



INTERPRETATION PLAN
for HENRY LAWSON RESERVE at
BLUES POINT, SYDNEY



ISSUE 6: FINAL

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on behalf of BETTERIDGE CONSULTING P/L for

Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd

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The following Appendices accompany this Interpretation Strategy:

APPENDIX 1

Henry Lawson Reserve – Consultations with Registered Aboriginal Parties,
North Sydney Council and Heritage Council of NSW.

APPENDIX 2

Henry Lawson Reserve - Final visuals for heritage interpretation signage
prepared by X Squared [X2] Design Pty Ltd.

APPENDIX 3

Henry Lawson Reserve – Final visuals for Toposcope prepared by X Squared
[X2] Design Pty Ltd.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	DOCUMENT CONTROL No.	NOTES
Preliminary Report v.1	20/9/2021	2021/1	Consultation with North Sydney Council incorporated. Preliminary Report (Draft 1) submitted. Reviewed by Project Team.
Interim Report v.2	19/11/2021	2021/2	Aboriginal consultation outcomes added and updated. Content 75% completed Recommendations added. Draft circulated to Project Team in advance of submission. Preliminary Report will be circulated to Registered Aboriginal Parties for their comment prior to finalisation of Final Report.
Interim Report (updated) v.3	9/12/2021	2021/3	Updated to incorporate comments from Sydney Metro's Senior Heritage Adviser.
Interim Report (updated) v.4	9/12/2021	2021/4	Updated to incorporate comments from Sydney Metro's Senior Heritage Adviser.
Final draft v.5	24/05/2022	2022/5	Final incorporating Aboriginal consultations; updated with additional instructions from Sydney Metro and Mott Macdonald FINAL DRAFT.
Final v.6	3/11/2022	2022/6	FINAL

Front cover image elevated view of Henry Lawson Reserve © accessed online at https://australia247.info/explore/new_south_wales/north_sydney_council/mcmahons_point/henry_lawson_reserve.html

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sydney Metro are currently undertaking the construction of a new Metro Line via the proposed Barangaroo Station, of which a portion passed under the Henry Lawson Reserve (aka "Blues Point") in North Sydney. As part of the construction works the park has been excavated and reworked to accommodate shafts to the tunnels. Once the tunnels are completed, the shaft will be back-filled and the acoustic shed removed.

The key project objectives of the reinstatement of Henry Lawson Reserve include:

- Reinstating the previous open parkland
- Creation of a shared zone for use of both vehicles and pedestrians
- Implement heritage interpretation based on the archaeological findings and site and local history
- Encourage engagement with the natural world through material selection, spatial design and water-sensitive urban design
- Establish an interface with the public domain which is sympathetic to the local streetscape
- Design to and with North Sydney Council Codes and Guidelines

The Project

The Project was approved by the Minister for Planning on 9 January 2017, subject to Conditions identified in the Critical State Significant Infrastructure Sydney Metro & Southwest Chatswood to Sydenham Infrastructure Approval. Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd were commissioned by AMBS ecology and heritage as historical archaeologists to prepare the preliminary methodology and undertake the archaeological excavation.

Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd was commissioned by Casey & Lowe to prepare an Interpretation Plan for the area impacted by the excavation of a shaft to access tunnels below to retrieve the tunnel-boring equipment used in the infrastructure works between the north and south sides of Sydney Harbour. This work removed or impacted all archaeology across the site, specifically at Henry Lawson Reserve at Blues Point, North Sydney.

The historical archaeological investigations were conducted by Casey & Lowe as a salvage operation between August and October 2018. The Aboriginal archaeological excavations were conducted by AMBS ecology and heritage between August and October 2018.

The requirement for interpretation of the evidence is pursuant to the historical archaeological investigation and its outcomes and was negotiated between Sydney Metro and North Sydney Council. The development of the Interpretation Plan is being coordinated by Mott Macdonald Pty Ltd and has been developed in conjunction with Casey & Lowe (historical archaeologists), AMBS ecology and heritage (Aboriginal archaeologists) and Sprout Studio Pty Ltd (landscape architects).

Blues Point

Henry Lawson Reserve is part of Blues Point Reserve at the end of Blues Point Road, McMahon's Point, North Sydney. Blues Point, named after William 'Billy' Blue, a former convict who was granted land at the southernmost tip of the north shore of Port Jackson. The headland became known as Blue's Point (now Blues Point).

Henry Lawson Reserve

Henry Lawson Reserve, to the east of Blues Point Reserve, is named after Henry Lawson, arguably Australia's best-known poet, who spent much of his time in North Sydney, living in a number of dwellings in the area. The land was placed under the control of North Sydney Council in 1971 for use as a public park, reserve or public space. Following the completion of Sydney Metro's works, the Reserve will be returned to North Sydney Council as a public amenity and open space.

1.1 Site Location

The study area lies between McMahon's Point (east) and Blues Point (south), within the north-western boundary of Henry Lawson Reserve, adjacent to Henry Lawson Avenue (north) and Blues Point Road (west).



Figure 1: Map of North Sydney showing the location of Henry Lawson Reserve and Blues Point [© Sydway 2009], accessed online at https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Transport_Parking/Walking_Transport/Walking

1.2 Methodology

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been prepared in accordance with current best practice guidelines and methods for Interpreting heritage in NSW and references the following documents:

- *Heritage Interpretation Policy and Guidelines* (Heritage Council of NSW, 2005),
- *The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites* (ICOMOS International, 2008), and
- *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 'the Burra Charter'* (Australia ICOMOS, 2013).

The methodology for the Interpretation Plan has been as follows:

- review of Aboriginal and historical archaeological reports and findings
- consultation with the North Sydney Council Historian, Dr Ian Hoskins, to determine the context of the site's history and how it fits into wider historical themes relevant to North Sydney
- consultation with the Aboriginal and historical archaeologists, Dr Mary Casey and Chris Langeluddecke respectively
- consultation with Sydney Metro's Senior Heritage Adviser, Cath Snelgrove
- presentations and workshops with the Mott Macdonald appointed landscape archaeology and interpretation team
- consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties representing the Aboriginal community
- examination of opportunities and constraints.

This report and its recommendations are the outcome of these steps.

1.3 Stakeholder consultation

Two consultation presentations and discussions with Registered Aboriginal Parties were held on 22 October 2021 and 8 April 2022. An additional consultation session was organised by AMBS on 18 November, however no representatives of Registered Aboriginal Parties attended. The Interim Report was issued to the Registered Aboriginal Parties for their comments by 10 December 2021. No comments were received. An updated presentation and the landscape designs incorporating interpretation were presented at the consultation on 8 April 2022. This presentation incorporated suggestions arising from the feedback received. This is discussed in full at Section 5. Consultation with North Sydney Council and the Heritage Council of NSW is summarised in Appendix 1.

1.4 Limitations

The archaeological investigations in the study area were specific to areas which were impacted by temporary site works in Henry Lawson Reserve. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown access to research materials was limited to online resources and information provided by Casey & Lowe and AMBS. This document has incorporated the outcomes of discussions with Dr Ian Hoskins, Historian, North Sydney Council.

1.5 Report overview

This report briefly outlines the history of the site in the context of the surrounding area in North Sydney, identifies the Australian, State and Local themes relevant to the historical context and the outcomes of archaeological excavations. It surveys a selection of examples of interpretation appropriate for this site and proposes recommendations.

1.6 Authorship

This report has been written by Margaret Betteridge, Director, Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd and reviewed by Dr Mary Casey, Director, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd.

1.7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following people for their input to and assistance with the preparation of this report:

Dr Ian Hoskins, North Sydney Council Historian

Dr Mary Casey, Director, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd

Rhian Jones, Senior Archaeologist, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd

Chris Langeluddecke, Director, Aboriginal Heritage, AMBS ecology and heritage, Pty Ltd

Martin Pell, Director, Sprout Studio Pty Ltd

Claire Winsor, Associate, Sprout Studio Pty Ltd

Cath Snelgrove, Senior Heritage Adviser, Sydney Metro

James Knight, Senior Project Manager, Mott Macdonald Pty Ltd.

2.0 HISTORY

2.1 Summary chronology

The following timeline is reproduced from the Archaeological Investigations [Draft 2] Blues Point, Temporary Sites Works, Blues Point, Sydney, May 2021, prepared by Casey & Lowe:

DATE	ACTIVITY
Before 1788	Aboriginal people were living in the North Sydney area for at least 5,000 ca BP years before colonisation.
1794	First land grants made by Lieutenant-Governor Francis Grose on the northern shore of Sydney Harbour.
1811	William 'Billy' Blue (c.1767-1834) , a convict, settler and ferryman on the north shore was appointed as harbour watchman and constable by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.
1817	Macquarie granted him land on the north shore of the harbour where he continued his ferry service and grew produce for the Sydney market. The location was known

	as Billy Blue's Point from at least 1823 and sometimes as 'Blue's Bay'.
1839	A public wharf was dedicated at Blue's Point offering a reliable link to the city.
1840s	A stone seawall and jetty were illustrated in an etching of the foreshore of Blues Point.
1850s	Much of the land on the north shore peninsula remained in the Blue family until the 1850s, after which it was progressively subdivided and sold.
1857	A building was constructed within the study area along the east side of Blues Point Road. It also shows a 'public' wharf or pier and a jetty or slip jutting into the harbour.
1864	A building and fenced enclosures are shown on the east side of Blues Point Road.
1867	'Shipwright' John Stevens of the City of Sydney purchased the western part of the study area (part of the Blue's Estate).
1868	Mariner James Glover purchased the eastern part of the study area.
1869	Stevens' cottage had been extended. The elongated, multi-occupancy dwelling built by Stevens appears to be divided into two or possibly three residences, with a long verandah facing south.
1871	A boat builder's shed, leased by George Barnett, was constructed on Stevens' part of the land while James Glover's land remained undeveloped.
c.1880	Land reclamation at Blues Point may have started as early as 1866. Stevens' reclamation of 19¾ perches (499 m2) of land between the high and low water marks was not finalised until 1885.
1881	A survey shows Stevens' steeply descending towards the harbour land a house largely built of stone with brick additions and three outhouses, confirming that the building incorporated three residences by this time.
From c.1885	Stevens operated as a timber merchant from the site and is thought to have been transporting timber and fuel from his wharf.
1869	At the time of his death in 1896, Stevens' Blues Point 'Wharf Property' was commonly known as Stevens Wharf and included a jetty, cottages, buildings and erections extending over part of the land and reclaimed allotments.

By 1891	Alterations and changes had been made to the buildings or sheds on Stevens' and Glover's land. A pile jetty and a timber wharf extended from the shoreline into the harbour. A weighbridge was positioned outside the western boundary of the site adjacent to Blue's Point Road. Fencing separated the commercial and residential parts of the site.
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DATE	ACTIVITY
1897	The Minister for Public Works approves for the construction of a vehicular or 'horse ferry' service, including a 'dock and landing' for ferries between Dawes and Blues Points.
1902	<p>The North Shore Ferry Service including a vehicular ferry was in service.</p> <p>That same year, the New South Wales Fresh Food and Ice Company Limited announced the proposed establishment of a North Shore distribution branch on the waterfrontage known as Stevens' Wharf. The company proposed to construct 'a depot, with ice-house and other cool storage premises' at the Blues Point site. This was a speculative idea based on information that the northern railway line would be extended to Blues Point.</p>
1923	Sydney Harbour Trust commenced plans to improve the docking facilities of the Blue's Point Punt Service. The 1926 Survey plan ¹⁰ shows the new vehicular ferry dock to the south of the study area.
1932	<p>Construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge reduces demand for a vehicular ferry.</p> <p>By 1934 the waterfront extending from Blues Point to McMahon's Point ferry jetty had for some years been utilised by Sydney Ferries Ltd 'as a depot for the company's idle ferries'.</p>
1937	An aerial photograph shows the houses originally owned by Stevens were still standing.
1943	An aerial photograph confirms the demolition of Stevens' house and the workshop in the north-eastern corner of the site by this date. Sheds on the reclaimed part of the allotment are still extant but are not the same sheds as those depicted on the 1891 plan. Stevens' wharf remained extant.
1960s	Cumberland Council acquire the study area.
From 1971	Site placed under the control of North Sydney Council for use as a public park, reserve or recreation space.
2018	Archaeological excavations of Henry Lawson Reserve prior to temporary site works for Sydney Metro.

2.2 Aboriginal history of North Sydney

Aboriginal people are believed to have occupied Australia for around 65,000 years, living through a period of significant environmental change. As temperatures rose and fell and rainfall fluctuated, the changes to the eastern coastline as sea level rose filled the valley that had been the Parramatta River, creating Sydney Harbour. Radiometric dating has indicated that Aboriginal people were living in the North Sydney area for at least 5,800 years before colonisation.

The site area occupies the traditional land of the Cammeraygal people, who were recorded by Governor Arthur Phillip as the 'formidable Cammeraygal (Gammeraigal)' who inhabited the lower north shores of Port Jackson.

Barangaroo was an Eora woman of the Cammeraygal people. She was a feisty fisherwoman with a presence of authority and wisdom who opposed the actions of colonists and upheld Aboriginal laws, teaching and women's rituals. After losing her first husband and two children to smallpox, she married the much younger Bennelong with whom she had a son who died in infancy. Barangaroo died not long after.

Bennelong was an Eora man who was befriended by Governor Arthur Phillip and lived for a time in a small cottage in the grounds around Government House. He travelled with Phillip to London, but the conditions on the voyage and in the unrelenting cold weather, his spirit was broken and contributed to his early death at the age of 20.



Figure 1: *Cameragal the chief of the most powerful Tribe in New South Wales* by Thomas Watling (1762 – 1814) First Fleet artwork collection, Port Jackson Painter Watling Drawing No 53, Natural History Museum, London. 'This mans name is Cameragal the chief of the most powerful Tribe that we at present know of in New South Wales. He holds two fighting spears and a Fizgig

in one hand and two throwing sticks in the other.' [Natural History Museum in Bernard Smith & Alwyne Wheeler (eds), *The Art of the First Fleet*, Oxford University Press, Australia, 1988, p.42].

Cammeraygal Country encompassed the waters of Sydney Harbour, the skies above, the cliffs, caves, rocky foreshores and sand bays, the wooded scrubland and tall trees which extended further inland. Their camps took advantage of shelter and proximity to food sources including the fish and shellfish and the native flora and fauna endemic to this area. Their lifestyle followed the seasonal calendar, the changing celestial skies and the ceremonies and rituals associated with their cultural heritage and spiritual traditions. It was not unreasonable that the invasion and dispossession of their traditional land resulted in unfriendly encounters with colonists.



Figure 2: *Nouvelle-Hollande: Nouvelle Galles Du Sud, grottes, chasse et pêche des sauvages du Port-Jackson* by Auguste Delvaux (b. 1786) after Charles Alexandre Lesueur (1778-1846). From *Voyage de découvertes aux terres Australes* by François Péron, 1824. State Library of NSW. Q/82/41.

2.3 Billy Blue

The following information has been assembled from the State Library of NSW's website, accessed at <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning/billy-blue> with additional information provided by Dr Mary Casey.

In 1817, the colony's 5th governor, Governor Lachlan Macquarie granted William 'Billy' Blue with a grant of 80 acres (32.4 hectares) which incorporated the southern-most headland on the north shore of Port Jackson. It was named Northampton and the grant was conditional on cultivation.

Billy Blue is thought to have been a 'freed African-American slave', born in Jamaica, a neighbourhood in Queen's, New York City. His date of birth is somewhat contentious, but likely between 1768 and 1772, as are the circumstances of his life prior to his arrest in London in October 1796. It is likely he was a soldier or marine in the British Army and saw service against the American revolutionaries in North America. Just how he got to London where his life is better documented is unknown.

Blue was charged with stealing sugar in London and listed from October 1797 to 1801 in a convict indent for the hulk 'Prudentia', which was docked at Woolwich, London. His aged was recorded as 29, which would put his date of birth as somewhere between 1768 and 1772. It is most likely he was much older.

At the time of his arrest in London, Blue was employed in a number of different jobs, including as a lumper. Lumpers were employed to unload cargo from merchant ships moored on the river Thames. It was dangerous work, only suitable for the strongest and fittest of men, and was very poorly paid. Part of the compensation for the poor pay was an allowance for a certain degree of small-scale plundering, something which was officially acknowledged in a parliamentary inquiry into port conditions in London in the 1790s. Generally, merchants allowed up to 2 percent of the shipped weight of cargo to disappear as "spillage". However, taking more on a regular basis was regarded as theft. Consequently, Blue came to be charged with four separate counts of stealing 20 pounds of raw sugar on a single day in September 1796. In his deposition in court, Blue explained that alongside his work as a lumper he also traded as a chocolate maker in Deptford, where he lived. At the time, chocolate was not eaten as a block, but melted in hot water and served as a drink. Made from cocoa beans, sugar and spices, it was more expensive than coffee and a much more powerful stimulant due to the high sugar content.

Sentenced to 7 years, Blue served almost 5 of these on board the hulks prior to being transported to NSW. He arrived in Sydney in 1801 and completed his sentence in 1803. In 1805, living in a house at The Rocks, he married the English convict Elizabeth Williams and they had six children.

Contemporary sources tell us that Billy had a genial and entertaining nature. He gained the favour of Governor Macquarie, who appointed him harbour watchman in 1811. One of the perks of the job was the provision of a stone hexagonal (six-sided) watch house overlooking the harbour, on the eastern side of Circular Quay. The house soon became known as Billy Blue's cottage.



Figure 3: Billy Blue's Cottage and the Harbour by William Moffitt; Rex Nan Kivell Collection NK1477, National Library of Australia. The cottage was located on Bennelong Point in the grounds of the Governor's Domain, the headland named after Bennelong, Barangaroo's wife.

In 1817 Governor Macquarie granted Billy Blue 80 acres of land on the north shore. He moved there with his family and the promontory soon became known as Blue(s) Point. Billy was also appointed the official ferryman for the north shore and he would row soldiers from Dawes Point across to Blues Point to cut grass for their horses. Macquarie often used Billy's ferry service and mentions in his diary about Billy taking Macquarie's wife and son up to the Governor's house in Parramatta.

A track (now known as Blues Point Road) soon led from the Blues Point wharf up to St Leonards, and Billy Blue's ferry service became the first and major transport link that helped open up the north shore for settlers. Within a short time, Billy owned many small ferry boats. Billy also took the opportunity to make money in other ways, and in 1818 was arrested for smuggling rum. Whilst he lost his job as watchman, he was able to continue to run the ferry service.

In 1822 Billy's benefactor, Governor Macquarie, returned to his native land and business rivals were temporarily successful in shutting down Billy's ferry service through various allegations. He regained the right to run it again in 1825.

Elizabeth Blue died in 1827 and Billy became increasingly eccentric. Wearing a battered coat, top hat and cane he would often be seen in George Street or would board ships in the harbour, demanding people acknowledge him as 'the Commodore', and abusing them if they did not. This nickname had originally been given to Billy back in London, shortly before his arrest. As well as working as a lumper and making chocolate, Billy had also been employed by the Navy Board. At this time, the British Navy engaged "press-gangs" which operated onshore and used physical force to make recruitments. There were about eight gangs in operation in the Deptford area in which Billy Blue worked, and these serviced a hospital ship called the *HMS Enterprise*, which also received impressed sailors. The 'Commodore' of the gang was the man in charge. Answering to a Navy Board employee, the Commodore was paid in cash for each man pressed into service and whilst he would have been both a feared and loathed presence in the area, he would have earned a very good income. It is from this period of his life that Billy Blue earned the nickname that would stay with him until the end. In 1829 Billy was again gaoled for sheltering a run-away convict but was released on paying a fine.



Figure 4: *The Old Commodore, Billy Blue*. Drawn from Life on Stone. State Library of NSW PXC 284.



Figure 5: *Billy Blue "The Old Commodore"*, 1834 by Charles Rodius. State Library of NSW DL pe 4.

On his death, newspapers of the time wrote obituaries that praised his humour, honoured his connections with the origins of the colony, and said regretfully that 'We may never look upon his like again'. His age was recorded in the death notice in *The Sydney Herald* on 8 May, 1834, giving his age as 95, while a notice was published in *The Sydney Gazette* on the same day, gave his age as 97. The portrait of him painted by J B East was exhibited to general praise, soon after Billy's death.

The legacy of the convict pioneer, Billy Blue, was the opening up of the north shore with his ferry service, and his endearment to Sydneysiders as a character. In 1850 his son John Blue went on to build the Old Commodore Hotel and his daughter Susannah owned the Billy Blue Inn, both near Blues Point. Blues Point Road and Blues Point Reserve are named after him.



Figure 6: *Billy Blue* 1834 by J B East, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW ML 560.

2.4 The natural environment

In maps and bird's eye views of the early settlement, surveyors and hydrographers collaborated to document the topography and the landform and the water depth of the harbour,

The fall of Billy Blue's land towards the harbour provided natural drainage of the area. This was later modified to redirect the flow of water after the construction of buildings on the site.



Figure 7: Map of that part of the North Shore of Port Jackson which is opposite to Sydney 1828, by John Thompson, State Archives and Records NSW, [Surveyor General; NRS 13859, Maps and Plans 1792-1880, S.801 [SZ467].



Figure 8: Detail of Figure 7 showing the land identified on the map as Billy Blue's Point, coloured and inscribed William Blue 80 acres, Hulk Bay (now Lavender Bay) is to the east. Hydrographic readings for the depth of water in the shallow tidal arc between McMahon's Point and Billy Blue's Point are shown.

The natural vegetation of the north shore foreshore is referenced as Sydney Sandstone Foreshore Scrub in a Natural Area Survey by P & J Smith for North Sydney Council in 2010, comprising the following species ¹:

Tall shrubs	1.5-6	20-70	<i>Kunzea ambigua</i> (dominant) <i>Acacia longifolia</i> <i>Casuarina glauca</i>
Low shrubs	0.5-2	10-20	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> <i>Grevillea linearifolia</i> <i>Kunzea ambigua</i> <i>Notelaea longifolia</i>
Ground covers	0.05-0.7	30-60	<i>Dianella revoluta</i> <i>Entolasia stricta</i> <i>Eragrostis brownii</i> <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> <i>Microlaena stipoides</i>
Vines			<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>

Pollen analysis associated with the archaeological investigations of the site identified *Casuarina* scrub/heath as evident prior to British settlement at Blues Point.

¹ North Sydney Council. Natural Area Survey. P & J Smith Ecological Consultants, report prepared for North Sydney Council, pp 24-26

19th century paintings of the area illustrate the vestiges of the vegetation community before it was lost was the land around the water's edge was gradually developed. The native vegetation supported an ecological community with birds, small mammals and reptiles and habitats supported by native flora.



Figure 8: *Mosman Bay Sydney 1874* by James Howe Carse, showing foreshore scrub and tall trees, image accessed online at <https://daygallery.com.au/catalog/james-howe-carse-mosman-bay-sydney-1874>.

The intertidal zone was also an important contributor to the natural environment of the area. *Ngh environmental* has studied similar localities in the vicinity to record the marine biodiversity.² As the waters of Sydney Harbour become less polluted, re-establishment and regeneration of marine communities has occurred. Its studies have found that the intertidal areas of the vertical surfaces of rocky foreshores and stone retaining walls are mostly covered with sessile invertebrates such as oysters (*Saccostrea glomerata*), mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), limpets (*Patella* sp), various gastropods (*Austrococchlea porcata*, *Morula marginalba*, *Bembicium nanum*), barnacles (*Tetraclitella purpurascens*, *Chtamalus antennatus*) and cunjevoi (*Pyuria stolonifera*). The subtidal parts of the seawall also included various species of sponges, macroalgae and small crustacea.

² Management Plan Platypus, North Sydney for Sydney Harbour Federation Trust prepared by Ngh environmental, 2020, p.37
<https://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/media/1380/platypus-management-plan.pdf>, accessed online

2.5 The waterfront

Billy Blue's land grant on Blues Point was defined on the southern and western side by the harbour and included land that because of its steep topography in parts, would have made farming difficult.

While the exact extent of Billy Blue's land holding on Blues Point is unknown, by 1839 his son was advertising waterfront land and allotments at Blues Point for lease in the Sydney Monitor (13 February 1839, p.4), seeking to attract businessmen, boat builders, shipwrights, coopers and timber merchants, while promoting the benefits of the locality's supply of firewood, fresh air, pure water and beautiful scenery.

The Blue family continued to divest themselves of land, subdividing and selling lots. By 1857, a building and a 'public wharf or pier had been constructed on the eastern side of the site, now known as Henry Lawson Reserve, while some terracing of the embankment down to the water had been done, enabling boats to get closer to the shore. This can be seen in Figures 9 and 11, with a sandy stretch visible in the foreground.



Figure 9: Looking south-west to Blue's Point, showing the roof of the Stevens' cottages in the lower part of the image and the retaining wall all along the foreshore, photograph by F A Coxhead, 1873. Small Picture File SPF/934, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW.

In 1867, John Stevens, a pearl fisherman, trader and skipper) purchased the title of part of land on the study area on which stood a small cottage. Although Stevens did not live there, he later leased out boatsheds built on the site and used the site as access to transport timber and fuel across the harbour. Stevens subsequently expanded his footprint on the site, altering the cottage to the west, adding and creating a multi-occupancy dwelling. A boat shed had been added by 1871, leased by George Barnett. Four generations of the Barnett family would live at McMahons Point and build boats. A descendent, Bill Barnett, would have the distinction of building Australia's America Cup challenger, *Gretel II*.

The other owner of land in the study area was purchased by John Glover, a builder, also non-resident. He bequeathed his land to his wife who leased it to Michael McMahon, a landowner after whom McMahon's Point is named, and to George Whiting.

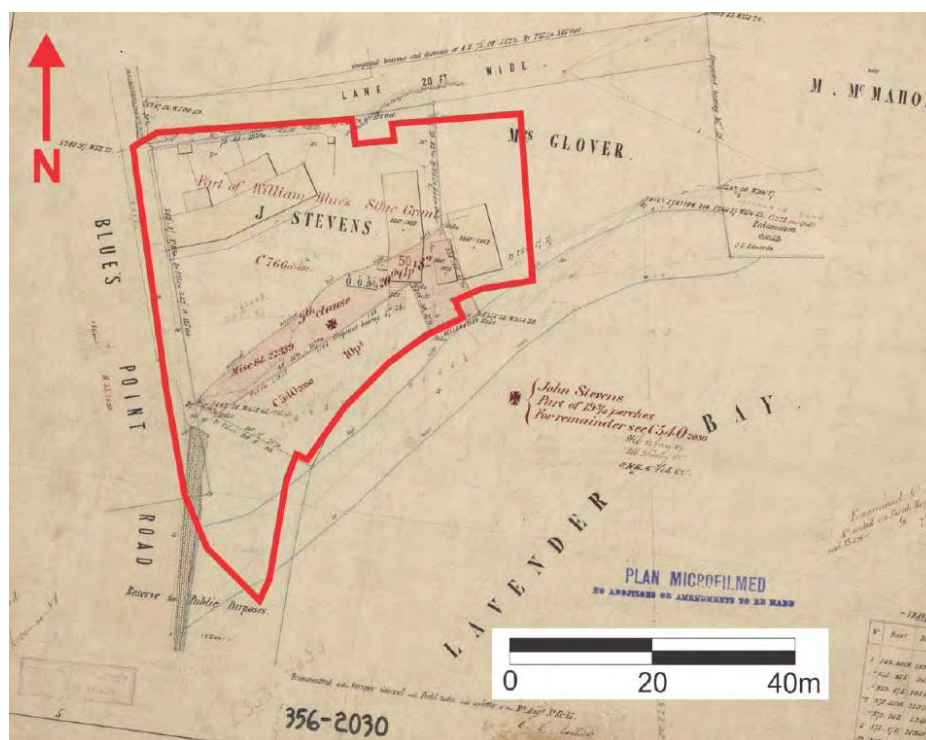


Figure 10: Portion from a Crown Plan dated 10 August 1881 showing the development on Stevens' and Glover's lots, reproduced from Casey & Lowe 2018 Draft Excavation Report, Figure 2.13.



Figure 11: Blues Point illustrated in the Picturesque Atlas of Australasia, 1888, showing boats berthed along the foreshore of the bay, the harbour edge defined by sandstone retaining walls, Stanton Library, North Sydney Council 119731.

2.6 Ferry services

As colonists began to travel beyond the immediate environs of Sydney Cove, they used the services of watermen, who like Billy Blue, rowed small dinghies across the harbour, carrying people and cargo. In an edition of *The Sydney Gazette* on 2 August 1807, an advertisement appeared announcing that '*William Blue respectfully informs the public that he being the only waterman licensed to ply a ferry on this Harbour, they will be accommodated with a tight and clean boat, an active oar and an unalterable inclination to serve those who honour him with their command...*'.

A cross harbour ferry service was introduced circa 1841, run as a punt during daylight hours between Dawes Point and Blues Point but the venture failed after 15 months. Introduced in 1847, brothers Thomas and Gerrard operated a small timber paddle steamer, *Fairy Princess*, between Windmill Street and Blues Point, the first reliable cross harbour ferry service. Subsequently, the North Shore Steam Company introduced an iron paddle steamer, but it failed to succeed.

As the north shore community around Blues Point expanded, concern was growing in the late 1860s about the reclamation of foreshore land, lack of access to the water and the potential loss of sufficient space for the future expansion of the ferry wharf. By 1891, a pile jetty and a timber wharf extended from the shoreline to the harbour and a public weighbridge had been built adjacent to Blues Point Road.

In 1897, the Minister for Public Works approved the funding for the construction of a 'horse ferry' service between Blues Point and Dawes Point on the southern side of the harbour (Figure 13). Originally used to augment the service to Milson's Point, it became the main cross-harbour terminal on the north side during the construction of the bridge from 1924-1932. The service ceased in 1932 following the opening of

Sydney Harbour Bridge and the infrastructure, save for a remnant of the ferry dock ramp, was demolished.

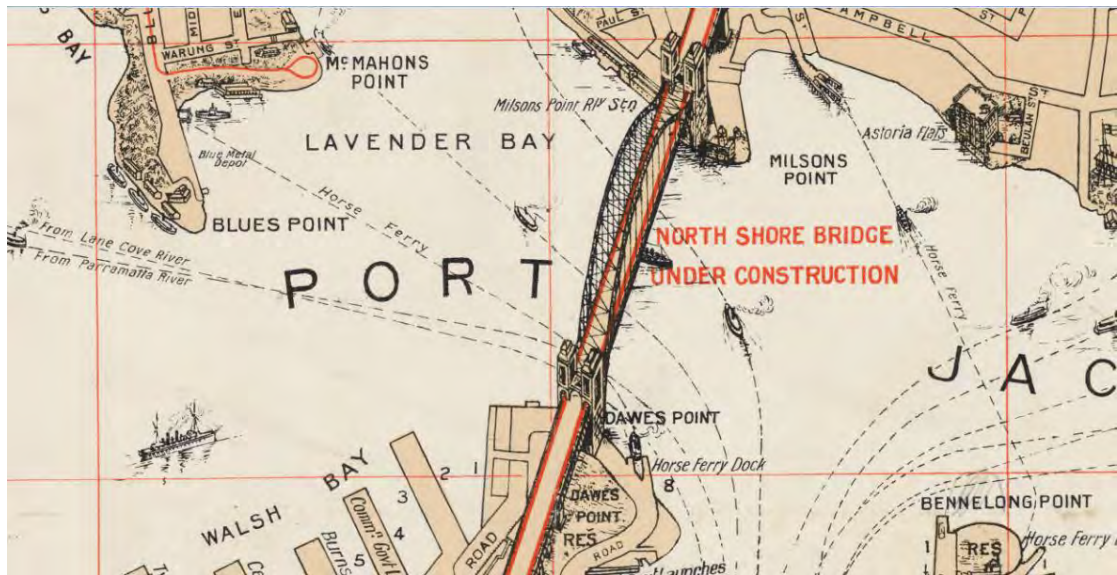


Figure 12: Detail from Map of Sydney printed by H C Robinson Ltd, circa 1930, showing the route of the 'horse ferry' between Dawes Point and Blues Point, Map Collection, State Library of NSW, a8323001u.



Figure 13: Loading the vehicular horse ferry at Blues Point ferry wharf, City of Sydney Archives A-00076337, n.d. This vessel was in service between 1883 and 1921, superseded by larger ferries capable of carrying the heavier weight of motorised vehicles.

2.7 Henry Lawson

Henry Lawson (1867 – 1922) is recognised as a short story writer and balladist whose stories and verse captured the Australian spirit of the bush in well-known works including *Andy's Gone with Cattle*, *"The Loaded Dog"* and *"The Drover's Wife"*. His words did not romanticise bush life but were drawn from his own experiences and the harsh realities of growing up in western NSW until his late teenage years. Like his great rival, 'Banjo' Patterson, their verses and their legendary observations became part of the national psyche and identity around the time of Federation.

Lawson spent much of his adult time in Sydney – and stayed in North Sydney on many occasions. He lived in numerous dwellings between 1885, when he stayed with Mrs Emma Brooks in East Crescent Street, and later in 1921 following his incapacitation due to a stroke, until his death. Other dwellings and places of significance include: Strathmere, Lord Street in 1899; rooms above the Coffee Palace in Miller Street run by Mrs Isabel Byers who would also care for Lawson; Chaplin Cottage, Charles Street where Lawson's second child Bertha was born in 1900; and Dind's Hotel at the bottom of Alfred Street, Milsons Point.

Some of Lawson's poems which reference North Sydney reflect on the character of the suburb and the lives of its inhabitants.



Figure 14: Henry Lawson waiting for the horse ferry at Dawes Point, Sydney, 1922 photographed by Phillip Harris. State Library of NSW PXB 526 NCY 1/253-256.

In *Old North Sydney* in 1904, Lawson writes of the changing landscape as old residents move on and the pressures of development change the character of the streets:

They're shifting old North Sydney,
Perhaps 'tis just as well,
They're carting off the houses
Where the old folks used to dwell.
Where only ghosts inhabit
They lay the old shops low;
But the Spirit of North Sydney,
It vanished long ago.

The Spirit of North Sydney,
The good old time and style,
It camped, maybe, at Crow's Nest,
But only for a while.
It left about the season,
Or at the time, perhaps,
When old Inspector Cotter
Transferred his jokes and traps.

A brand new crowd is thronging
The brand new streets aglow
Where the Spirit of North Sydney
Would gossip long ago.
They will not know to-morrow,
Tho' 'twere but yesterday,
Exactly how McMahon's Point
And its ferry used to lay.

The good old friendly spirit
Its sorrows would unfold,
When householders were neighbours
And shop-keeping was old;
But now we're busy strangers,
Our feelings we restrain,
The Spirit of North Sydney
Shall never come again! ³

Writing in *The Bulletin* Lawson's story 'The Kids' begins with a description of local children and billy carts:
"Other vehicles go down Blue's Point Road to the Horse Ferry and the Government Wharf. They are made of boxes with a little iron bar, with two little cast-iron wheels at the ends, fastened on underneath...Going down they invariably contain a "kid".
.....'

He goes in to describe the area, now Henry Lawson Reserve

'Besides road, wharf, jetty and landing place, there is a little sandy beach, round by the shipsmith's shop, where is driftwood on a tiny scale and flotsam in the shape of butter boxes, fruit cases, occasional bottles, etc from ocean-going craft. This is accessible by means of a tiny punt and ditto dinghy, belonging to the shipsmith's boys.' ⁴

³ Old North Sydney 1904 by Henry Lawson, accessed online at
<http://www.ironbarkresources.com/henrylawson/OldNorthSydney.html>

⁴ Elder Man's Lane. V – The Kids in *The Bulletin*, Vol.34. No 1740, 19 June 1913, p. 47



Figure 15: Horse ferry, Barangaroo, crossing Sydney Harbour, circa 1910 – 1920. City of Sydney Archives.

3.0 SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The archaeological investigations associated with the Temporary Site Works at Henry Lawson Reserve suitable for interpretation are summarised below.

3.1 Aboriginal archaeology

1. 459 cultural lithics were recovered from the excavation, including 405 flaked artefacts, 35 heat shatters, 19 indeterminate and broken fragments.
2. The raw material types included silcrete, indurated mudstones/silicified tuff, others including quartz, quartzite, weathered granite and chalcedony, most of which have been brought in, probably by trade, from outside the local area.
3. The most significant finds were 6 flint artefacts, significant because flint does not occur naturally on the east coast of Australia. It was brought to Sydney from the Thames Estuary, Britain, as ballast on ships and is evidence of continuing traditional Aboriginal practices after 1788 on this site and innovation and adaptation of a new material, using traditional manufacturing methods. This is the only known Aboriginal flint site on the northern side of the harbour.

4. Shell materials found on the site are not necessarily associated with a shell midden, but more likely to be associated with domestic consumption.

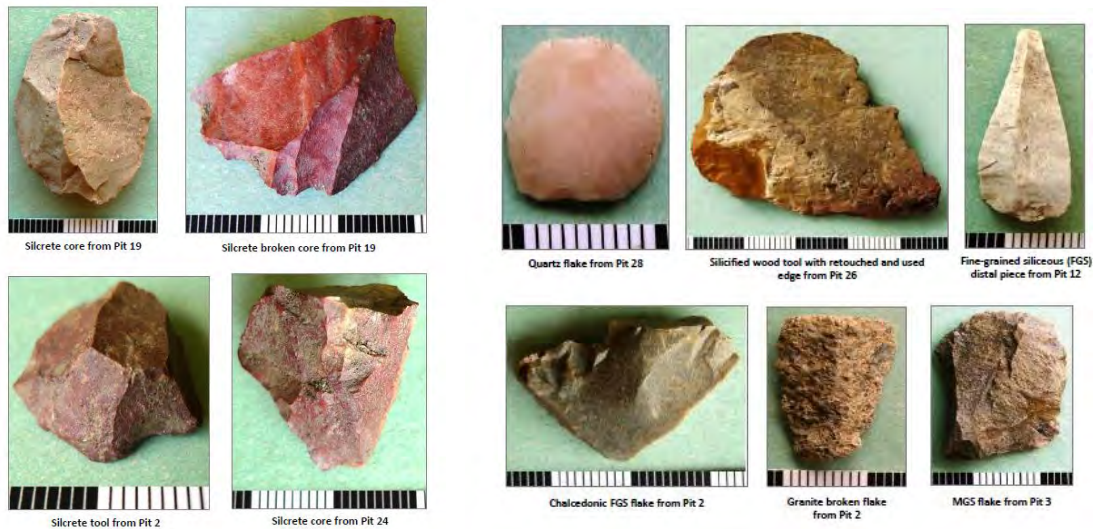


Figure 16: (Left) Most of the artefacts recovered were silcrete dated to 2,400 or more years ago, typical of the St Mary's Formation from Western Sydney, thought to have been carried by people visiting that locality or obtained by exchange or trade. Image AMBS, presentation to Aboriginal Consultation 22 October 2021.

Figure 16: (Right) The smallest proportion of artefacts were of quartz pebbles perhaps local from Hawesbury Sandstone or weathered granite from the Nepean River or Western Sydney. Image AMBS, presentation to Aboriginal Consultation 22 October 2021.



Figure 17: Indurated mudstone (Tuff), making around 11% of artefacts of this material, occurring naturally in the Nepean River Gravels in western and north-western Sydney. Image AMBS, presentation to Aboriginal Consultation 22 October 2021.

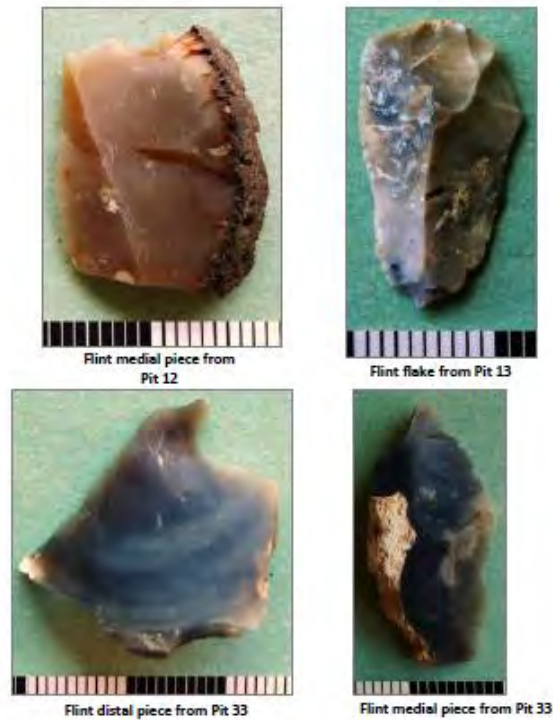


Figure 18: Flint artefacts shaped from imported flint which came as ship's ballast from England, demonstrating ingenuity in using modern materials in traditional post-contact tool-making practice. Image AMBS, presentation to Aboriginal Consultation 22 October 2021.



Figure 19: Flint is a fine waxy microcrystalline sedimentary rock (also known as chert) which has been used by humans to make stone tools for at least 2 million years. It fractures into sharp-edged pieces and is used in flintlock firearms – when struck against steel it will spark and ignite gunpowder. Image accessed online.



Figure 20: Flint occurs as nodules in soft sedimentary rocks such as chalks and limestones, like these in Kent, UK. It is highly resistant to weathering and is often found as pebbles or cobbles along streams and beaches. Perhaps more significantly it has been found in gravel beds in the Thames Estuary near Deptford. It does not occur naturally on the east coast of Australia, but has been found in archaeological deposits on the eastern side of the harbour.



Figure 21: *Old Dockyard at Deptford*, a dockyard and naval base at Deptford on the River Thames, founded by King Henry VIII in 1513, operated by the Royal Navy from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Many of the ships which transported convicts to Australia left from Deptford. © Getty Images, accessed online.

3.2 Historical archaeology

Several historical phases were identified in the archaeological investigations which had been buried beneath a thick layer of imported fill material used to create the park/reserve in the late 1950s and 1960s.

These included:

1. The original shoreline of steep rock outcrops above the intertidal zone
2. Potential for in-situ archaeology below the 1870s high-water tide mark
3. Natural and modified soil profiles
4. Pollen analysis identifying *Casuarina* scrub vegetation, pre-British settlement
5. artefacts (pre-1860s) and shells (from domestic consumption and for use in lime mortars)
6. Natural drainage naturally carved into bedrock and mitigation of water movement across the site
7. Retaining walls and the base of a small weighbridge that first appears on plan in 1891.
8. Sandstone footings of 3 small cottages (House 1 built on the Blue Estate in the 1840s-1850s, likely by the Blue family and surviving until 1940s; Houses 2 and 3 built by John Stevens in 1869
9. Cottage 1: Small two-roomed cottage with a verandah and 1880s additions; a deep circular stone-lined cistern; stormwater channel; location of partition fence; artefacts associated with domestic occupation indicating presence of children (toys, writing slates and pencils) and maritime associations (copper shipwright's nails).
10. Cottages 2 and 3: protected by sandstone retaining wall (north), single-roomed with a corner fireplace and verandah; additions in 1880s
11. Cottages 1, 2 and 3 demolished before 1947. The remains of a pre-1857 cottage consisting of the sandstone foundations for two rooms and a verandah, two c.1869 houses and verandahs, also built of sandstone, later brick extensions to all three houses
12. Evidence of land reclamation and modified seawalls
13. Two retaining walls and a road sloping down to Stevens' jetty, c.1880s
14. Reclamation of the southern portion of Stevens' land and evidence of quarrying and the underlying bedrock shelves that had been incorporated into parts of the retaining walls



Figure 22: View of Blues Point showing the Stevens' cottages below the single dwelling, photographer Frank A Coxhead, 1873, State Library of NSW a089935.



Figure 23: Artefacts recovered from archaeological excavation relating to the domestic occupation of the Stevens' cottages, image Casey & Lowe.



Figure 24: Plan of the 3 cottages built by Stevens on the site of Henry Lawson Reserve, excavated by Casey & Lowe, 2018, Casey & Lowe (2021), p.70.

4.0 INTERPRETATION

4.1 Definition

The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter defines interpretation as meaning:

“all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place. Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of fabric; the use of and activities at the place; and the use of introduced explanatory material.”

Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment and fabric of the item; the use of the item; the use of interpretive media, such as events, activities, signs and publications, or activities, but is not limited to these.⁵

4.2 Historic themes

The interpretive framework for developing thematic, relevant, organised and enjoyable interpretation at Henry Lawson Reserve relies on organising the information gathered through history research and archaeological excavation into narratives to tell stories which explain the significance of the site. Using the National, State and Local historical themes, the context of a site and its history can be established and information organised into a legible format for presentation.⁶

4.3 National, State and Local themes

The following themes have been identified as relevant to Henry Lawson Reserve.

AUSTRALIAN THEME	NSW THEME	LOCAL THEME	INTERPRETATION
1.Tracing the natural evolution of Australia	Environment – naturally evolved themes	Port Jackson – flooded river valley; ancient estuarine river landscape	Topography Geology Natural water flow Native vegetation – foreshore scrub Marine ecology
2.Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures	Traditional land of the Cammeraygal	Contact – evidence of adaptation of English flint for tool making

⁵ Interpreting Heritage Places and Items, Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, 2005

⁶ Environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Heritage/investigating-heritage-significance.pdf

AUSTRALIAN THEME	NSW THEME	LOCAL THEME	INTERPRETATION
2.Peopling Australia	Convict	Incarceration, transport, reform, accommodation and working 1789-1850	Billy Blue – harbour watchman, constable, landowner
3.Developing local regional and national economies	Environment – cultural landscape	Modified landscape	Aboriginal occupation Land reclamation Public reserve
3.Developing local regional and national economies	Industry	Boat building	Flint as ballast Shipwrights and boat builders Boat sheds, pile jetty, timber wharf and weighbridge
3.Developing local regional and national economies	Transport	Ferry services	Ferry service connecting north and south shores
4.Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages Land tenure	North Sydney	Subdivision Archaeological evidence of residential structures on southern side of Henry Lawson Avenue (excavation site)
9.Marking the phases of life	Persons	Individuals associated with the area	Cammeraygal Barangaroo Billy Blue Henry Lawson

4.4 Key narratives

The key narratives for interpreting the derive from the key themes above and should explore

- The Cammeraygal Aboriginal history, natural and cultural significance of the site
- The subdivision of Billy Blue's land grant land and modification of the landscape
- Water transport between the north and south sides of the harbour

4.5 Audience

Henry Lawson Reserve is a popular open space on the foreshore of Sydney Harbour and once returned to the public domain, will be popular with local residents, families, visitors and people attending weddings and events at that location.

4.6 Expanding the narratives




The opportunities for expanding the narratives to unite the themes identified in Section interpreting the key narratives are identified as follows:





THEME	NARRATIVE	INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITY
Natural environment Aboriginal culture People	Cammeraygal Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of the occupation of this land by Aboriginal people for thousands as years as custodians of its environmental heritage - Natural and cultural values of traditional land to Aboriginal people - renewal of marine habitat
Convict Cultural landscape Settlement Land tenure People	The Old Commodore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Billy Blue - Subdivision of Billy Blue's land grant - Residential development - Modification of the landscape and changes to the shoreline
Industry Transport People	Connecting north and south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ferry services, maritime transport and boat building - Sydney Metro connecting north and south sides of the harbour - Barangaroo - Henry Lawson

4.7 Techniques

A variety of techniques have been considered for interpreting the Aboriginal and European history at Henry Lawson Reserve. As the interpretation is outdoor-based, techniques which are robust, weather resistant, vandal proof and low maintenance are essential. As the site will be handed back to North Sydney Council, future management of interpretation delivered by Sydney Metro will devolve to them.

An assessment of methods for interpretation incorporates the ideas raised in the Aboriginal consultation (Section 4) and other techniques.

TECHNIQUE	OPPORTUNITY	CONSTRAINT
<p>Landscape (soft)</p>  <p>The headland at Barangaroo Reserve is a waterfront renewal using native species endemic in the wider Sydney area.</p>	<p>The selection of native species consistent with the natural habitat of the area can interpret the natural environment before British settlement.</p>	<p>The selection of species is not always compatible with other requirements such as Water Sensitive Urban Design. Sometimes, species are not available or appropriate in a landscaped public setting.</p>
<p>Landscape (hard)</p>  <p>Brass markers define the early 19th century natural shoreline of Sydney Cove before it was modified for shipping from the mid-19th century.</p>	<p>The ground plane provides a substrate for interpretation.</p>	<p>The ground plane is considered inappropriate for interpretation of Aboriginal cultural values.</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>  <p>The Australian National Arboretum has used a children's playground to provide imaginative features which interpret Australian native vegetation.</p>	<p>Incorporating interpretation into built features, services and landscaping have a permanence that other techniques may not.</p>	<p>The major constraint for interpretation of this nature is the time factor for development and the cost of design and production.</p>

TECHNIQUE	OPPORTUNITY	CONSTRAINT
<p>Signs</p>  <p>Signs along the boardwalk at Kamay Botany Bay National Park at Kurnell interpret the natural flora and fauna, maritime history and Captain Cook's landing.</p>	<p>Signs are a popular technique for interpretation because they can provide information and images at the point of site.</p>	<p>Unless well-designed and produced, interpretive signs which fade or are verbose, poorly sited, easily damaged or not well maintained have negative appeal.</p>
<p>Public art</p>  <p>Marine ecology is interpreted in this public artwork along the Swan River in Perth.</p>	<p>Creative interpretation using sculpture or public art adds visual interest and enhances areas in the public domain. The brief should be developed in consultation with a public art specialist.</p>	<p>Public art commissions are expensive and would need to be developed in conjunction with Council which will be the future asset manager of the completed work.</p>
<p>Sensory</p>  <p>A bench seat can become a portal for accessing sound via inbuilt speakers.</p>	<p>Soundscapes and sensory experiences are evocative methods of interpreting natural and urban features and are accessible to diverse audiences.</p>	<p>The reliance on regular sound, light, touch and smell work well in some environments but are not always compatible on sites with high wind exposure, sea air and moisture Maintenance and replacement is an ongoing cost factor.</p>
<p>Digital assets</p>  <p>Self-guided walking tours and point of site interpretation accessed with iBeacons or QR codes are readily accessible and portable.</p>	<p>Digital assets include mobile apps generated by QR codes, multimedia, and online presence. These offer an efficient and accessible way of delivering information and can be configured so that the user can choose what they want to know.</p>	<p>Digital assets require ongoing support by the owner of the digital asset for hosting, maintenance and updating.</p>

Themes, narratives and techniques raised in this report have been discussed broadly in consultations with the Aboriginal community and in more detail with AMBS, Casey & Lowe and Sprout Studio to resolve content, locations and techniques. Where interpretation can be incorporated into the landscape design, Sprout Studio has produced designs relevant to the narratives in locations where their context is appropriate and relevant.



Figure 25: Example of interpretive signage at the former BP public parkland site at North Sydney.

5.0 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

The site of Henry Lawson Reserve is the land of the Cammeraygal people, the traditional owners of land north of the harbour, contained within the North Sydney, Willoughby, Mosman, Manly and Warringah local government areas. Cammeraygal people are believed to have occupied the area for approximately 5,800 years.

The presence of Aboriginal cultural material on the site is evidence of Aboriginal occupation and the artefacts are associated with stone tool manufacture. None of the stone is local to the lower north shore area where the site is located.

AMBS have concluded that:

- The diverse raw materials of the stone tools means that people of eastern (coastal) Sydney either obtained small quantities of stone from visits to other localities or by exchange or trade.
- A sufficient number of artefacts were recovered to be able to place the assemblage in its local and regional context, both spatially and through time.

- The Blues Point assemblage is presently undated but dominated by silcrete suggesting occupation during the period between c.5,000 cal BP and C. 2.400 cal BP.
- The site has a long history of Aboriginal visitation with evidence for occupation during different period (revealed in the variation in artefact raw material types with depth) and especially because of the presence of flint artefacts which signify occupation during the early history/contact phase which was a profound period in history (locally and internationally).
- The assemblage adds to our knowledge of the eastern Sydney region where many Aboriginal sites have been destroyed by historical and modern development.

Presentation 22 October 2021

These findings were presented at an Aboriginal community consultation meeting held online on 22 October 2021 and subsequently circulated to Registered Aboriginal Parties and representatives of the community by AMBS. Claire Winsor of Sprout Studio and Margaret Betteridge representing Betteridge Consulting provided opportunities for landscape and interpretation and invited discussion on how interpretation could be delivered at the site.

The following techniques were identified by Kadibulla of Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group during the consultation as possible methods of delivering interpretation at the site:

- Mobile App. An App could be incorporated into the interpretation to capture the interest of the younger generations and is the direction for the future of interpretation. It can save people reading signs at the site and access the information at another time. An App would have to be updated over time (in the event that a person whose voice is used for the App passes away, a new voice must be recorded).
- Sound. Interpretation through sound/interaction would be a good idea. Aboriginal people have a deep connection to the sky, land and waterways, and this could be incorporated into the soundscape (voices, sounds of animals, waves etc). Dreaming stories, creation stories and/or stories from the area could also be included in the soundscape. However, where voices are used, this too would need to be updated over time. Consider including interpretation that engages with the senses, by having objects you can touch, feel and/or interact with.
- Themes/stories. **Aboriginal people's connection to the sky, land and waterways** could be incorporated into the text of the interpretation.
- Aboriginal people used the sky to navigate, and the ocean was important and this could be explained within the text. Dreaming stories, creation stories and stories from the area are important to incorporate. This may also include modern stories, to show the continuation of Aboriginal culture today. It is important to incorporate that Aboriginal people of the Sydney region are different, and have different practices, stories, cultures and customs.
- Natural environment. The natural environment is important. When incorporating native flora, ensure that it is native to the area and not

introduced species and highlight that the land as you see it today, is not what it used to be. It is useful to provide descriptions about what the land used to look like, and how it has changed as a result of European settlement and to educate people that Aboriginal people weren't just "hunter gatherers" and that they were bakers and agriculturists and much more. People who come and visit from overseas don't realise the Aboriginal history of the area, so it is important to capture its significance.

- Language. It is important to include the correct Aboriginal language of the area.
- Provide information about how there were different languages throughout the Sydney region. Use contacts that can provide this information (this can be provided through ongoing consultation).

A summary of the Aboriginal community consultations is attached at Appendix 1.

Consultation with North Sydney Council, 3 September 2021

Dr Mary Casey and the author attended an online consultation with Dr Ian Hoskins, North Sydney Council Historian on 3 September 2021, to discuss Aboriginal and historical themes relevant to the site and in the context of North Sydney and to identify interpretive opportunities and constraints.

As part of the consultations, Dr Hoskins referred the consultants to North Sydney Council's publication *Aboriginal Sydney: an outline of indigenous history*. This publication was consulted at

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Library_Databases/Heritage_Centre/Leaflets_Walks_Publications/Aboriginal_North_Sydney24

Subsequently, this consultant attended an online presentation, *The Other Shore*, by Dr Ian Hoskins on during History Week in September 2021 in which the Aboriginal history of North Sydney was discussed.

Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties, 18 November 2021

No members of the Aboriginal community or Registered Parties attended.

Circulation of Draft Interpretation Strategy, 19 November 2021

Issue 2 of the updated Interpretation Strategy was circulated on 19 November 2021 to the Aboriginal community and Registered Aboriginal Parties for their feedback by 10 December 2021.

Consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties, 8 April 2022 and final outcomes

The updated Strategy, incorporating comments and suggestions from Consultation No 1 was presented to Kadibulla of Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group attending on behalf of the Registered Aboriginal Parties and the Aboriginal community. Two key outcomes of the consultation are:

- The incorporation of comments from Kadibulla have been incorporated into text revisions, particularly in respect of the expanded reference to Country and to water transport.
- Connections with Aboriginal people around North Sydney have been incorporated into the Toposcope text using dual naming referencing Aboriginal language names for locations and people.
-

6.0 INTERPRETING THE SITE

The contextual history of the site at Henry Lawson Reserve provides opportunities for interpretation that is not provided elsewhere. Three interpretive signs are proposed to interpret key themes relevant to the site. The preferred material is Marine grade metal interpretive sign with text and images.

6.1 Interpretive signage

6.1.1 Interpreting Aboriginal cultural significance

Themes and stories were one of the points raised in Aboriginal consultation as desirable. Developing the narrative for interpreting Aboriginal cultural significance at Henry Lawson Reserve has identified the following as relevant storylines:

- Archaeological evidence confirms the presence of Aboriginal people on the site between 5,000 and 2,400 ca BP. The meaning of Country, cultural and spiritual heritage, Aboriginal traditions and Dreamtime stories are important.
- The artefact evidence shows that stone was likely brought to the site from other parts of Sydney through exchange or trade.
- The flint came from England as ballast on ships in the late 18th and early 19th century and is evidence of post-contact interaction.
- The lower north shore at this location was the traditional land of the Cammeraygal people.
- The natural environment, including native flora, fauna and marine life provided the Cammeraygal with food and other items for shelter, baskets and tools,
- Barangaroo was a Cammeraygal woman.
- The new Sydney Metro rail line unites North Sydney with Barangaroo.
- Further research may provide information on Cammeraygal language.

Draft text

The draft text was provided to the Registered Aboriginal Parties and through the consultation process, incorporates their suggestions where information was forthcoming.

CAMMERAYGAL COUNTRY

Cammeraygal Country encompasses the waters of Sydney Harbour, the skies above, the cliffs, caves, rocky foreshores, sand bays and land extending north which was once covered with wooded scrubland and tall trees. The Cammeraygal lifestyle

followed the seasonal calendar, the changing celestial skies and the ceremonies and rituals associated with their cultural heritage and spiritual traditions. The arrival of the British people and dispossession of the traditional land of the Cammeraygal resulted in unfriendly encounters with colonists.

Archaeological excavations associated with the Sydney Metro City and Southwest Project revealed evidence of Aboriginal occupation of this area around 5,800 years BP. The source of some of the stone artefacts was not naturally occurring in this area, suggesting that the stone may have been traded or exchanged between other groups of Aboriginal people.

Image caption 1

The discovery of pieces of imported flint, shaped for tool making, was a significant find, confirming contact between the Cammeraygal and the British colonists. Research indicates that the flint was collected from the Thames Estuary near London and used as ballast in the ships which carried passengers and cargo from England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Image caption 2

Aboriginal camps took advantage of shelter and proximity to food sources including the fish and shellfish and the native flora and fauna endemic to this area. Using canoes with a small fire on a bed of wet sand or seaweed, Aboriginal women could fish with hooks or men standing with spears could throw spears for their catch.

Nouvelle-Hollande: Nouvelle Galles du Sud, grottes, chasse et peche du Port Jackson by Auguste Delvaux (b.1786) after Charles Alexandre Lesueur (1788 – 1846). From *Voyage de découvertes aux terres Australes* by François Péron, 1824. State Library of NSW. Q82/41

Image caption 3

In 1790, Governor Arthur Phillip noted that the formidable Cameragal inhabited the 'north west side of Port Jackson'. This site connects the north and south sides of Sydney Harbour through the story of Cammeraygal woman, Barangaroo, a feisty fisherwoman with a presence of authority and wisdom who opposed the actions of colonists and upheld Aboriginal laws, teaching and women's rituals.

Cameragal the chief of the most powerful Tribe in New South Wales by Thomas Watling (1762 – 1814). First Fleet artwork collection, Port Jackson Painter, Watling Drawing No. 52, British Museum of Natural History.

Visual design:

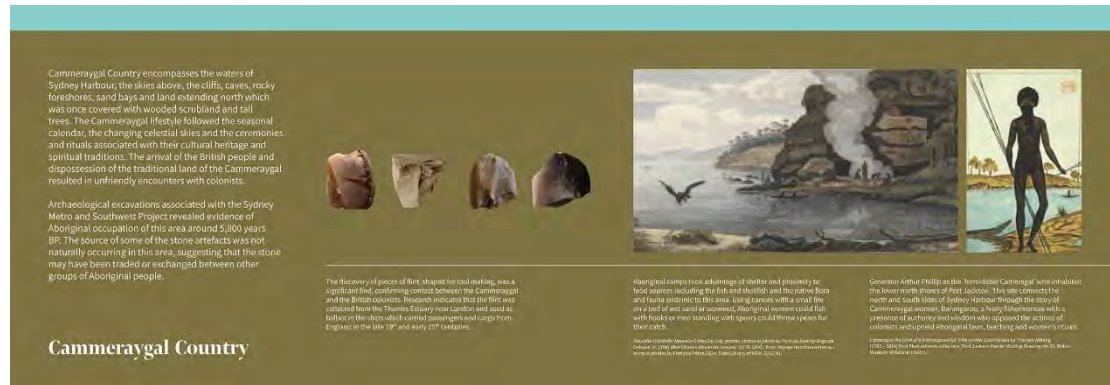


Figure 26: The design and specifications for the Cammeraygal Country sign prepared by X2 design are included in the visuals in Appendix 2.

6.1.2 Interpreting Billy Blue

Blues Point is named after Billy Blue, a former convict and legendary larrikin, who will be interpreted in a storyline which addresses:

- The character and life history of Billy Blue.
- Patronage from Governor Macquarie as his waterman.
- Land grant from Governor Macquarie.

Draft text

BLUES POINT/ WARUNGAREEYUH

While Aboriginal people had used canoes in the waters of Port Jackson and the Parramatta River to fish and trade for thousands of years, it was not until 1807 that a waterman was appointed to carry colonists in a 'tight and clean boat' across its waters.

The first waterman was a former convict, William 'Billy' Blue who had arrived in Sydney in 1801. Blue befriended Governor Macquarie who provided him with a cottage on the eastern side of Sydney Cove (now Bennelong Point). In 1817, Blue was further rewarded with a land grant of 80 acres on what is known today as Blues Point.

Caption 1

Born in New York sometime around 1770, Billy Blue was described as a freed African-American slave and from all accounts, a colourful and eccentric character with a fascinating past. He was arrested in London in 1796 for stealing a quantity of raw sugar and sentenced to transportation for 7 years, 5 of which he spent on hulks, possibly in the Thames estuary.

Billy Blue 1834 by J B East. Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW. ML563

Caption 2

Billy Blue's land grant of 80 acres is shown on this bird's eye view of Port Jackson as a shaded area for cultivation. Some of his land included steep cliffs extending down to sandy foreshores which would have been difficult for agricultural use.

Map of that part of the North Shore of Port Jackson which is opposite to Sydney 1828, by John Thompson. State Archives and Records NSW.

Caption 3

Early attempts to provide a public ferry service linking the southern and northern sides of Sydney Harbour were unsuccessful, but as the northern shores were developed a reliable passenger service became a necessity.

Detail from *Map of Sydney* printed by H C Robinson Ltd, circa 1930, showing the route of the 'horse ferry' between Dawes Point and Blues Point. State Library of NSW.

Caption 4

In 1897, the Minister for Public Works approved funding for a 'horse ferry' service capable of transporting passengers and horse-drawn carriages and carts between Blues Point and Dawes Point on the southern side of the harbour. Blues Point was the main cross-harbour terminal on the north side during the construction of the bridge from 1924-1932 when the service ceased.

Loading the vehicular horse ferry at Blues Point ferry wharf. City of Sydney Archives.

Visual design



Figure 27: The design and specifications for the Blues Point/Warungareeyuh sign are included in the visuals in Appendix 2.

6.1.3 Interpreting historical archaeology

The relevant storylines for interpreting the evidence revealed from the archaeological excavation of the site of the cottages erected by John Stevens are:

- Land grant to Billy Blue and subsequent subdivision.

- Acquisition of land and residential development by John Stevens.
- Features including the retaining wall and public weighbridge are also noted.

Draft text

WHARF PROPERTY

Within 5 years of Billy Blue's death, his son was advertising waterfront land and allotments at Blues Point, available for local businesses, boat builders, shipwrights, coopers and timber merchants. In 1867, 'shipwright' and pearler, John Stevens, purchased a portion of Blue's land. Although Stevens did not live there, he later leased out boatsheds built on the site and used the site as access to transport timber and fuel across the harbour. Stevens subsequently expanded his footprint on the site, altering an existing cottage and adding a multi-occupancy dwelling.

Caption 1

By the 1870s, Blues Point had become a busy location with residential dwellings set back from the foreshore, dominated by maritime activity including boat building and cargo handling. The roofs of Stevens' cottages are visible in the lower part of this image.

Blues Point, circa 1873. State Library of NSW.

Caption 2

Archaeological investigation of the site of the former cottages erected by John Stevens revealed their configuration and internal layout. Many domestic artefacts were recovered during the excavation which were consistent with their late 19th to mid-20th century residential occupation.

Archaeological plan showing the location of the footings of three cottages built on John Stevens' Wharf Property (above).

Domestic artefacts found in the cottages included tableware, personal accessories, children's toys, sewing implements, exotic shells and copper-alloy nails possibly used in boat building (right), Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd.

Visual design



Figure 28: The design and specifications for the Wharf Property sign prepared by X2 design are included in the visuals in Appendix 2.

6.1.4 Interpreting Henry Lawson Reserve

Henry Lawson Reserve commemorates Australian writer and poet, Henry Lawson who observed the local life around North Sydney:

- Henry Lawson was an iconic Australian literary figure.
- He wrote about the site of the park as it was in the early 20th century as the location of boatbuilding workshops and mentioned the sandy beach.
- Remnant infrastructure remains for the horse ferry wharf which carried carts, carriages and passengers between Blues Point and Dawes Point until the completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

6.2 Interpretation in the landscape

The landscape design for Henry Lawson Reserve has been developed by Sprout Studio.

Two opportunities for interpretation in the landscape design have been identified.

Toposcope

When resolved, visual references and drawings showing the location of interpretive installations.

A toposcope which provides direction finding to link the narratives to the key themes would provide an interactive element in the Reserve and underline the connections between Aboriginal occupation and water transport connections between people and place.



Figures 29 and 30: Examples of toposcopes, accessed online. The design and specifications prepared for Henry Lawson Reserve by X2 Design are included in the visuals in Appendix 3.

Draft text for toposcope

All distances measured from this point, Blues Point/Warungareeyuh, traditional land of the Cammeraygal people named after Billy Blue, granted land in 1817.

Barangaroo

Barangaroo, a powerful Cammeraygal woman, wife of Bennelong.

Sydney Metro railway station completed 2024.

Dawes Point

Lieutenant William Dawes, astronomer, arrived with the First Fleet in 1788.

Recorded Aboriginal language, shared with him by Aboriginal woman, Patyegarang.

Bennelong Point/Dubbagullee

Bennelong, senior man of the Eora, first Aboriginal person to visit England.

Site of a brick hut built for Bennelong by Governor Arthur Phillip in 1790.

Goat Island/Me Mel

Occupied by Aboriginal people, once inhabited by Bennelong and Barangaroo.

Thames Estuary, England

Source of flint carried as ballast on early ships to the British colony, used by Aboriginal people for tool-making.

NOTE: Distances will be measured using a digital GPS distance calculator app.

Visual design

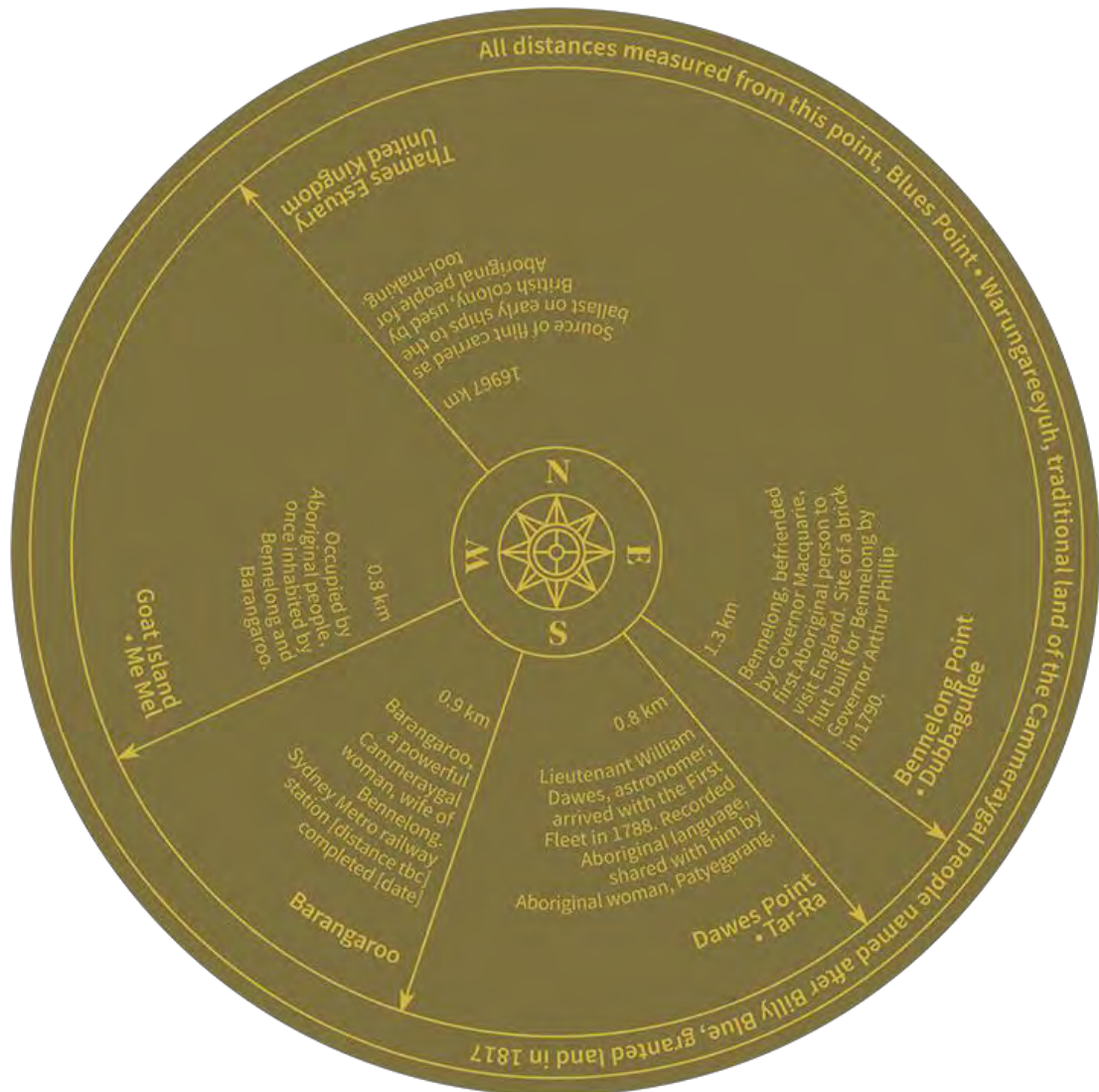


Figure 31: The design and specifications for the toposcope prepared by X2 Design are included in the visuals in Appendix 3.

Quotation text for Henry Lawson

Henry Lawson Reserve commemorates Australian writer and poet, Henry Lawson who observed the local life around North Sydney:

- Henry Lawson was an iconic Australian literary figure.
- He wrote about the site of the park as it was in the early 20th century as the location of boatbuilding workshops and mentioned the sandy beach.
- Remnant infrastructure remains for the horse ferry wharf which carried carts, carriages and passengers between Blues Point and Dawes Point until the completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The Henry Lawson quotation refers directly to the site of Henry Lawson Reserve.

'Besides road, wharf, jetty and landing place, there is a little sandy beach, round by the shipsmith's shop, where is driftwood on a tiny scale and flotsam in the shape of butter boxes, fruit cases, occasional bottles, etc from ocean-going craft. This is accessible by means of a tiny punt and ditto dinghy, belonging to the shipsmith's boys.'

[Source : From Henry Lawson: Elder Man's Lane. V – The Kids in *The Bulletin*, Vol.34. No 1740, 19 June 1913, p. 47]

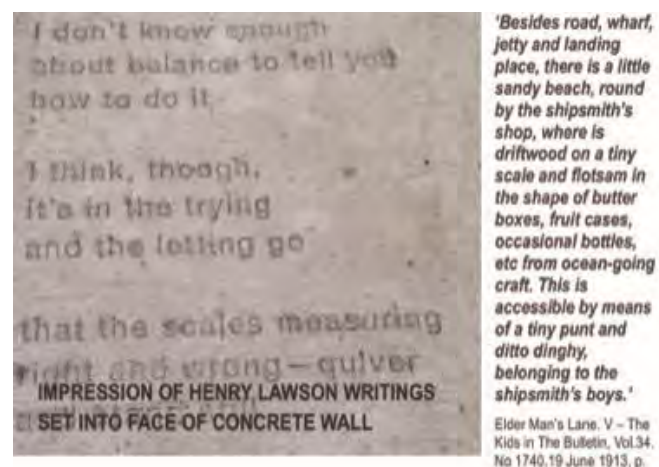


Figure 32: Concept for sand-blasted text for Henry Lawson quote as a landscape design element.

6.3 Commemorative plaque

The following text for a commemorative plaque has been included in the Interpretation Strategy to mark the completion of works and acknowledge the community support for the use of Henry Lawson Reserve as a works depot during the under-harbour tunnelling between Blues Point and Barangaroo.

The following text has been provided by Sydney Metro.

From 2018 to 2022, Henry Lawson Reserve was integral to the construction of Sydney Metro City & Southwest.

This plaque marks the location of a 10 metre wide and 21 metre long vertical access shaft, dug 25 metres deep to where metro trains now run.

Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) Wendy and Mabel (1,100 tonnes each) were retrieved from the access shaft after completing their metro tunnelling from Chatswood. TBM Kathleen (975 tonnes) was twice retrieved here after completing the twin under-harbour metro tunnels from Barangaroo.

Following the TBM retrievals, the access shaft was then used to install the under-harbour tunnel rail tracks between Victoria Cross and Barangaroo stations. The shaft was filled in at the end of construction

Henry Lawson Reserve was reinstated and returned to the public in 2022. Thank you to the local community who supported this feat of engineering.

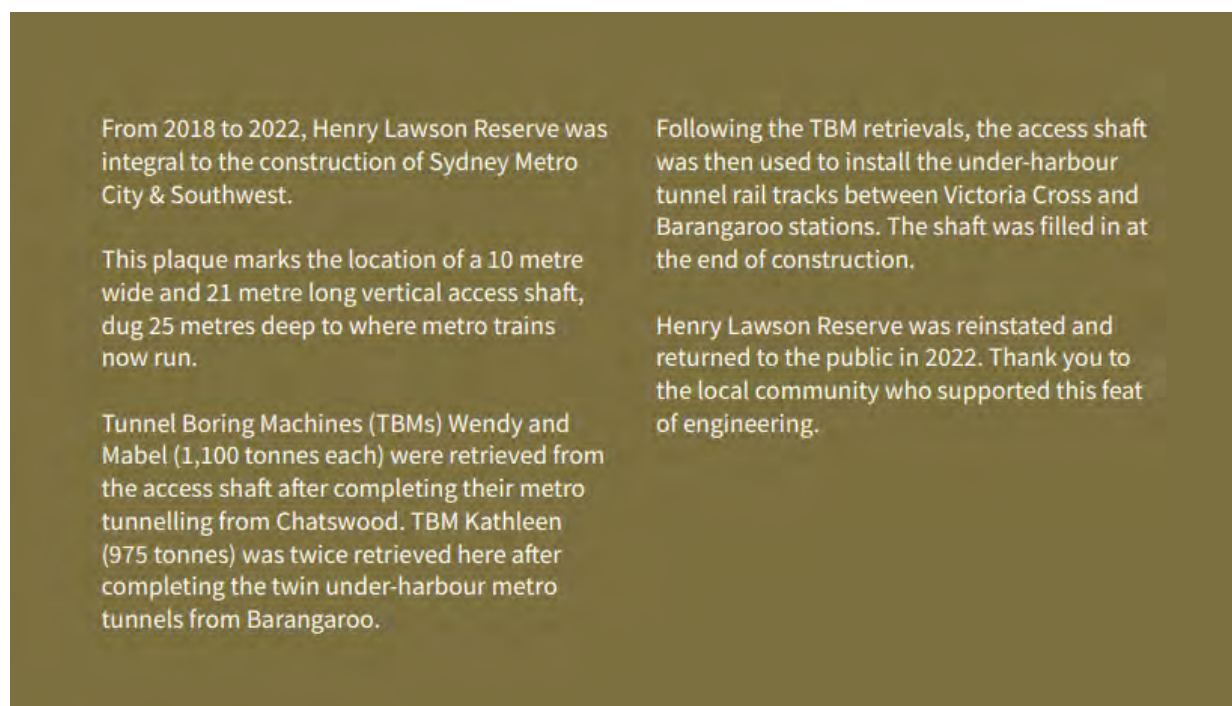


Figure 33: The design and specifications for the completion of works sign prepared by X2 Design are included in the visuals in Appendix 2.

6.4 Interpretation at Stanton Library, North Sydney Council

A future display of historical archaeological artefacts with interpretation of the excavation and findings will be possible at Stanton Library, North Sydney Council has been discussed with Dr Ian Hoskins, North Sydney Council Historian.

6.5 Locations for interpretation at Henry Lawson Reserve

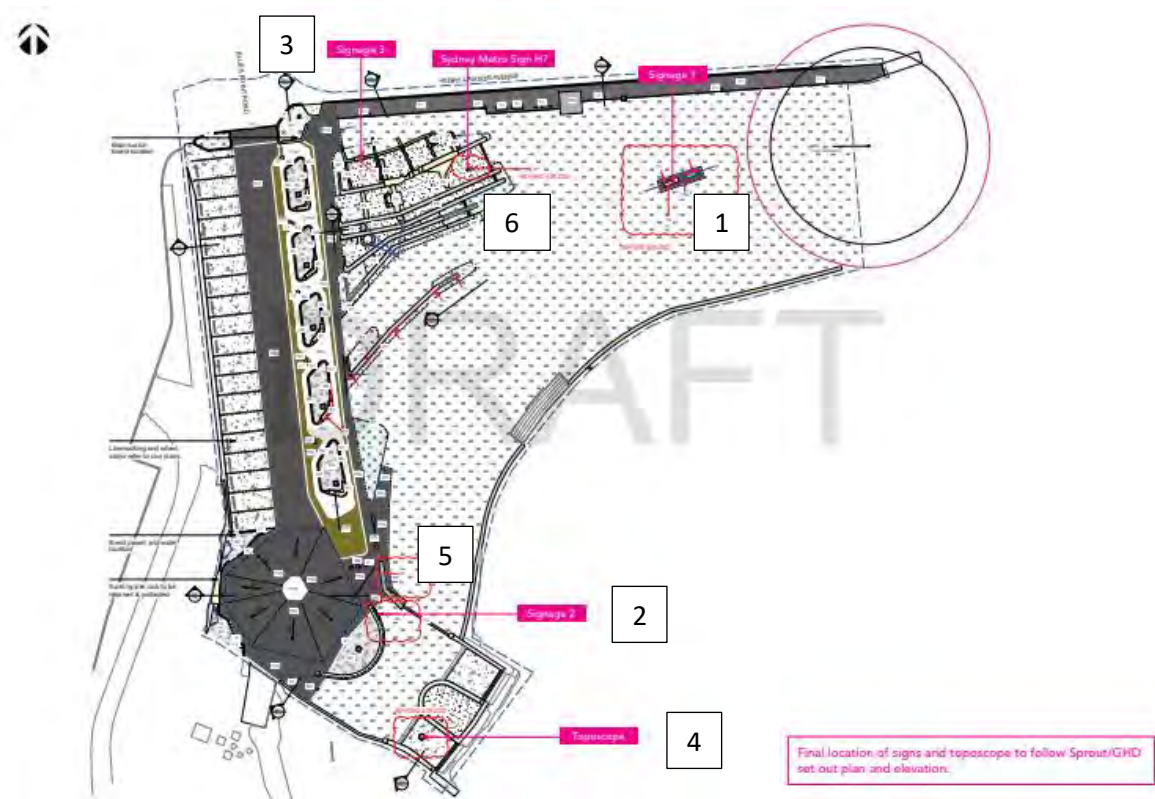


Figure 34: Proposed locations for interpretive elements at Henry Lawson Reserve, Blues Point, North Sydney.

- Location 1 Interpretive sign - Cammeraygal Country
- Location 2 Interpretive sign – Blues Point/Warungareeyuh
- Location 3 Interpretive sign - Wharf property
- Location 4 Toposcope
- Location 5 Henry Lawson quote sandblasted into low concrete wall
- Location 6 Commemorative plaque

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Recommendations for heritage interpretation

The following recommendations follow the proposed locations for interpretation in Henry Lawson Reserve as shown in Figure 37.

Recommendation 1

3 interpretive signs interpreting Aboriginal land, Billy Blue and the settlement of Blues Point and the historical archaeology of former residences on the site be provided in Henry Lawson Reserve to interpret the key themes and features of the site, including archaeology.

Recommendation 2

A toposcope with locations in dual naming linking the north and south sides of Sydney Harbour be provided as part of the interpretation of the site as part of the landscaping works.

Recommendation 3

Sand blasted text interpreting Henry Lawson's connections with North Sydney and his description of the former boat building activity along the foreshore of what is now Henry Lawson Reserve.

Recommendation 4

Recreate of the footprint of the Stevens' cottages in the ground plane in hard landscaping.

Recommendation 5

The following recommendation addresses the artefacts subsequent to their transfer to North Sydney Council. This is outside the scope of work for Sydney Metro.

North Sydney Council should be encouraged to present a display and create online content or a digital app with supporting information of the significance of the Aboriginal occupation and the Aboriginal and historical artefacts recovered from the excavation at Henry Lawson Reserve.

Recommendation 6

North Sydney Council could consider at a future date dual naming for the Henry Lawson Reserve to be developed in collaboration with the Aboriginal community.

8.0 REFERENCES

Casey & Lowe (2021) *Archaeological Excavation. Temporary Works Site. Blues Point Reserve, Blues Point, Sydney. Excavation Report*. Prepared for Sydney Metro City & Southwest.

Casey & Lowe (2018) *Sydney Metro City & Southwest – Temporary Works Site. Blues Point Temporary Works Site, Blues Point, Sydney. Preliminary report*. Prepared for John Holland CPB Ghella JV.

Casey & Lowe (2018) *Temporary Works Site. Blues Point Reserve, Blues Point Sydney Metro Project*. Report prepared for AMBS Ecology & Heritage on behalf of John Holland CPB Ghella JV and Sydney Metro City & Southwest.

Ian Duffield (1999) *Billy Blue: Power, Popular Culture and Mimicry in Early Sydney* in *Journal of Popular Culture*, Vol. 33, Issue 1 (Summer) pp. 7-22.

Dr Ian Hoskins. *Aboriginal North Sydney*. Accessed online at https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Library_Databases/Heritage_Centre/Leaflets_Walks_Publications/Aboriginal_North_Sydney

North Sydney Heritage Centre, n.d. North Sydney Heritage Leaflet. *Boatbuilding in North Sydney*.

North Sydney Heritage Centre. North Sydney History Walk. *Henry Lawson's North Sydney*.

Tim Owen, Beth Hise, Sam Player and Michael Ingrey (2020) *The procurement and use of River Thames flint by Sydney's Aboriginal people* in *Australian historical archaeology*, *Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology*, pp.5-17.

Cassandra Pybus (2007) *Billy Blue: An African American Journey through Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century* in *Early American Studies*: Fall, pp.252-287

Presentation for Aboriginal consultation prepared by AMBS ecology.

Websites

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Library_Databases/Heritage_Centre/Leaflets_Walks_Publications/Heritage_Leaflets

01_North_Sydneys_Aboriginal_Past_revised_2016%20(1).pdf

028_Taking_the_Ferry%20(3).pdf

9.0 IMAGE SOURCES FOR PRODUCTION OF INTERPRETATION

Fees and charges will apply for the supply of high-resolution TIFF files.

IMAGES FOR SIGN 1

State Library of NSW is the agent for British Museum of Natural History images

(Refer Figure 1)

Cameragal the chief of the most powerful Tribe in New South Wales by Thomas Watling (1762 – 1814) First Fleet artwork collection, Port Jackson Painter Watling Drawing No 53, British Museum of Natural History, London.

(Refer Figure 2)

Nouvelle-Hollande: Nouvelle Galles Du Sud, grottes, chasse et pêche [des sauvages] du Port-Jackson* by Auguste Delvaux (b. 1786) after Charles Alexandre Lesueur (1778-1846). From *Voyage de découvertes aux terres Australes* by François Péron, 1824. State Library of NSW. Q/82/41.

Online ordering from the State Library of NSW:

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/using-library/ordering-digital-images-and-archival-prints>

Aboriginal archaeologist, Chris Langeluddecke from AMBS Pty Ltd is the contact for obtaining high-resolution images for flint artefacts. At his request, the words 'des sauvages' are to be excluded from the title of the artwork on the interpretive sign.

IMAGES FOR SIGN 2

(Refer Figure 6)

Billy Blue 1834 by J B East, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW ML 560.

(Refer Figure 12)

Detail from *Map of Sydney* printed by H C Robinson Ltd, circa 1930, showing the route of the 'horse ferry' between Dawes Point and Blues Point, Map Collection, State Library of NSW, a8323001u.

Online ordering from the State Library of NSW:

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/using-library/ordering-digital-images-and-archival-prints>

(Refer Figure 7)

Map of that part of the North Shore of Port Jackson which is opposite to Sydney 1828, by John Thompson, State Archives and Records NSW, [Surveyor General; NRS 13859, Maps and Plans 1792-1880, S.801 [SZ467].

Online ordering from the State Library of NSW:

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/using-library/ordering-digital-images-and-archival-prints>

(Refer Figure 13)

Loading the vehicular horse ferry at Blues Point ferry wharf, City of Sydney Archives A-00076337, n.d. This vessel was in service between 1883 and 1921, superseded by larger ferries capable of carrying the heavier weight of motorised vehicles.

This item is in copyright. Contact the City of Sydney Archives for a copy and permission to reproduce. Source system ID 079/079005

Contact the City of Sydney through their website

<https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/>

<https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/messages/create/697320>

IMAGES FOR SIGN 3

(Refer Figure 9)

Looking south-west to Blue's Point, showing the roof of the Stevens' houses in the lower part of the image and the retaining wall all along the foreshore, photograph by F A Coxhead, 1873. Small Picture File SPF/934, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW.

Online ordering from the State Library of NSW:

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/using-library/ordering-digital-images-and-archival-prints>

(Refer Figure 24)

Plan of the archaeological excavation

Plan of the 3 cottages built by Stevens on the site of Henry Lawson Reserve, excavated by Casey & Lowe, 2018, Casey & Lowe (2021), p.70.

Images of artefacts from series DSC 4172 to DSC 4385

Contact Casey & Lowe archaeologists at Plan of the 3 cottages built by Stevens on the site of Henry Lawson Reserve, excavated by Casey & Lowe, 2018, Casey & Lowe (2021), p.70.

HENRY LAWSON TEXT

Source of the text:

Besides road, wharf, jetty and landing place, there is a little sandy beach, round by the shipsmith's shop, where is driftwood on a tiny scale and flotsam in the shape of butter boxes, fruit cases, occasional bottles, etc from ocean-going craft. This is accessible by means of a tiny punt and ditto dinghy, belonging to the shipsmith's boys.

From Henry Lawson in *Elder Man's Lane. V – The Kids in The Bulletin*, Vol.34. No 1740,19 June 1913, p. 47

APPENDICES

The following documents support this Strategy and should be read in conjunction with it:

APPENDIX 1

Henry Lawson Reserve - Consultations

APPENDIX 2

Henry Lawson Reserve - Visuals for heritage interpretation signage prepared by X Squared [X2] Design Pty Ltd

APPENDIX 3

Henry Lawson Reserve – Visuals for Toposcope prepared by X Squared [X2] Design Pty Ltd.

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RECORDS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH
REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTIES,
NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
AND HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEMO



DATE: 12/05/22

AMBS Ref: 21960 M1

TO: James Knight, Mott MacDonald

FROM: Chris Langeluddecke, AMBS Ecology & Heritage

SUBJECT: Henry Lawson Reserve interpretation Aboriginal community consultation process

Consultation for the Henry Lawson Reserve interpretation project has been undertaken in compliance with the Heritage NSW *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The following consultation with Aboriginal community stakeholders was undertaken in support of the project:

- 1/10/21 Initial emails were sent to all Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the Sydney Metro project. The initial contact was to introduce the project and outline its scope, and inform potential interested community members of the intent to hold an online meeting soon. RAPs were invited to notify AMBS of other Aboriginal community members or organisations who might be interested in the project and should be consulted with. Emails were sent to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC), Tocomwall Pty Ltd, Darug Land Observations, Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation, Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group, Woronora Plateau Gundangarra Elders Council, Aboriginal Archaeology Service, Gundungurra Tribal Technical Services, Darug Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments, Bilinga Cultural Heritage Technical Services, Gunyuu Cultural Heritage Technical Services, Munyunga Cultural Heritage Technical Services, Murrumbul Cultural Heritage Technical Services, Wingikara Cultural Heritage Technical Services, and Duncan Suey & Associates.
- 6/10/21 Response from Ryan Johnson of Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation, asking that the upcoming meeting invitation be sent to him.
- 7/10/21 Response from Kadi Kahn of Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group, asking that the upcoming meeting invitation be sent to them, and that they would attend.
- 14/10/21 Community consultation meeting invitation sent to all RAPs by email. Meeting to be held online via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.
- 15/10/21 Stefanie of Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group RSVP'd confirming their attendance at the meeting.
- 22/10/21 Emails sent to all RAPs who had not yet responded to the meeting invitation to remind them of the upcoming meeting.

Separate email sent to Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group to remind them of the upcoming meeting.

Phone call made to MLALC to remind them of the upcoming meeting. No response, message left.

Aboriginal community consultation meeting held online via zoom, attended by Kadibulla Khan of Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group.

Darleen Johnson of Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation contacted AMBS to apologise for missing the meeting.

12/11/21 Community consultation meeting invitation sent to all RAPs by email, to be held online via zoom due to covid restrictions.

Follow up phone call to MLALC to invite them to the meeting. No response, message left.

Phil Kahn of Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group RSVP'd confirming their attendance at the meeting

15/11/21 Follow up phone call to MLALC to invite them to the meeting. No response, message left.

18/11/21 2nd Aboriginal community consultation meeting held online via zoom. No Aboriginal community stakeholders attended.

1/05/22 Community consultation meeting invitation sent to all RAPs by email, to be held online via zoom due to covid restrictions. Including an invitation to notify AMBS of any local Aboriginal community members or organisations who might be interested in the project.

Follow up phone call to MLALC to invite them to the meeting. No response, message left.

8/04/22 3rd Aboriginal community consultation meeting held online via Zoom, presenting the currently proposed heritage interpretation design process, inviting discussion, feedback, comments and input. Meeting attended by attended by Kadibulla Khan of Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group.

28/04/22 Community consultation meeting minutes, copies of proposed visuals for signage design and layout, and details of the text to be used for review and comment forwarded to all RAPs their review, comment and input.

Agency	Agency Contact	Contacted by	Action Date	Method	Comments/Feedback from Agency	Response
North Sydney Council	Robert Emerson, Gavin McConnell, Jon Higlett, David Banbury, Ian Hoskins, Iman Mohammadi	Ash Jarvis	24/03/2022	Design review meeting and presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heritage designs: Sydney Metro to supply final heritage interpretation design to Council following Aboriginal consultation. Detailed text and graphics - Heritage report: Sydney Metro to provide final report - Artefacts to Council: confirm when and how the salvaged artefacts will be returned to Council. - Incorporate images of the non-aboriginal artefacts. - Interpret the various layering of the building materials (bricks etc) used in the walls etc. - Interpreting the edge / corners of the TBM retrieval shaft and some information about that / the metro work. - Final comments on the heritage interpretation will be provided after any changes from Aboriginal consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final design and Heritage Interpretation Plan report sent to Council 30/06/2022 - Sydney Metro recommend transferring artefacts to Council to manage their use/display - Images of the non-aboriginal artefacts incorporated into design. - Detail of the terrace provided to Council to give further context to the design - Locations of the shaft corners reviewed by Sydney Metro; some not in suitable locations, with potential tripping hazard, and may also crowd the adjacent interpretation items. Plaque referencing the metro works incorporated in agreed location.
North Sydney Council	Robert Emerson, David Banbury, Gavin McConnell, Jon Higlett	Waniel Plate torres	30/06/2022	Email	<p>Letter sent 15/07/22 advising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for incorporation of plaque interpreting the Metro excavation footprint /referencing the Metro Project in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plaque orientation to be adjusted as requested - Sign to be reoriented to landscape format

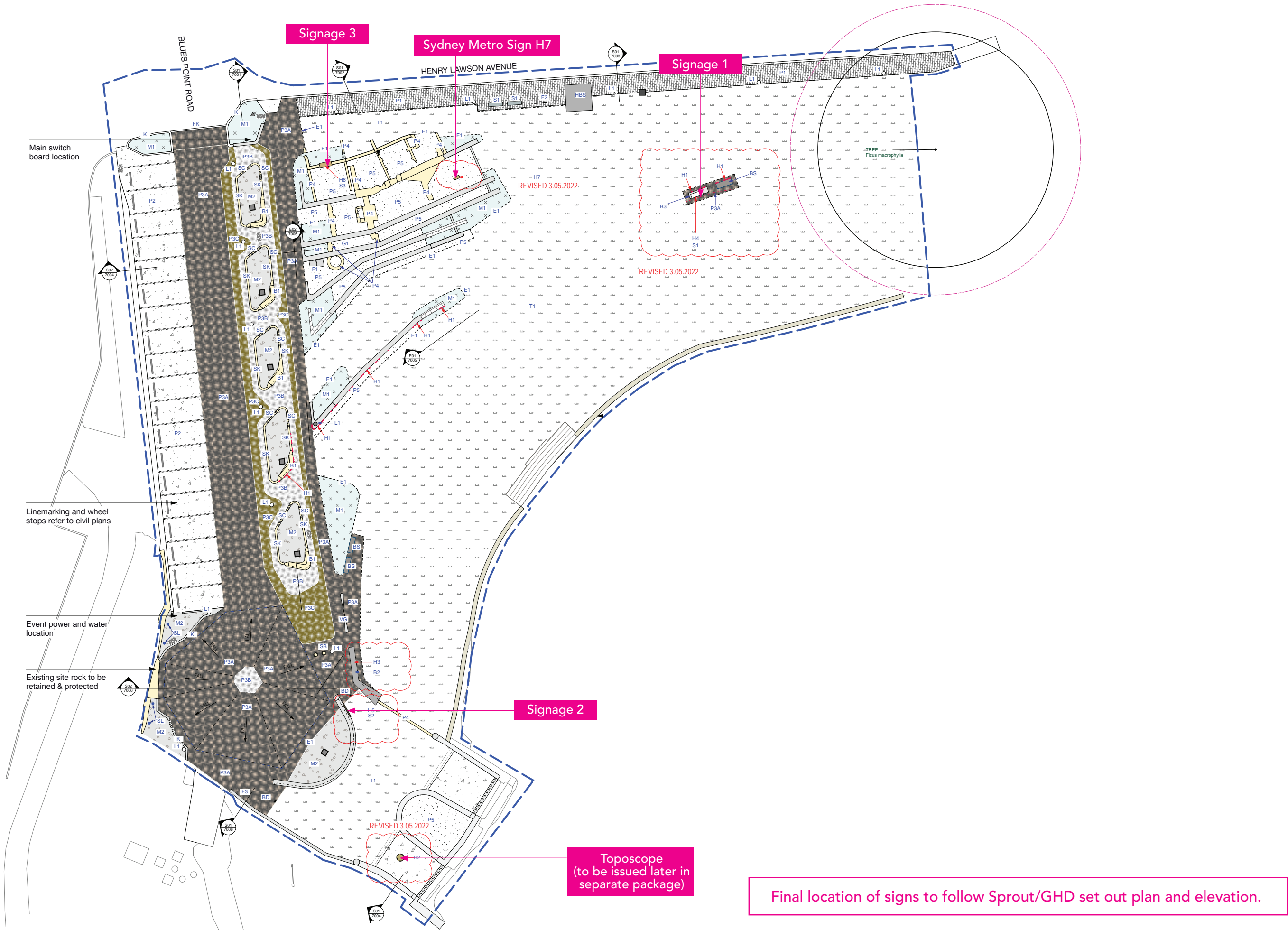
					<p>agreed location. Request orientation of plaque to be adjusted to reflect the alignment of the metro shaft geometry, rather than that of the 1840s cottage footprints. - Landscape format for the sign preferred.</p>	
Heritage Council of NSW	Rochelle Johnston, Senior Manager, Major Projects	Cath Snelgrove	19/07/2022	Email	<p>- Overall support for the Heritage Interpretation Plan. - Satisfied that the history and significance of Henry Lawson Reserve's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage is interpreted. No further comments, a few general recommendations: - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: a greater emphasis on the renewal of the natural and marine environment - Dual naming for the Reserve supported with further consultation suggested</p>	- Heritage NSW support and recommendations noted

Blues Point Henry Lawson Reserve Interpretation Signage

7 October 2022

Visuals for production

PREPARED BY X SQUARED DESIGN



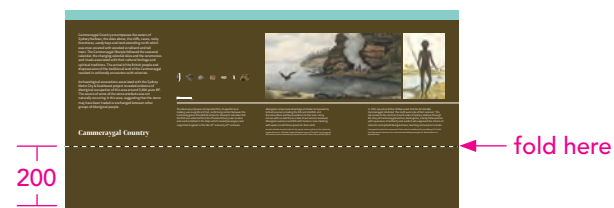
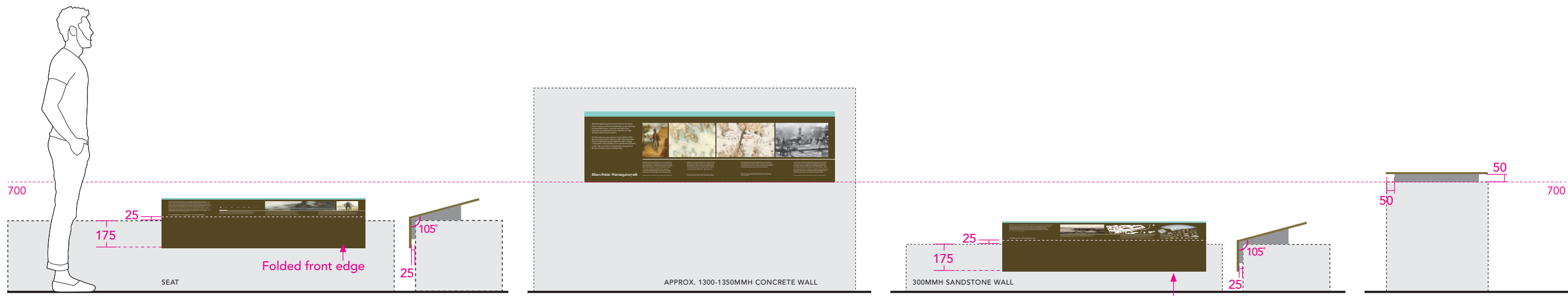
VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY

	X SQUARED DESIGN P/L 17-19 O'CONNOR STREET CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008 02 9810 8255 ABN 38-089-497-754	Drawn HZ	Project Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)	Drawing title Plan - signage locations	Project Number E351
		Checked	Address 1A Henry Lawson Ave McMahons Point NSW 2060	Date FEB 2022	Revision B
				Scale NOT TO SCALE	Drawing number G1.00a

© X SQUARED DESIGN. ALL DIMENSIONS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS TO BE CHECKED AND VERIFIED BY THE CONTRACTOR BEFORE CONSTRUCTION. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MM. DO NOT SCALE OFF THIS DRAWING. ANY DISCREPANCIES SHALL BE BROUGHT TO X SQUARED ATTENTION PRIOR TO PRODUCTION.

Final location of signs to follow Sprout/GHD set out plan and elevation.



Sign 1
1300mmw x 650mmh
1 off

6mm brass panel, florentine patina finish. Round off sharp edges on all corners.

Direct UV flat-bed print texts and images on brass panel, print white under the images. Finish with optically clear matt protective coating.

Front edge to be folded 105 degrees over seating. Sign fixing to be provided by Sprout/GHD.

Sign 2
1600mmw x 450mmh
1 off

6mm brass panel, florentine patina finish. Round off sharp edges on all corners.

Direct UV flat-bed print texts and images on brass panel, print white under the images. Finish with optically clear matt protective coating.

Invisible fix with brass pins to concrete wall, OR with stainless steel split battens. Provide spacer of minimum 10mm to create shadow line between the panel and the wall.

Sign 3
1300mmw x 650mmh
1 off

6mm brass panel, florentine patina finish. Round off sharp edges on all corners.

Direct UV flat-bed print texts and images on brass panel, print white under the images. Finish with optically clear matt protective coating.

Front edge to be folded 105 degrees over sandstone wall. Sign fixing to be provided by Sprout/GHD.

Awaiting verification and approval. To be issued later in separate package.

Toposcope
Diametre 650mm
1 off

10mm cast bronze plaque, background to be smooth with florentine patina finish, texts to be raised 2mm polished and finished.

Plaque to come with minimum 100mm threaded stainless steel pins, fix into the plinth/stand and packed with non-shrinking grout.

Plinth/stand to be provided by Sprout/GHD.

VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

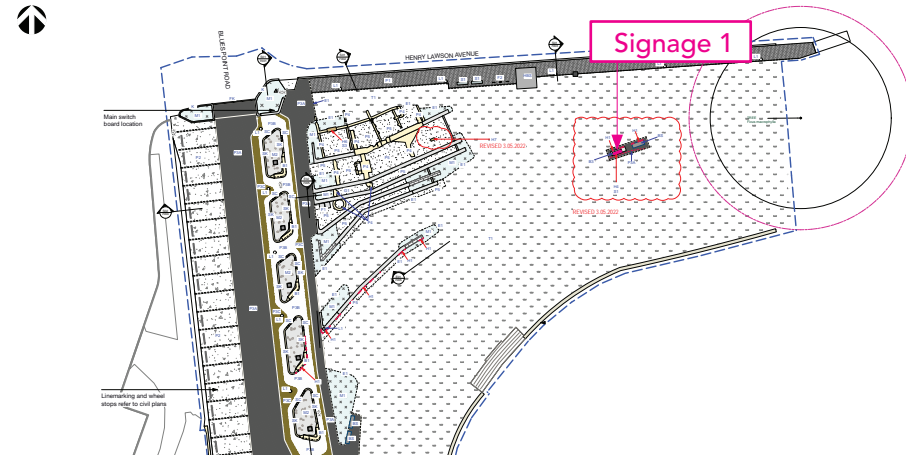
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY

	X SQUARED DESIGN P/L 17-19 O'CONNOR STREET CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008 02 9810 8255 ABN 38-089-497-754		Drawn HZ Project Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)	Drawing title Elevation - signage overview Project Number E351
	Checked Address 1A Henry Lawson Ave McMahons Point NSW 2060	Date FEB 2022	Revision B	
	Scale NOT TO SCALE	Drawing number G1.00b		

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Signage 1

Final location of signs to follow Sprout/GHD set out plan and elevation.



Cammeraygal Country encompasses the waters of Sydney Harbour, the skies above, the cliffs, caves, rocky foreshores, sandy bays and land extending north which was once covered with wooded scrubland and tall trees. The Cammeraygal lifestyle followed the seasonal calendar, the changing celestial skies and the ceremonies and rituals associated with their cultural heritage and spiritual traditions. The arrival of the British people and dispossession of the traditional land of the Cammeraygal resulted in unfriendly encounters with colonists.

Archaeological excavations associated with the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project revealed evidence of Aboriginal occupation of this area around 5,800 years BP. The source of some of the stone artefacts was not naturally occurring in this area, suggesting that the stone may have been traded or exchanged between other groups of Aboriginal people.

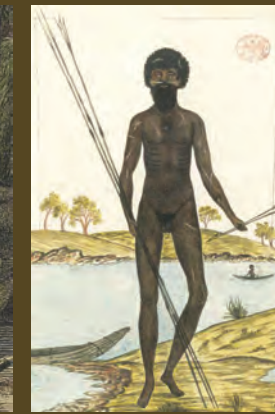


The discovery of pieces of imported flint, shaped for tool making, was a significant find, confirming contact between the Cammeraygal and the British colonists. Research indicates that the flint was collected from the Thames Estuary near London and used as ballast in the ships which carried passengers and cargo from England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Aboriginal camps took advantage of shelter and proximity to food sources including the fish and shellfish and the native flora and fauna endemic to this area. Using canoes with a small fire on a bed of wet sand or seaweed, Aboriginal women could fish with hooks or men standing with spears could throw spears for their catch.

Nouvelle-Hollande: Nouvelle Galles Du Sud, grattes, chasse et pêche du Port-Jackson by Auguste Delvaux (b. 1768) after Charles Alexandre Lesueur (1778-1846); From *Voyage de découvertes aux terres Australes* by François Péron, 1824. State Library of NSW. Q/82/41.



In 1790, Governor Arthur Phillip noted that the formidable Cammeraygal inhabited 'the north west side of Port Jackson'. This site connects the north and south sides of Sydney Harbour through the story of Cammeraygal woman, Barangaroo, a feisty fisherwoman with a presence of authority and wisdom who opposed the actions of colonists and upheld Aboriginal laws, teaching and women's rituals.

Cammeragal the chief of the most powerful Tribe in New South Wales by Thomas Watling (1762-1814) First Fleet artwork collection, Port Jackson Painter Watling Drawing No 53, British Museum of Natural History.

Cammeraygal Country

← Florentine finish brass panel

Sign 1
1300mmw x 650mmh
1 off

6mm brass panel, florentine patina finish.
Round off sharp edges on all corners.

Direct UV flat-bed print texts and images on brass panel, print white under the images.
Finish with optically clear matt protective coating.

Front edge to be folded 105 degrees over seating. Sign fixing to be provided by Sprout/GHD.

← Fold in brass panel

VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

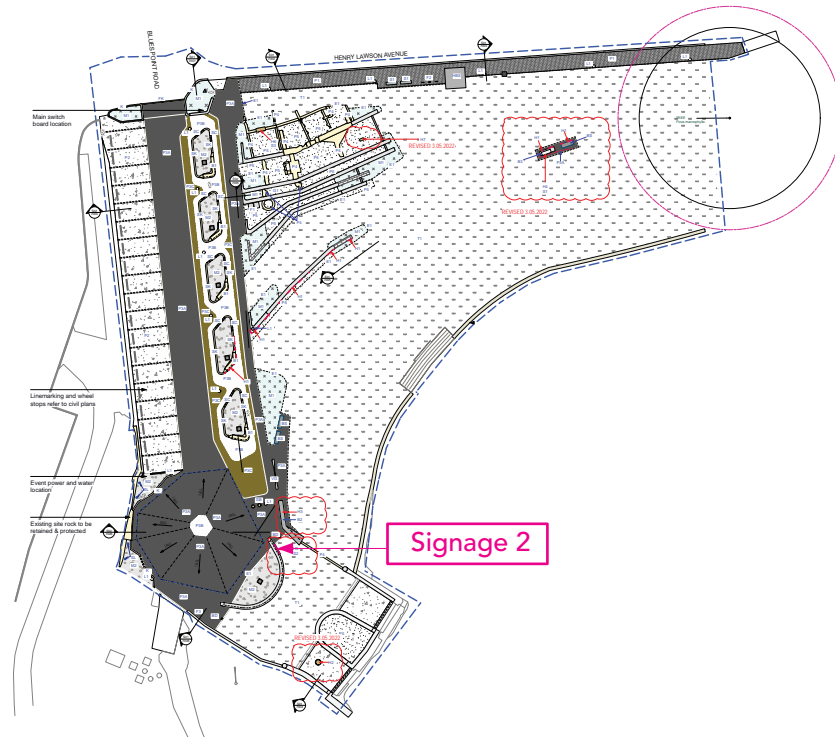
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY

X	X SQUARED DESIGN P/L 17-19 O'CONNOR STREET CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008 02 9810 8255 ABN 38-089-497-754	Drawn HZ	Project Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)	Drawing title Detail - signage 1	Project Number E351
		Checked	Address 1A Henry Lawson Ave McMahons Point NSW 2060	Date FEB 2022	Revision B
				Scale NOT TO SCALE	Drawing number G1.01

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Signage 2

Final location of signs to follow Sprout/GHD set out plan and elevation.



Sign 2
1600mm x 450mm
1 off

6mm brass panel, florentine patina finish. Round off sharp edges on all corners.

Direct UV flat-bed print texts and images on brass panel, print white under the images. Finish with optically clear matt protective coating.

Invisible fix with brass pins to concrete wall, OR with stainless steel split battens. Provide spacer of minimum 10mm to create shadow line between the panel and the wall.

While Aboriginal people had used canoes in the waters of Port Jackson and the Parramatta River to fish and trade for thousands of years, it was not until 1807 that a waterman was appointed to carry colonists in a 'tight and clean boat' across its waters.

The first waterman was a former convict, William 'Billy' Blue who had arrived in Sydney in 1801. Blue befriended Governor Macquarie who provided him with a cottage on the eastern side of Sydney Cove (now Bennelong Point). In 1817, Blue was further rewarded with a land grant of 80 acres on what is known as Blues Point.



Born in New York sometime around 1770, Billy Blue was described as a freed African-American slave and from all accounts, a colourful and eccentric character with a fascinating past. He was arrested in London in 1796 for stealing a quantity of raw sugar and sentenced to transportation for 7 years, 5 of which he spent on hulks, possibly in the Thames estuary.

Billy Blue 1834 by J B East, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW ML 560.

Billy Blue's land grant of 80 acres is shown on this bird's eye view of Port Jackson as a shaded area for cultivation. Some of his land included steep cliffs extending down to sandy foreshores which would have been difficult for agricultural use.

Map of that part of the North Shore of Port Jackson which is opposite to Sydney 1828, by John Thompson, State Archives and Records NSW.

Early attempts to provide a public ferry service linking the southern and northern sides of Sydney Harbour were unsuccessful, but as the northern shores were developed a reliable passenger service became a necessity.

Detail from Map of Sydney printed by H C Robinson Ltd, circa 1930, showing the route of the 'horse ferry' between Dawes Point and Blues Point, Map Collection, State Library of NSW.

In 1897, the Minister for Public Works approved funding for a 'horse ferry' service capable of transporting passengers and horse-drawn carriages and carts between Blues Point and Dawes Point on the southern side of the harbour. Blues Point was the main cross-harbour terminal on the north side during the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge between 1924 and 1932, when vehicular ferry services ceased.

Loading the vehicular horse ferry at Blues Point ferry wharf, City of Sydney Archives.

Blues Point · Warungareeyuh

Florentine finish brass panel

VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

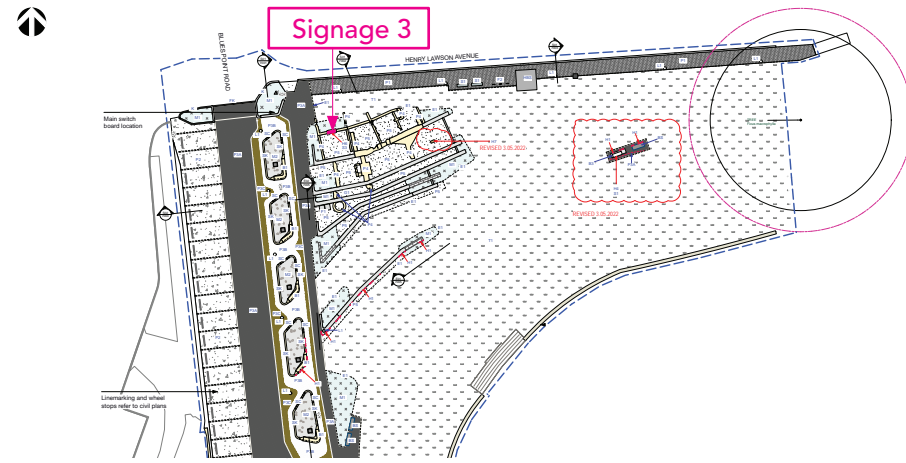
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY

X	X SQUARED DESIGN P/L 17-19 O'CONNOR STREET CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008 02 9810 8255 ABN 38-089-497-754	Drawn HZ	Project Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)	Drawing title Detail - signage 2	Project Number E351
	Checked	Address 1A Henry Lawson Ave McMahons Point NSW 2060	Date FEB 2022	Revision B	
			Scale NOT TO SCALE	Drawing number G1.02	

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Signage 3

Final location of signs to follow Sprout/GHD set out plan and elevation.

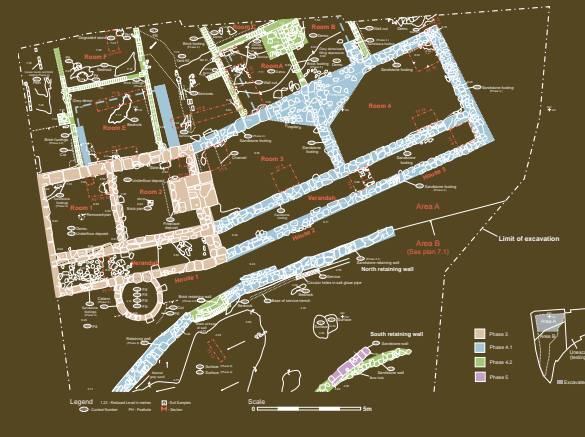


Within 5 years of Billy Blue's death, his son was advertising waterfront land and allotments at Blues Point, available for local businesses, boat builders, shipwrights, coopers and timber merchants. In 1867, 'shipwright' and pearler, John Stevens, purchased a portion of Blue's land. Although Stevens did not live there, he later leased out boatsheds built on the site and used the site as access to transport timber and fuel across the harbour. Stevens subsequently expanded his footprint on the site, altering an existing cottage and adding a multi-occupancy dwelling.



By the 1870s, Blues Point had become a busy location with residential dwellings set back from the foreshore, dominated by maritime activity including boat building and cargo handling. The roofs of Stevens' cottages are visible in the lower part of this image.

Blues Point, circa 1873. State Library of NSW.



Archaeological investigation of the site of the former cottages erected by John Stevens revealed their configuration and internal layout. Many domestic artefacts were recovered during the excavation which were consistent with their late 19th to mid-20th century residential occupation.

Archaeological plan showing the location of the footings of three cottages built on John Stevens' 'Wharf Property' (above). Domestic artefacts found in the cottages included tableware, personal accessories, children's toys, sewing implements, exotic shells and copper alloy nails possibly used in boat building (right), Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd



Florentine finish brass panel

Sign 3
1300mmw x 650mmh
1 off

6mm brass panel, florentine patina finish. Round off sharp edges on all corners.

Direct UV flat-bed print texts and images on brass panel, print white under the images. Finish with optically clear matt protective coating.

Front edge to be folded 105 degrees over sandstone wall. Sign fixing to be provided by Sprout/GHD.

Fold in brass panel

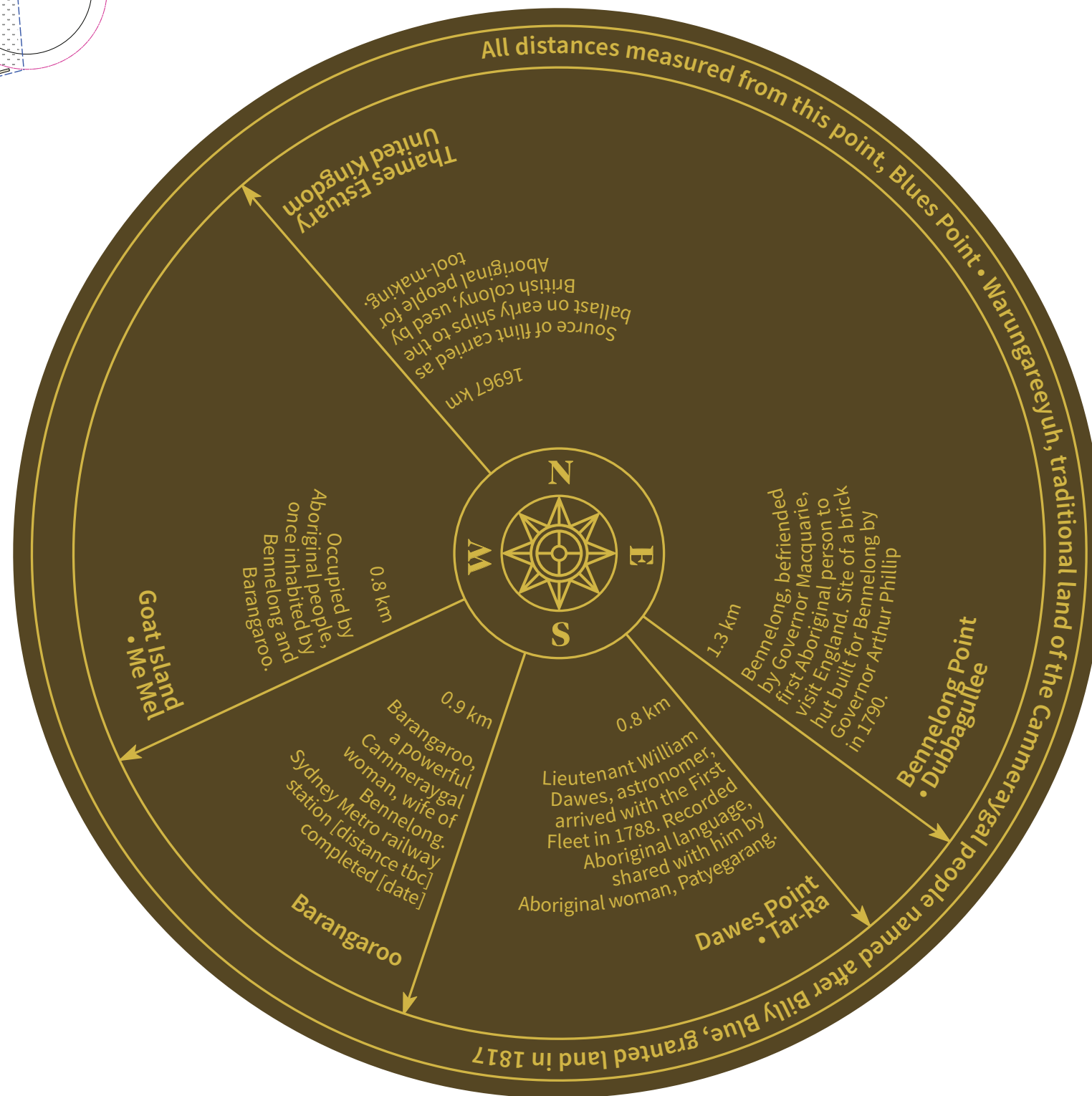
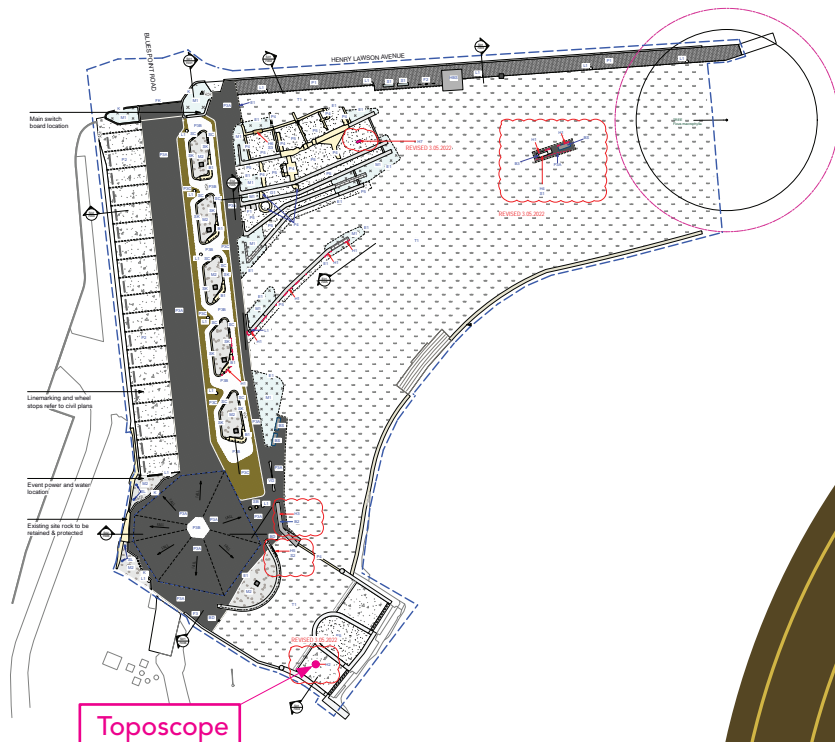
Wharf Property

VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY

X X SQUARED DESIGN P/L 17-19 O'CONNOR STREET CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008 02 9810 8255 ABN 38-089-497-754	Drawn	HZ	Project	Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)	Drawing title	Detail - signage 3	Project Number	E351
	Checked		Address	1A Henry Lawson Ave McMahons Point NSW 2060	Date	FEB 2022	Revision	B
					Scale	NOT TO SCALE	Drawing number	G1.03

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Awaiting verification and approval.
To be issued later in separate package.

Toposcope
Diameter 650mm
1 off

10mm cast bronze plaque, background to be smooth with florentine patina finish, texts to be raised 2mm polished and finished.

Plaque to come with minimum 100mm threaded stainless steel pins, fix into the plinth/stand and packed with non-shrinking grout.

Plinth/stand to be provided by Sprout/GHD.

VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY



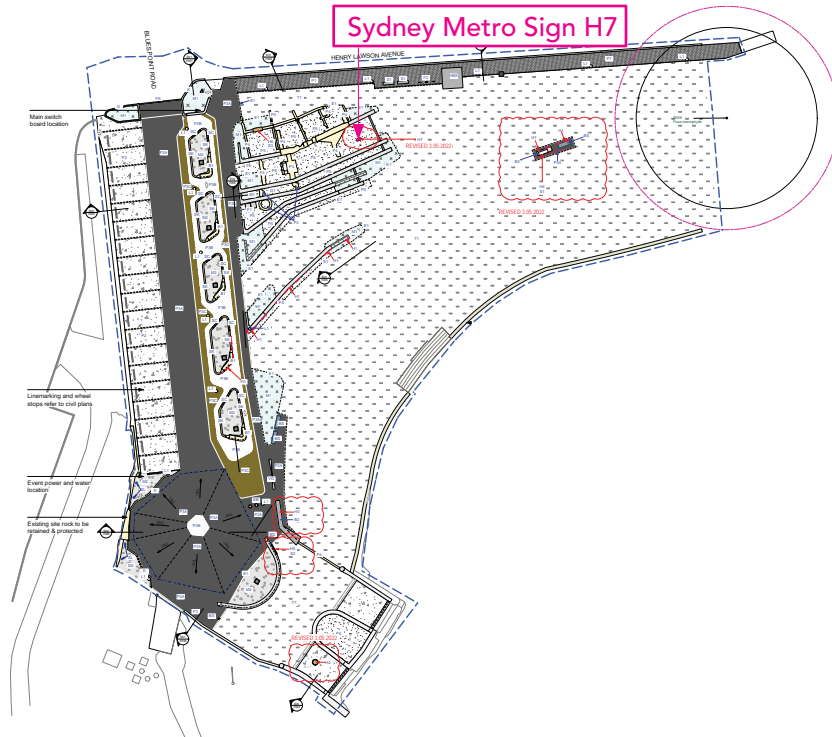
Drawn HZ Project **Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)**
Checked Address **1A Henry Lawson Ave
McMahons Point NSW 2060**

Drawing title **Detail - Toposcope**
Date **FEB 2022**
Scale **NOT TO SCALE**

Project Number **E351**
Revision **B**
Drawing number **G1.04**

Sydney Metro Sign H7

Final location of signs to follow Sprout/GHD set out plan and elevation.



Sydney Metro Sign H7
600mmw x 350mmh
1 off

Material: etched 6mm brass panel or equivalent
Fixing: Steel plate and threaded rod assembly set onto subsurface concrete footing
Location: Set flush in P5 granular pavement
Set out: to be confirmed on site

The above spec was provided by Mottmac. Please check to confirm.

Signage fabricator to provide shop drawing for approval prior to fabrication

From 2018 to 2022, Henry Lawson Reserve was integral to the construction of Sydney Metro City & Southwest.

This plaque marks the location of a 10 metre wide and 21 metre long vertical access shaft, dug 25 metres deep to where metro trains now run.

Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) Wendy and Mabel (1,100 tonnes each) were retrieved from the access shaft after completing their metro tunnelling from Chatswood. TBM Kathleen (975 tonnes) was twice retrieved here after completing the twin under-harbour metro tunnels from Barangaroo.

Following the TBM retrievals, the access shaft was then used to install the under-harbour tunnel rail tracks between Victoria Cross and Barangaroo stations. The shaft was filled in at the end of construction.

Henry Lawson Reserve was reinstated and returned to the public in 2022. Thank you to the local community who supported this feat of engineering.

6mm brass panel or equivalent

VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY



X SQUARED DESIGN P/L
17-19 O'CONNOR STREET
CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008
02 9810 8255
ABN 38-089-497-754

Drawn HZ Project **Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)**
Checked Address **1A Henry Lawson Ave
McMahons Point NSW 2060**

Drawing title **Detail Sydney Metro Sign H7** Project Number **E351**
Date **FEB 2022** Revision **B**
Scale **NOT TO SCALE** Drawing number **G1.05**

Blues Point Henry Lawson Reserve Interpretation Signage

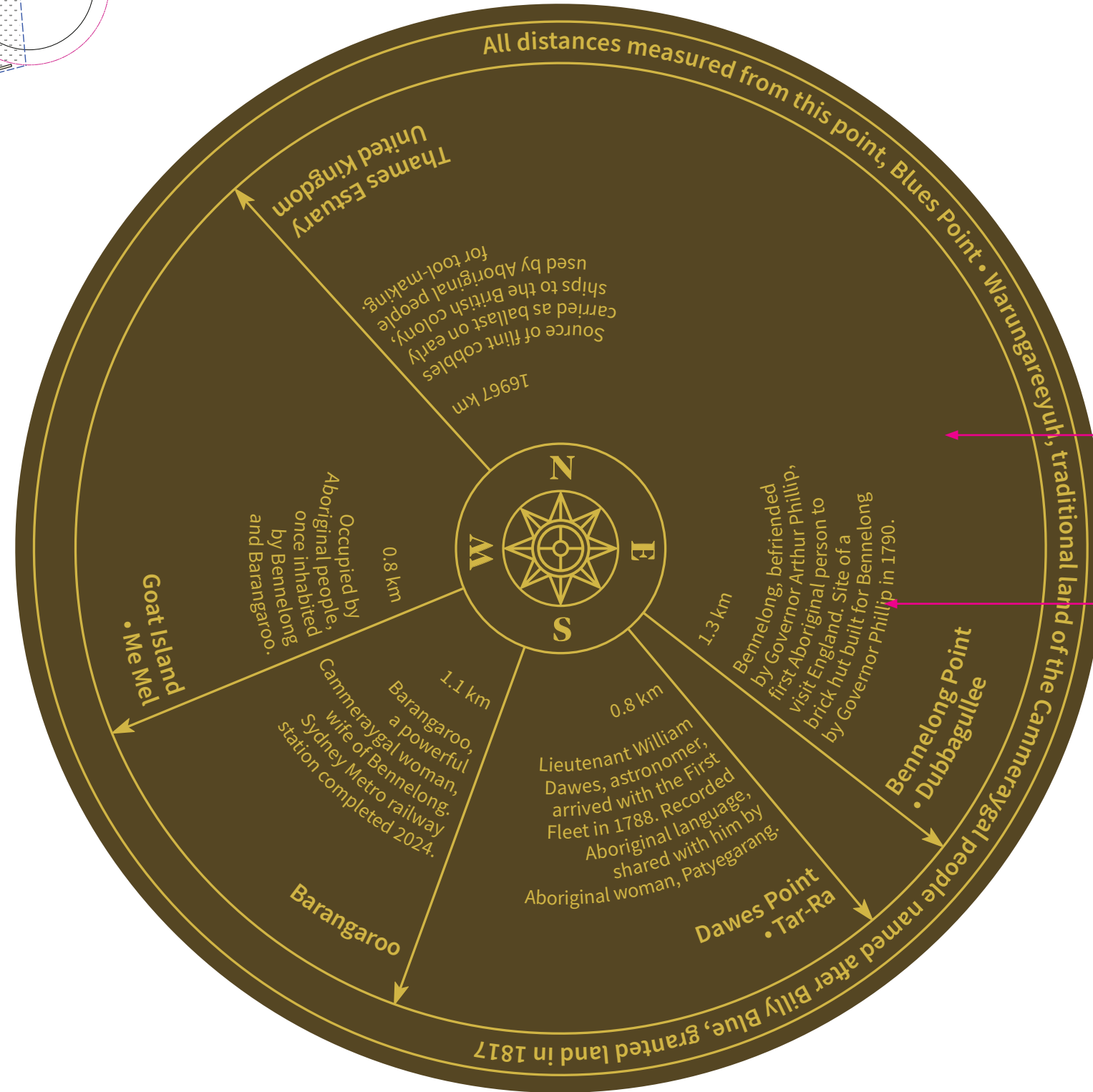
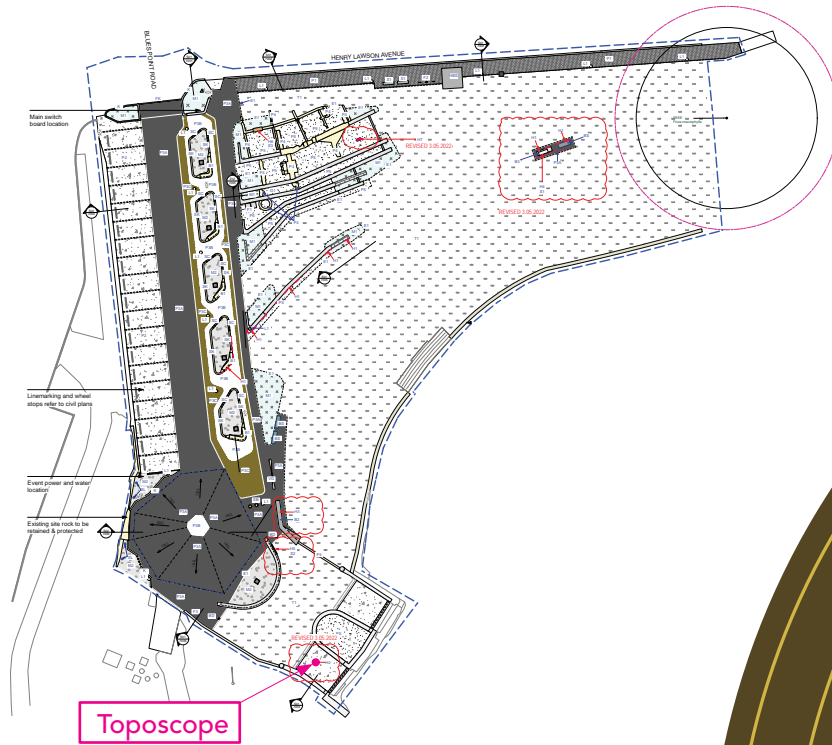
17 October 2022

Visuals for production
Toposcope

PREPARED BY X SQUARED DESIGN

Toposcope

Final location of toposcope to follow Sprout/GHD set out plan and elevation.



Smooth with florentine finish

Raised with polished and lished finish to create contrast to the florentine finish

Toposcope
Diametre 650mm
1 off

10mm cast bronze plaque, background to be smooth with florentine patina finish, texts to be raised 2-3mm polished and lished.

Plaque to come with minimum 100mm threaded stainless steel pins, fix into the plinth/stand and packed with non-shrinking grout.

Plinth/stand to be provided by Sprout/GHD.

VISUALS FOR PRODUCTION

17 OCTOBER 2022

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY

	X SQUARED DESIGN P/L 17-19 O'CONNOR STREET CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008 02 9810 8255 ABN 38-089-497-754	Drawn HZ	Project Blues Point (Henry Lawson Reserve)	Drawing title Detail - Toposcope	Project Number E351
	Checked	Address 1A Henry Lawson Ave McMahons Point NSW 2060	Date FEB 2022	Revision B	Drawing number G1.04
			Scale NOT TO SCALE		

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Fil Cerone
Director of Sustainability, Environment and Planning
Sydney Metro
Level 43, 680 George Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000

16/09/2022

Subject: Blues Point Heritage Interpretation Plan

Dear Mr. Cerone,

I refer to your submission dated 13 September 2022, of the Blues Point Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) (Issue 5, 12 September 2022) issued to the secretary for information in accordance with CSSI 7400 Condition of Approval E21.

I note the HIP:

- has been prepared in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties, North Sydney Council and the Heritage Council of NSW;
- has been reviewed by Sydney Metro and no issues have been raised with the Department; and
- contains the information required by the conditions of approval.

The Department has carefully reviewed the document and is satisfied that it meets the requirements of the relevant conditions in CSSI 7400 Conditions of Approval.

You are reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between the HIP and the conditions of approval, the conditions prevail.

Please ensure you make the document publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Ellena Tsanidis at ellena.tsanidis@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Grant Brown
A/Team Leader - Rail
Infrastructure Management

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

