History

- The Wallumedegal or the Wallumede clan lived between Lane Cove and Parramatta. on the northern side of the river
- Bennelong - burial nearby and friendship with James Squire.
- Eastern farms - renamed Kissing Point in 1794. Third settlement in NSW after Sydney and Parramatta,
- Former agricultural productivity in the area - orchards included peaches, lemons, nectarines, plums, guavas, loquats, passionfruit, grapes, quinces
- Former baths location in Settlers Park,

Existing Site Conditions

- Route Marker in Settlers Park.
- Existing interpretation plaques in Settlers Park and walling remnants.

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

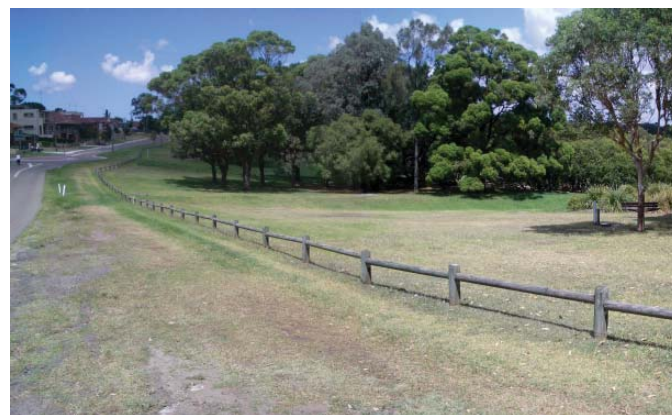
- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totems

Iconic Marker

- Locate indigenous artwork amongst existing trees in Bennelong Park

Intimate Scale

- Interpretive trail from Bennelong Park to inform the viewer about indigenous population and interactions during European settlement



Bennelong Park
Potential for new interpretive pathway within the park linking to Kissing Point



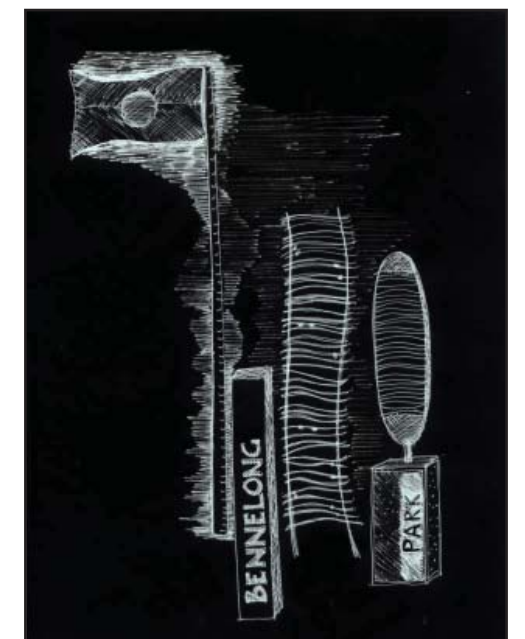
Precedent Artwork
Warali Trail Fairfield. Work by Joe Hirst.



Precedent Artwork - Interpretive Trail
Perth Royal Botanic Gardens.



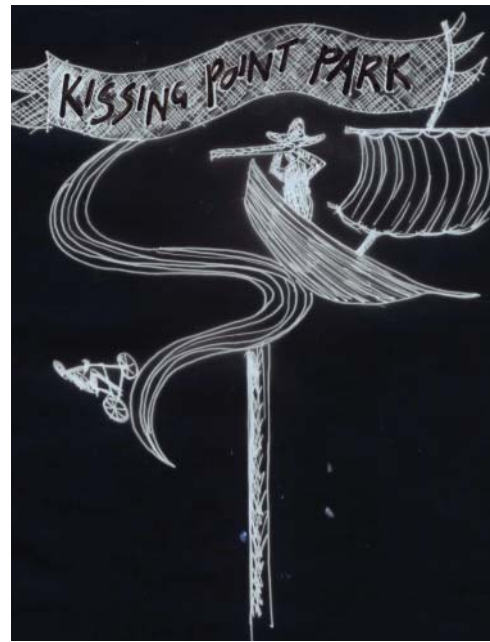
Precedent Artwork
Representation of contemporary indigenous meeting place at Redfern Community Centre by Jonathan Jones.



Interpretive and iconic artwork concepts (J.Cavanaugh)
Interpretation of Bennelong



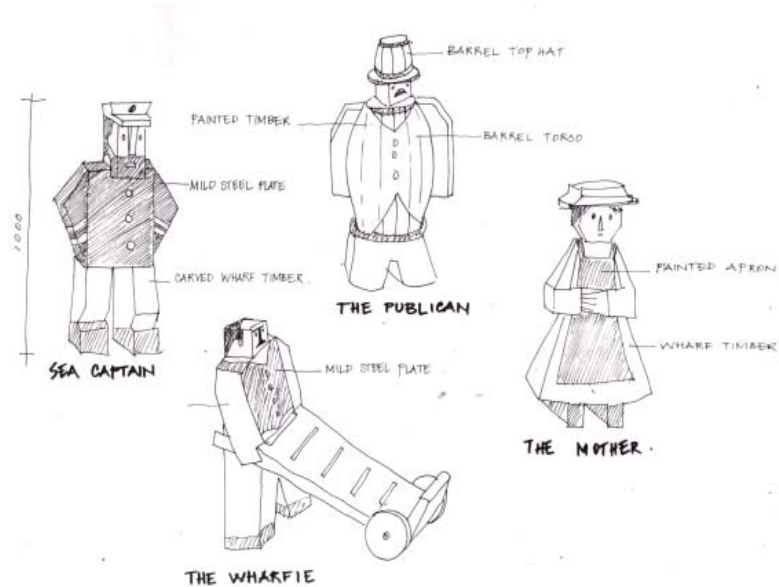
Kissing Point ferry access
Entry point to the River Walk



Route Marker Concept (J.Cavanough)
Kissing Point Park marker referring to boating history



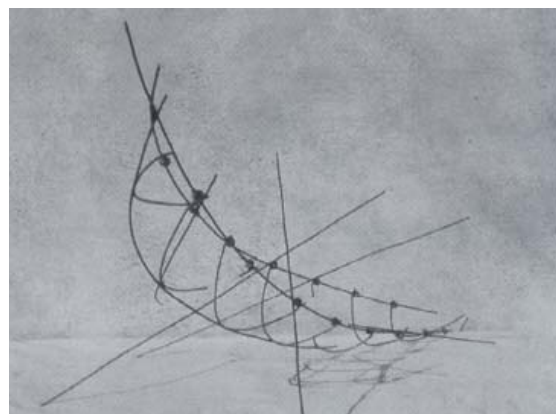
Precedent of Artworks
Playful artworks along the Yarra River in the City of Melbourne



Intimate Artwork Concept (J.Cavanough)
Caricature bollard sculptures of James Squire and wharf workers



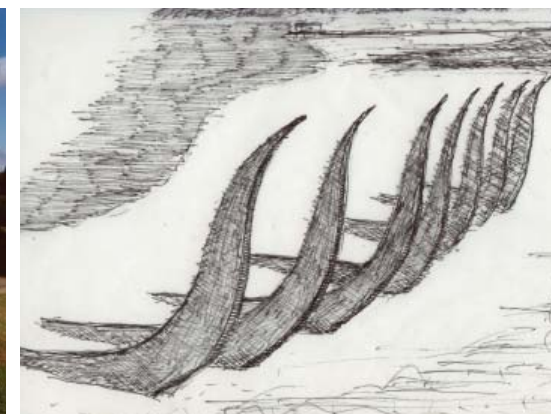
Kidman and Mayoh's shipyard at Kissing Point.



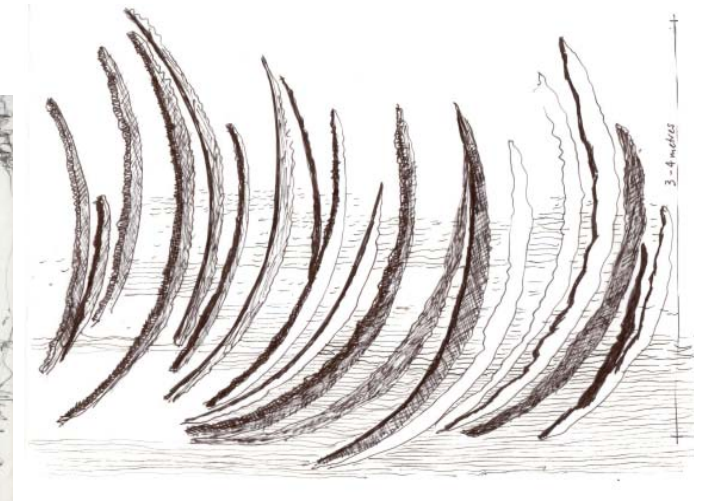
Precedent Sculpture
Model for Sculpture By the Sea by Bruce, Benita and Lee Tunks



Kissing Point tidal flats
Possible location for artwork evoking history of boat building on the site.



Iconic Markers Concepts (J.Cavanough)
Plasma cut corten steel ribs located in the tidal flats echo the ribs of the ships that were built at Kissing Point yet never used.



Precinct 4b: Kissing Point Park

History

- Kissing Point named in 1794 – refers to a naval term, where boat keel kisses shallow riverbed
- Site of James Squire's brewery – first for the colony. Original land grant of 30 acres, expanded into extensive acreage, as he purchased the original Eastern Farms, resulting in 1000 acres to grow hops
- The Malting Shovel public house was located on the foreshore, adjacent to a wharf, and was a very popular stop for ferrymen and travellers.
- Brewing of Beer encouraged by Governor King to challenge the monopoly of rum held by military officers.
- James Squire not class bound – friends of many poor and working class settlers, as well as aborigines (Benelong and Nanbaree buried in his garden)
- Kidman and Mayoh's Shipyard established to build freight ships to replace freight fleet post WW1. A disastrous outcome, as the two ships built here were not commissioned, and were burnt and sold for salvage.
- Halvorsen's ships located where James Squire's original wharf stood. Halvorsen's made ships for WW2.

Existing Site Conditions

- Route Marker in Kissing Point Park, near Ferry wharf as entry point to the River Walk.
- Existing plaque in Kissing Point poorly located near the car park
- Access to water's edge limited by shoreline planting
- Playground equipment quite old
- Ferry, wharf and ramp
- Picnic tables located within car park
- Yarralla - view to across river.

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

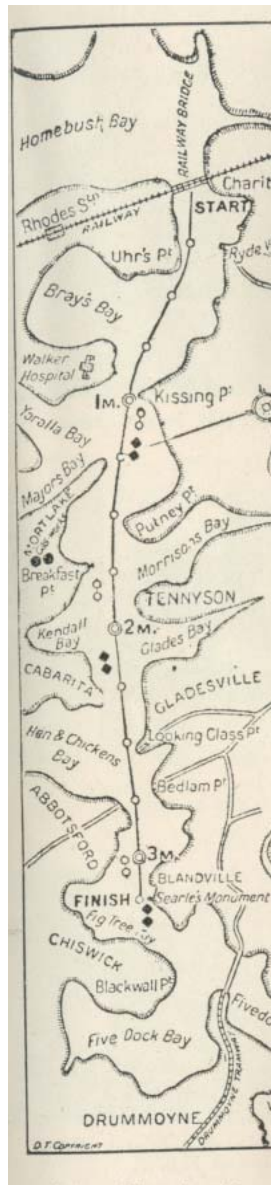
- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totem

Iconic Marker

- Locate sculptural work exploring the history of boat building on tidal flat

Intimate Scale

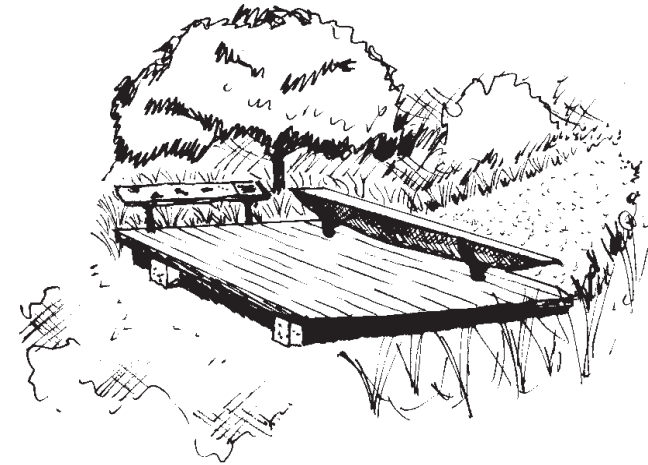
- Interpretive trail from Benelong Park to Kissing Point to inform the viewer about the importance of James Squire
- Upgrade of play area with boat building theme artist designed elements
- Opportunity for interpretative seating



Putney Park lookout
A vantage point for viewing the races up the river



Precedent of Intimate Artworks Integrated to Landscape
Customised furniture in Tasmania by Peter Adams



Intimate Artwork Integrated to Landscape (J.Cavanough)
Rowing skiff bench located on platform with interpretation of the championship rowing

Championship Rowing Event
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998, p50

Precinct 5: Putney Park

History

- Putney was part of a land grant to Nicholas Bayley The land was sold to Eugene Delange, and when subdivided, was called Eugenie. After the sale, the name was changed to Putney, after Putney on the River Thames.
- In 1943, Slazengers (Australia) Pty Ltd established a ship building yard on Pellisier Road, Putney. The company manufactured wartime equipment for the United States Army and the Australian Government during the Second World War. During the war, the Putney shipyard built scows and landing craft; however Slazengers also built military huts, houses for munition workers, military canteens, hospitals, small arms, ammunition boxes and gas masks. Ship contracts included trawlers, tugboats, landing craft, life boats, scows and high speed work boats.
- Mid Point for watching World Championship rowing races from the 1880's to 1930's. The first regatta was held in 1847 at Kissing Point. The following decade, Sydneysiders were mad about rowing, and lucrative prizes were given to local and national championships. By the 1880's the river was a focus for thousands watching the world championship sculling races. The course ran between Kissing Point and Uhr's Point (south east side of Ryde Bridge). The local addiction to sculling fever was called "water on the brain". World Championships were contested on the course, results eagerly awaited in both Britain and America. Men and women alike discussed water conditions, racing times, and technicalities of boats. Most of the champions trained at Ryde. Local, national, and international races were held on the Parramatta River. Inter-varsity and GPS schools also had their annual regattas on the river between 1893 – 1935.
- Banjo Paterson recalled;
"from twenty-five to thirty men could be seen on any fine morning swinging along in their sculls at practice – and such men! From riverside farms, and from axe men's camps in the North Coast timber country, from shipyards and fishing fleets, they flocked to the old river as the gladiators flocked to Rome in the last days of the Empire."

Existing Site Conditions

- Route Marker at top of Putney Park along Pellisier Rd.

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totem

Iconic Marker

- Locate artwork that celebrates the history of rowing adjacent to water's edge

Intimate Scale

- Locate interpretative seat on the high point of the park overlooking the Parramatta River, referring to the importance of rowing on the Parramatta River



Putney Park water edge
Protected area on the water edge



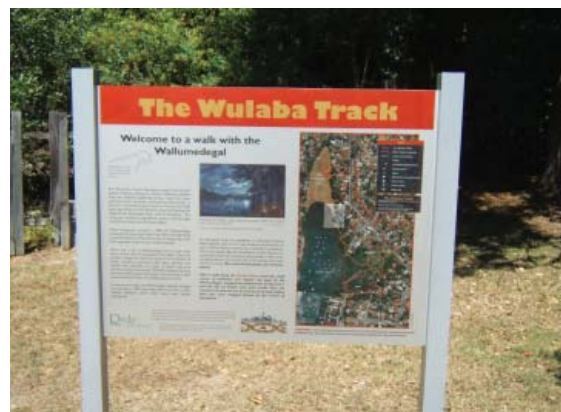
Iconic Markers Precedent Image (J. Cavanough)
Wind vanes in Albion Park.



Iconic Markers Concepts (J. Cavanough)
Wind vanes - abstracted copper rowing skiffs and bronze oar shaped poles located along the water's edge at Putney Park.



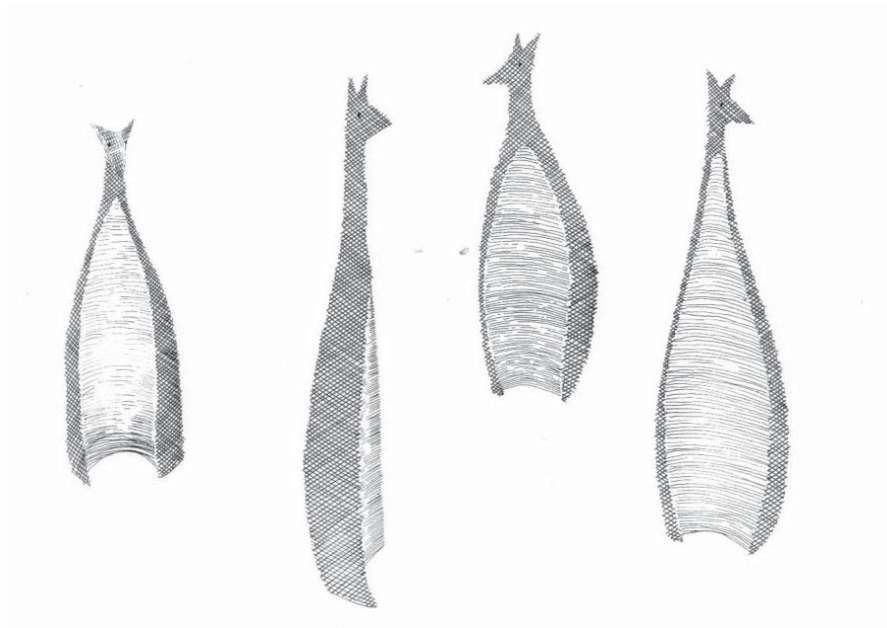
Glades Bay Park Aboriginal Rock Carvings
Possible location for artwork that provides a contemporary response to the rock carvings



The Wulaba Track
Existing interpretive track in the Glades Bay area



Precedent Detail Artwork with Environment Theme
Representation of former wildlife in Roma Street Parklands Brisbane.



Intimate Artwork Concept (J.Cavanough)
Wallaby sculptures could be located in the clearing near the rock carving interpretation area

Precinct 6: Morrisons Bay Park to Glades Bay Park

History

- Evidence of the Walumedegal clan remains around the bays, with 4 distinct sites:
 - Shelters amongst the sandstone overhangs
 - Open rock engraving site
 - Sheltered stencil – art site
 - Axe grinding site
- Glades Bay and Gladesville are named after John Glade, a convict who was transported to Australia on the Atlantic to serve a seven year sentence in 1791.
- Morison's Bay is named after Archibald Morrison, a soldier who received a land grant in 1795 of 55 acres.
- One of the Colony's wealthiest settlers, Captain William Raven, owned 100 acres that ran between Glades Bay to Morison's Bay. The land was subdivided in 1887. Named after Lord Alfred Tennyson, the Tennyson Estate was promoted as having front seat views to the Championship rowing course. Two world Champion rowers, Beach (1884) and Kemp (1887) have streets named after them.
- Eastern side of Morrison's Bay was a textile mill
- Head of bay reclaimed mangrove flat
- River baths established 1918

Environment

- Bushland regeneration and habitat in Glades Bay Park and Looking Glass Bay Park

Existing Site Conditions

- Existing interpretation trail in Bill Mitchell Park and Glades Bay Park with signage on indigenous inhabitants
- Route Markers in Morrisons Bay Park. and Glades Bay Park.
- Glades Bay is physically interesting for its access to the water's edge, mangroves, steep topography, pathways and indigenous interpretation

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totems

Intimate Scale

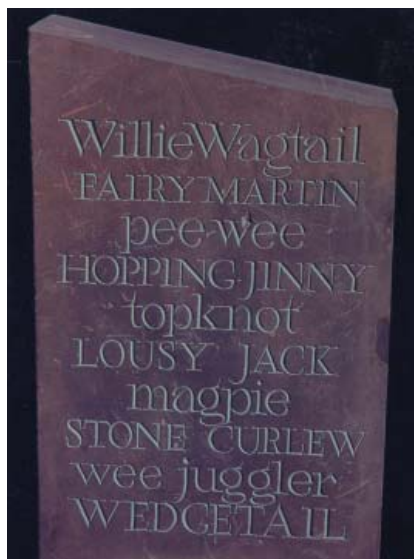
- Locate artwork that provides a contemporary reflection of the rock carvings and other physical remains of the Walumedegal clan



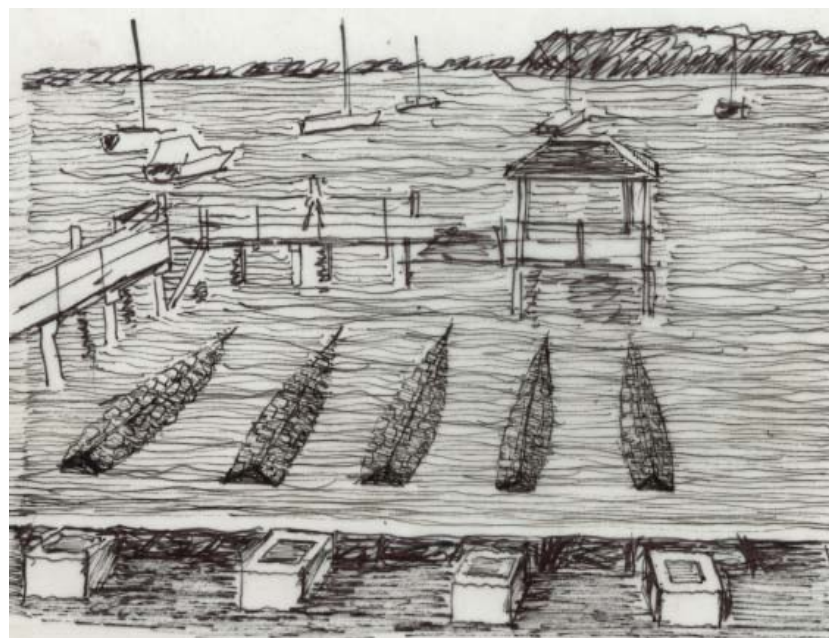
Artwork Precedent
Submerged artwork by Andy Goldsworthy



Ferry wharf at Banjo Paterson Park
Potential location of artwork



Precedent of Intimate Experience Artworks
Letter carving on slate by Ian Marr



Iconic Markers Concepts (J. Cavanaugh)
Submerged boat shapes created in stacked sandstone, at Banjo Patterson Park between sea wall and jetty, referring to the boating transport use of the river as documented by Banjo. Interpretation opportunities on land. The artwork offer physical animation of the stories included in the interpretation.



Harold Meggit's Linseed Oil Mill, Punt Rd, Gladesville, 1924
Megan Martin, A Pictorial History of Ryde, Kingsclear Books, 1998, p84

Precinct 7: Banjo Paterson Park

History

- The site joins the Bedlam Bay walk, where remnants of the Great North Road exists and the walls of the Bedlam Bay Ferry
- Banjo Paterson lived in the sandstone house (now a restaurant) whilst attending Sydney Grammar School. The house was owned by his Grandmother and was frequented by many artists and writers. Banjo Paterson recalled in his radio interview in 1935 the river had declined and was now lined with factories. However he could still remember when;

"the wood-boat and the fruit boats, something like 7 ton yachts in size and capacity, would hoist mainsail and jib in the early morning, and come howling down the river with the westerly wind behind them, hoping to get far enough down to meet the north-easter before the wind failed. If the wind died away and they were left in the doldrums – well, they didn't worry. They anchored and caught themselves feeds of fish which they cooked on their little galley fires, the scent of frying re-cream mixing not unhappily with the aroma of guavas, grapes, and the big hautboy strawberries which now seem to have gone out of fashion. Then, when the tide turned, they would up with the anchor and drift down till they opened up to the harbour where there was always some sort of breeze. They would strike Sydney some time or other, and would deliver their cargo into horse-drawn carts and then point the boat's nose up river again, back to the gardens and the spitting of fire wood with wedges and American axes.

(On the river...by A.B. Paterson, broadcast 14 July 1935*, in The Ryde Recorder, Vol 7 No. 1, 1st February 1973, p4)

Source: Focus on Ryde, a local studies resource, Ryde Bicentenary Schools and Youth Task Force, May 1992

- Halmeg Linseed oil was manufactured on a 5 acre Mill located at the end of Punt Road, overlooking Looking Glass Bay. The linseed oil was used in the manufacture of lead paint and varnish, as well as putties, caulking compounds, printing inks and linoleum. The production plant was established in 1923. The revolutionary extraction process did not work at first. Despite this, one hundred guests toured the new mill at its official opening. Harold Meggit, owner of the plant, increased employees wages, also advising that there would be no jobs, no wages if a new solution to distil the oil could not be found. The employees put forward hundreds of suggestions, and two were implemented, producing the finest linseed oil in the industry. In later years, Halmeg was the first to produce Safflower Oil in Australia. It also introduced a profit sharing scheme for its employees. The site closed in 1974.

Environment

- Bushland regeneration and habitat in Glades Bay Park and Looking Glass Bay Park

Existing Site Conditions

- Route Marker in Banjo Paterson Park.

Public Art Opportunities

Wayfinding

- Identify cycle way with interpretative way finding sign/totems

Iconic Marker

- There are many evocative recollections in 1935 by Banjo Paterson in radio interviews, of the Parramatta River. The content of these interviews could be interpreted into an artwork in conjunction with representation of description.

Intimate Scale

- Detail artwork on the habitat values of the area



Mist fountain by Janet Lawrence



Walkway out to wreck using mirrors and telescope to focus attention and to enhance appreciation of existing remnants



Entrance to brick pit using cogs from former brickworks



Olympic Totems



Playground by Fiona Robbe featuring the Green and Golden Bell Frog relating to the nearby habitat area



Sculpture by Imants Tiller



Pedestrian bridge by Suan Milne and Greg Stonehouse



Eel fence by Ruth Downes



Flood pavement



Bush Tucker track by Jamie Eastwood



Interpretation panels at ferry wharf

6.9 PUBLIC ART PRECINCTS WITHIN THE REGION

Public art precincts in the local area should be acknowledged, as these attract visitors to the area who are interested in a cultural recreation experience. The River Walk project can build upon the visitation to these precincts and expand the cultural capital of the area.

Sydney Olympic Park

Sydney Olympic Park has a broad palette of interpretative ideas including sculptural works that are interactive, interpretive, environmental and iconic. In many areas the landform itself is sculpturally shaped. Artworks have also been included in play areas.

More recently access to the Parramatta River has been provided, allowing the visitor to marvel at views of the decaying shipwrecks in the mangroves and on the river's edge. This is achieved by means of boardwalks, mirrors and telescopes.

Sydney Olympic Park can be accessed from the River Walk via ferry or the Rhodes Bridge, thereby linking the arts based recreation experience across the Parramatta River.

Parramatta Ferry Precinct

Parramatta Council has commissioned a number of artworks to interpret the history of the Parramatta River, including its indigenous history, flooding and geology, rowing, and the river in general. Interpretation signs have been located along the ferry terminal handrail and along the indigenous pathway. A café located at the ferry terminal also draws lots of people to the area.

The Parramatta Precinct can be accessed from the River Walk via ferry and / or along the Parramatta cycleway.