

March 2018.

The document is based on the NSW OEH State Heritage Register Nomination Form. Its contents form the basis of the SHR nomination form:

PROPOSED SHR NOMINATIONS

(4) **Balls Head Reserve**

A. Nominated place (s)

1. Name

Name:

Balls Head Reserve

Other or former name(s):

Aboriginal: No name recorded in the historical records. Mistakenly called Yerroulbine in local signage. This naming is not supported in Attenbrow which lists Yerroulbine as a version of Yululbin referring to (Long Nose Point) directly opposite.¹

European: Balls Head (reserve). Named after Lt Lidgbird Ball, First Fleet naval officer and one of those who explored the north shore of Sydney Harbour. There are no records of his having left or arrived at this site on his expeditions but interestingly David Collins made much of Ball's friendship to Gameraigal man Carradah who must indeed have been familiar with the headland.

2. Location

Street address:

Balls Head Drive, Waverton.

Alternate address:

Headland tip, extending south of Waverton Peninsula within upper Sydney Harbour between Blues Point / McMahons Point to the east and Manns Point/Greenwich Peninsula to the west.

Local government area:

North Sydney Council

Land parcel(s):

Lot 106, DP 1162898 (Six Maps)

Co-ordinates:

Latitude: -33.846713

Longitude: 151.195051

Zoning

E2- Environmental Conservation

3. Extent of Nomination

Curtilage map of nominated area:

¹ Val Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past, Investigating the archaeological and historical records*, UNSW Press, Sydney, second edition, 2010, p.10.



Includes Balls Head Reserve and an essential area of its view catchment.

Source of map or plan:

(01) SIX Maps - NSW Government Spatial Services, 2018 (**Figure 1**)

(02) Sydney Harbour SHR Nominations AILA NSW: indicative Visual Catchment Diagram - MHQ, 2018.

Boundary description (in words):

The (reduced) boundary follows a waterline set offshore in Sydney Harbour (and Berrys Bay) which extends out from the shoreline of Balls Head Reserve. To the north it is bounded by: the property of the Quarantine Station; a finger of land encompassed by Balls Head Drive; and the Former Coal Loader site.

The larger hatched boundary contains the immediate view catchment of the place. This takes in panoramic scenes as follows; looking to the south, *Me-mel* Goat Island, Simmons Point and Ballast Point; to the west, Yurulbin; to the north-west, Manns Point and Berry Island; to the north-east, Berrys Bay, Carradah Park, the Berry's Stone Storehouse Archaeological Area, Waverton Park; to the east, Sawmillers Reserve, Blues Point Reserve, the Harbour Bridge and to the south-east Dawes Point.

4. Ownership

Name of owner(s):

North Sydney Council

Contact person: David Banbury

Contact position: Landscape Architect

Postal address: North Sydney Council

Phone number: 9936 8100

Owner explanation: 'The whole of Waverton Peninsula deserves recognition including Balls Head and the Coal Loader, and also Berry Island.' Nominated at the Landscape Heritage Workshop for the study, 14 March 2016 hosted by MHQ and ALHG for AILA NSW.

B. Significance

5. Why is it important in NSW

Statement of state significance

Balls Head Reserve is of State significance as a landmark feature, a promontory of Sydney Harbour valued for its aesthetic distinctiveness. Intact as a natural, rocky, sandstone headland and shore, its bushland appearance, cliff lines, and prominent forested ridge, evocative of 1788, is pivotal to reimagining the harbour as it once was.

Balls Head Reserve is valued as a place that provides insights into Aboriginal industry, creative and spiritual engagement with the environment and occupation pre and post contact. Middens, rock shelters, artefacts and artworks of cultural significance to Indigenous people and scientific groups survive intact despite proximity to the epicenter of European colonization.

Commanding panoramic views, of exceptional and dramatic quality, gained from along its elevated edges and highpoints, have generated an indelible appreciation of its physical and aesthetic characteristics. Extensive vistas up and down the harbour, to its southern shores, to the Harbour Bridge and Sydney city skyline, and views over its north-eastern slopes have inspired a high degree of creative expression. Important works include those by significant artists Conrad Martens, Lloyd Rees and Roland Wakelin, eminent landscape architect Bruce Mackenzie and poetry by Henry Lawson one of Australian's best-known writers.

The tree covered crest and slopes of the Reserve connect to parkland on Waverton peninsula, those on Berrys Bay and adjacent bays and headlands particularly Berry Island. Collectively they form a natural, vegetative harbourside fringe which significantly contributes to the overarching 'landscape beauty' of Sydney Harbour, its water plane and view catchmen. Balls Head is a pivotal element within this framework.

Balls Head is associated with a collective of early 20th century conservation activists' such as: Sir John Sulman pioneer of town planning in Australia; Annie Wyatt founder (1927) of the Tree Lovers League and National Trust movement in Australia (OBE); W.W Froggart renowned Australian Entomologist and founder (1891) of the Naturalists' Society of New South Wales; Waverton Progress Association members (established 1911 as the Bay Road Progress Association), one of the first such community action groups in NSW; David Stead,

an active and influential naturalist, President of the Australian Forest League in the 1930s; and North Sydney Councillor (1907 to 1936) and Mayor (1923 – 1926), Charles Watts. The place inspired them to connect and rally their respective advocacy groups as a broad-based environmental activist movement to lobby the NSW Government to regain Balls Head's for the lasting enjoyment of the public as a recreation area. Their sustained public outcries and actions which argued for its natural landscape, scenic and historical values to be protected, spanned the decades 1900s-1930s.

Balls head Reserve is of state significance in its demonstration of the activities and processes of the first 20th century Australian conservation movement campaign. Significant tree loss at the place awakened and galvanised widespread community awareness which impelled prominent activist groups to act as a collective. This led to the re-establishment of an authentic 'bushland' character in its valued although degraded area. As a largescale, organised, and continued response, the reforestation of Balls Head Reserve demonstrates the rare results of united environmental activism in New South Wales. Significant emergent conservationist groups and voices included those from the: Field Naturalists' Society, The Ku-ring-gai Tree Lovers League, the Australian Forest League, Waverton Progress Association and North Sydney Council, which culminated in an empowering tree-planting event in 1931 at Balls Head, attended by 2000. These actions initiated a long-term revegetation program and the restoration of Balls Head Reserve's natural character within its Sydney Harbour setting.

Comparisons:

Berry Island Reserve, has a similar shared history to Balls Head Reserve, this includes its natural landscape history, the development of its sandstone geology, landform, vegetation and soils. Close by, and although an island, it appears as a promontory within the cluster of headlands in the upper harbour zone. It has shared Aboriginal significance as a place of occupation, evidence includes rock engraving, middens and a burial. It has a shared European history as part of the Berry Estate granted to Wollstonecraft and Berry in the 1820s. Berry Island retains more of its natural landscape values in comparison to Balls Island its vegetation intact as a remnant community and not reconstructed.

Other comparisons are nearby headlands such as Yurulbin and Illoura Reserve which share the same sandstone geology as Balls Head Reserve and Berry Island, all form part of the cluster of headlands around Me-mel Goat island. The natural vegetation, shoreline and to a degree landform of these southern harbour places were greatly modified by maritime industry in the 19th century, their natural landscape values almost erased. Yurulbin and Illoura Reserve were reconstructed as parkland by the landscape architectural profession in the 1970s, their bush school ethos design inspired by the natural headlands of Balls Head and Berry Island. All make a significant contribution to the exceptional landscape composition of this part of the harbour.

In comparison to the southern foreshores of Sydney, it has a contrasting developmental history, modification of the northern shores occurring at a slower rate. In the case of Balls Head Reserve and Berry Island due to the fact they were part of the undeveloped foreshores of the Berry Estate they were only minimally changed over recent history.

With respect to community action to ensure the retention of public open space on the harbour the major comparisons are Carradah Park and Ballast Point. There was no similar Balls Head campaign of the 1920s and 1930s to protect the sites of Carradah Park, Berry's Stone Store Archaeological Area or the inspirational views of the place. There was a campaign of the 1920s however to purchase Ballast Point, but this was unsuccessful. Community endeavours to return these places to the public as parkland were finally realised at Carradah Park in the 1990s and Ballast Point in 2002, demonstrating the continuity of concern about the issue of harbour foreshores within the general community.

C. Description:

6. Existing place or object ²

Balls Head Reserve is located on the northern foreshores of Sydney Harbour within a 2.5 km radius of the City of Sydney. At 8.9 ha the Reserve encompasses Balls Head - a club-shaped headland which forms the tip of Waverton Peninsula. A narrow-necked land bridge connects the two. Largely intact as a natural landmark, its underlying geology is Hawkesbury Sandstone. The bluff is a rugged, exposed crest with steeply cut and rolling slopes, rocky terraces, broken scarps, cliffs, rock overhangs and boulders.

The Reserve's landform rises to 30m AHD. It is one of the most recognisable geographical features within the harbour's extensive waterplane. This is due to its physical scale, mass and height, and when contrasted to nearby headlands, bays and islands. Its southern edge of cliffs and rocky slopes - its widest face, fronts the harbour. The tree covered crest and slopes of the Reserve connect to parkland on the peninsula and those of adjacent bays and headlands. Collectively they form a distinctive, natural, vegetative harbourside fringe which significantly contributes to the overarching 'landscape beauty' of Sydney Harbour and its view catchment.

Influenced by its marine environment, Balls Head Reserve's surrounding waters are part of a large Intertidal Protection Area for Sydney Harbour, rich in marine life. Along its sheltered eastern and northern sides, stretches of beach link exposed sandstone and cliff foreshore. The western and southern foreshores have a sharper distinction, its bushland extending to the water edge. The waters encircling Balls Head are some of the deepest in Sydney Harbour.

² https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Bushland_Wildlife/Biodiversity/2010_Natural_Area_Survey

Evidence of Aboriginal response to landscape

Of the twelve (12) known Aboriginal NPWS sites on Waverton Peninsula, approximately seven (7) are in Balls Head Reserve. Many are of a fragile nature. Balls head Reserve includes middens, sandstone slabs embellished with Aboriginal rock engravings, axe-grinding grooves, rock shelter overhangs as occupation sites, sheltered stencil art and a burial.

Landscape character

The reserve has a naturalistic appearance. From the harbour, its sandstone cliffs, flat crest, steep slopes, large rock outcrops, rock terraces, fallen stone floaters and slabs, and rock overhangs, convey a rustic impression of the landform's 1788 state. Although exotic trees penetrate its native tree-line its remnant regrowth forest and headland heath dominate and are integral to the illusion that it is unspoilt.

A dense canopied bushland character envelops the place upon entering Balls Head Drive from the east. Its enclosed forested loop-road, its apex the elevated Annie Wyatt Lookout, channels visitors towards an isolated spine of amenities. A simple layout from the 1930s, this hub consists of a shaded picnic area (**Figure 10**), strip carparking, interpretative signage, a (circular) toilet block and a vantage point to the north - Froggart's Lookout, with plaque, now enclosed by a forest of *Angophora costata* smooth bark apple. The nuances of the Reserve include; cultural tree plantings of exotic and native species to its main area of *Araucaria bidwillii* bunya pine, *Podocarpus spp.* plum pine and a line of *Araucarias cunninghamii* hoop pine; a picnic area clearing which comprises a covered BBQ, picnic tables and seats and a river pebble bubbler; and along its steep coastal edge Depression-era trails with decorative castellated stone-edges and fences are features. Paths, stone steps, some hewn from rock, weave through-out the bushland skirting enormous boulders and crags. These routes, and more recent insertions, criss-cross the place. They connect open terraces, rock platforms, lawn clearings and rock shelters which open out onto exceptional panoramic views across the harbour's waterway. The Balusters Track provides access to the southern lower cliff slopes and rocky shore including the 'fishing rock.' Introduced specimens, native and exotic from the 1930s are likely those on the upper levels and crest near the flagpole (removed) terrace where trees such as *Eucalyptus pilularis* blackbutt and *Callitris spp.* native cypress, occur.

Views

Superior views of a high aesthetic quality are gained from along the elevated edges of Balls Head Reserve. This includes vistas from its south-western point and its southern-eastern upper terraces (**Figure 2**). Some eastern views are at water level (**Figure 3**). From Carradah Park views to its northern slopes are dominant (**Figure 4**). From its highest south-western edge western harbour views sunsets can be appreciated (**Figure 5**). Vistas extend (but not all

from the same place), sweeping clockwise from the east, towards Blues Point, Fort Denison, Vaucluse ridgeline, Garden Island, the Harbour Bridge, Sydney city skyline, Walsh Bay Wharves, Darling Harbour, *Me-mel* Goat Island, to the opposite shore inclusive of the headlands of Ballast Point and Yululbin, and, continuing to the south-west and northwest, Cockatoo Island, Parramatta River, Manns Point, Berry Island and Balls Head Bay. The expansive views, from numerous superior positions, are contained by the southern and northern ridgelines of the harbour's catchment.

From the waterways of the harbour the promontory is distinctive as a landmark. Highly visible as a geographical feature, its aesthetic qualities evident from adjacent southern and northern headlands, peninsulas and islands particularly *Me-mel* Goat Island, and from the Harbour Bridge.

Vegetation

The exposed headland supports vegetation communities of the Sydney Sandstone Complex - Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest as defined by Benson and Howell (1994):³ An ecological study of North Sydney, 2010,⁴ surveyed the Reserve's three vegetation groups. It identified an Open-forest community of Angophora Foreshore Forest on its moderate upper slopes characterised by sandstone outcrops (**Figures 6 & 7**). It includes tall trees of *Angophora costata* smooth bark apple, low trees of *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* blueberry ash and *Hakea dactyloides*, shrubs *Dodonaea triquetra* hop bush, *Notelaea longifolia* mock olive, *Pittosporum revolutum* yellow pittosporum, *Platylobium formosum* handsome flat pea, *Zieria smithii* and ground covers *Dianella caerulea*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Lepidosperma laterale*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Microlaena stipoides* and *Pteridium esculentum*.

On the Reserve's steep southern lower slopes (**Figure 8**) the vegetation community was recorded as Sandstone Foreshore Scrub, with a Closed-scrub structure. It occurs on the site's sandstone outcrops and cliffs. Its trees include *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (mainly), *Banksia integrifolia*, coastal banksia *Ficus rubiginosa* Port Jackson fig, *Glochidion ferdinandi* cheese tree and *Pittosporum undulatum* native daphne. Shrubs also include *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Glochidion ferdinandi ferdinandi* and *Notelaea longifolia*. Ground covers include *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Calochlaena dubia*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Gleichenia rupestris*, *Hydrocotyle peduncularis*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Poa affinis* and *Epacis longiflora* Native Fuschia. Vines include *Pandorea pandorana*.

On the Reserve's flat ridgetop is the Open-scrub vegetation community (**Figure 9**), *Kunzea* Scrub, located over an extensive, level sandstone outcrop. Its vegetation layer includes tall shrubs of *Kunzea ambigua* (mainly) and *Casuarina glauca*, and low shrubs of *Acacia longifolia* and *Grevillea linearifolia*. Its ground covers consist of *Dianella revoluta*, *Digitaria didactyla*, *Eragrostis brownie* and *Lomandra longifolia*.

³ Peter Smith and Judy Smith, North Sydney Council, Natural Area Survey, 2010, p.16.

⁴ Peter Smith and Judy Smith, North Sydney Council, Natural Area Survey, 2010.

There are no known vulnerable or threatened flora species in Balls Head Reserve as outlined in the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.⁵ The bushland forms an important link to Waverton Park and the privately-owned bushland of HMAS Waterhen.⁶ Locally rare plant species include *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Tuckeroo), *Desmodium rhytidophyllum*, *Calochilus gracilimus* (Late Beard Orchid) and *Liparis reflexa* (Yellow Rock Orchid).

Fauna

In 1999, the insectivorous Large Bent-wing Bat, a species listed as Vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, was first detected near Balls Head.⁷

Brushtail and Ringtail Possums occur in the bushland, their numbers affected by foxes. The possums 'play an important role in the ecology of the vegetation communities of Balls Head Reserve.'⁸ Birds such as the Noisy Miner and the Pied Currawong are common near the barbecue areas.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*, listed as Vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, has been observed flying over and feeding in the Reserve.⁹ In 2001, Council's Fauna Rehabilitation Plan outlined a table of species (**Table 1**) found in the place, including migratory species. It noted Ringtail Possums were abundant and twenty-three bird species were recorded of which five are exotic. Three species of skinks, two species of geckos and one species of frog were recorded.

Heritage Sites

Foreshore relics of ring bolts, an iron screen, steps to a harbour pool, a windlass spindle and a cabin relate to the early use of the area. Some represent early industrialisation on the North Shore, boat building on the waterfront, and Depression Era occupation. They are listed on the North Sydney Council LEP as the Balls Head Foreshore Relics Group (NSHS0691-0695).

Condition of fabric and or/ archaeological potential:

The bushland at Balls Head is generally in good condition due to ongoing bushcare management. The path systems, its picnic area and grassed terrace viewing areas show signs of wear and tear, their condition varies from moderate to poor.

⁵ North Sydney Council, Waverton Bushland Remnant, Balls Head Reserve, no date, p.4

⁶ North Sydney Council, Fauna Rehabilitation Plans Balls Head Reserve, Port Jackson Catchment, 2001, p.40.

⁷ North Sydney Council, Fauna Rehabilitation Plans Balls Head Reserve, Port Jackson Catchment, 2001, p.5.

⁸ Fauna Rehabilitation Plans Balls Head Reserve, p.41.

⁹ Fauna Rehabilitation Plans Balls Head Reserve, p.43.

Intensely used, the modified natural landscape has a medium-low archaeological potential to produce further evidence of Aboriginal heritage significance and non-aboriginal historical significance. Further investigation, research and assessment into its site types particularly in context of adjacent Aboriginal sites on Waverton Peninsula, Berry Island and Waverton Foreshore Reserves would provide an opportunity to understand the Aboriginal Heritage Office values and SHR values of the place holistically. An Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Plan as suggested by Phil Hunt, Archaeologist, from the Aboriginal Heritage Office, is a consideration to understand the archaeological potential of the place and for future management. This may lead to an approximate dating of occupational deposits at the Balls Head Rock Shelter and a contemporary understanding of its use by the Kameraigal.

Integrity / intactness:

The integrity of the park's bushland character is intact, under long-term management by Council and bushcare groups. These activities have assisted in maintaining the Reserve's vegetation since 1980. Weeds, found typically along its tracks, bushland edges and generally throughout the park, are a constant threat and require ongoing management.

Its built elements particularly pathways and lawn terraces are heavily utilised, they require rationalisation and a conservation program.

The exotic trees and shrubs of the Reserve planted in the 1930s and 1940s, adjacent to its roadway and throughout, are less intrusive on the natural landscape of the place as regenerating native communities have expanded to become the Reserve's dominant vegetative character. Native species from the 1930s tree planting activities have not been conclusively identified in this report or in known prior reports.

Modifications date:

1910-1920s: mature forest vegetation impacted by industry leaving remnants.

1926: tracks formed, and areas cleared of lantana in preparation for a dedication of the Reserve. Flagstaff believed to date to this event.

August 1930 – February 1931: loop road, carpark, picnic area, paths and steps, and feature stone fences constructed.

1931-1937: reforestation of reserve through a series of tree-planting events including of native specimens, some local, and other non-native species to the carpark and picnic area.

1935 (Wyatt) and 1938 (Froggart) lookouts constructed.

Other fabric added in the 1930s includes harbour pool & modified rock shelters for habitation.

1980s – current day: bushland regeneration programs.

1993: a formalised path system added.

All other changes have been incremental.

Date you inspected the place for this description:

19 September, 2016; 05 October 2016; 10 September 2017, 19 November 2017, 31 December 2017.

Current use: Harbourside parkland amenity

Original or former use: Aboriginal occupation; part of Berry estate.

Further comments: Context with Berrys Bay:

Part of the greater Port Jackson drainage catchment, Balls Head Reserve, the Berrys Bay Precinct, and Waverton Peninsula form the western arm of the Berrys Bay sub-catchment. Its eastern limits, the higher and broader McMahons Point ridge (peaking at 40m) drops gently to Blues Point. The view catchment of the Reserve, over the Bay, is contained by these ridgelines and enhanced by its foreshores clothed in vegetation (in places intermittently) particularly Carradah Park, Waverton Reserve, Sawmillers Reserve and Blues Point Reserve.

D. Historical outline:

7. Origins and historical evolution

Formation: Sandstone geology laid down in the Triassic Period, 252-201 million years ago (ma).

Designer / architect / Maker / builder: Prehistory / Depression Era gangs / Balls Head Beautification sub-committee.

Historical outline of place or object:

Balls Head was formed by the same natural forces that shaped Port Jackson. Its present-day estuary was broadly evident 7000 years ago (during the Holocene Epoch) when the sea level rose to fill-up Parramatta River's deep coastal valley. This became the extensive waterway of the Port, inclusive of Sydney Harbour, which enclosed the Balls Head landform (**Figure 11**).¹⁰ A dyke later formed during Jurassic Period volcanic activity (201-145 ma) at the neck joining Balls Head to the peninsula.

Balls Head's soils originated from its ancient Hawkesbury Sandstone geology (**Figure 12**). In an exposed position they were shallow, discontinuous with developed deeper pockets. The soil once supported open woodland-forests of red bloodwood *Corymbia gummifera*, narrow-leaved stringybark *E. oblonga*, scribbly gum *E. haemastoma*, brown stringybark *E. capitellata* and old man banksia *Banksia serrata*. Sheltered side slopes were covered by dry sclerophyll forest, consisting of black ash, *E. sieberi*, Sydney peppermint *E. piperita*, smooth-barked apple *Angophora costata* and black she-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis*. Tall open-forest and wet sclerophyll communities likely occurred in its sheltered areas and creases.¹¹

¹⁰ Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past, Investigating the archaeological and historical records*, p38.

¹¹ G.A Chapman and C.L Murphy, *Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100 000 Sheet*, Soil Conservation Service N.S.W., Sydney, 1989, pp.44-45.

Aboriginal History

The Cameraygal lived opposite Warrane (Sydney Cove). Russell argues that the 'Cameragal people of the rising uplands remained dominant in First Fleet times.' The Cameraygal were noted as being powerful, robust, muscular and the largest tribe, some named Car-rah-dy and Car-rah-di-gang were labelled 'extraordinary personages' who conducted 'initiation ceremonies.'¹² Evidence of the Cameraygal include several sites identified as occurring in the Balls Head Reserve. They require further systematic and detailed recording. A rock shelter on the promontory's north-eastern slopes, 18m above mean water-level, provides insight into the lives of early Indigenous inhabitants and their industry. The assemblage of stone artefacts in the shelter, 450 in total, include tools which were likely made and repaired by men (manufacturer waste flakes number 402); evidence of shellfish (Sydney rock oyster, the hairy mussel, the now rare if not extinct Sydney cockle, and the extinct mud oyster) gathered by women. The shelter has not been dated, its limited number of backed artefacts indicate a range of between c.a. 6000-4000 (when their manufacture gradually increased) and c.a. 1500-1400 years ago (when in the coastal zone and Sydney region, generally their occurrence stopped or declined).¹³ A burial in the shelter, not uncommon in Port Jackson, is of a mature woman, there is little to propose any ceremony for her interment. Some glass and lead artefacts indicate the shelter was occupied into the early colonial period.¹⁴

The Cameraygal engraved a group of figures (adjacent to the entrance to Balls Head Reserve entry and Former Coal Loader entrance), including of a whale and human shapes, NSW # 45-6-0026. First identified in 1843, they have survived to remain a highly significant place for Aboriginal communities and scientific investigation.¹⁵ These engravings are thought to be the product of sacred ceremonies, periodically re-engraved, as part of ongoing ritual and to pass on knowledge and stories.

In 1992, Gerry Bostock, a Bundjalung man from Northern New South Wales said of the Balls Head whale carving site: I go to white sources to find out about these people, but I put an Aboriginal meaning onto what they say... This is a place of learning, a place of ceremonies, a place where the whales were sung into shore. Whales beaching themselves in the harbour were a great source of food. The man in the whale is a clever fella. It looks like he's got a club foot, but that represents the feathers that he wore on his feet so he did not make footprints...Having no neck he was also the Creator...'¹⁶

¹² Eric Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, Southwood Press, 1990, p10-13.

¹³ Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past, Investigating the archaeological and historical records*, pp.101-102, and p.165.

¹⁴ Bowdler, Sandra, 1971. *Balls Head: the excavation of a Port Jackson rock shelter. Records of the Australian Museum* 28(7): 117-128, plates 17-21. [4 October 1971].

¹⁵ Godden Mackay Logan, *Waverton Peninsula Industrial Sites*, North Sydney Council, 2000, p.38.

¹⁶ Dr Ian Hoskins, *Sydney Harbour, A history*, University of New South Wales Press Ltd, Sydney, 2009, p. 9

The collective evidence of Cameraygal occupation extends across Balls Head and the western side of Waverton Peninsula. It indicates, broadly speaking, it was considered one place by its Aboriginal custodians. Indigenous culture, its evidence and the historical significance of the place to the Aboriginal community extends beyond the boundaries of the Balls Head Reserve to encompass the peninsula and other nearby places such as Berrys Island and Wollstonecraft Reserves which share significant heritage values acknowledged by this group.

European Discovery

In January 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip upon exploring Port Jackson chose Sydney Cove to initiate first European settlement in Australia. He led a party north, 15-18 April, from Manly Cove to assess the terrain for good land and fresh water. One group led by Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball (1756-1818), walked back to Port Jackson, arriving opposite Sydney Cove 17 April. In this first overland trek of the north shore a poor opinion was formed except for a small area a mile (1.6 km) inland to the north-west.¹⁷ Balls Head, it is believed was named after Ball on this occasion and that the party emerged near the place.¹⁸ Ball was an English Royal Naval officer, Commander of the First Fleet's HMS Supply, discoverer of Lord Howe Island and Balls Pyramid, and an early explorer of Port Jackson. Other places which commemorate his name include Balls Bay (Norfolk Island), Mount Lidgbird (Lord Howe Island) and Balls Head Bay (Sydney Harbour).¹⁹

European development

From the 1800-1830s the northern landscape of the harbour was sparsely populated, judged in a 'natural state because the poor soil and rough terrain were unsuitable for growing wheat or grazing cattle and sheep on a large scale.'²⁰ The earliest reference to European use of Balls Head was as 'garden ground' allotted 'above Balls Head for the use of the *Reliance*.' An 1806 letter makes clear Governor Hunter's involvement in this which would put the arrangement sometime between 1795 and 1800. The crew of the *Porpoise* subsequently farmed there (*HRNSW*, Vol.6 1806-1808).²¹

Edward Wollstonecraft (1783-1832), born England, and Alexander Berry (1781-1873), born Scotland, were business partners and shipping merchants who settled in Sydney ca 1819. As speculative investors they traded initially with England. In 1821, Wollstonecraft orchestrated that each were allotted adjoining grants of 2000 acres on the south coast at Shoalhaven River.²² Authorised by Macquarie at the end of his Governorship, Wollstonecraft bargained for his grant to include 524 acres on the northern shores of the

¹⁷ Eric Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, p11.

¹⁸ <http://dictionaryofsydney.org/person/carradah>

¹⁹ <https://www.lhimuseum.com/page/view/history/discovery> accessed 9/02/2018

²⁰ Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, p48.

²¹ Reference provided by Dr Ian Hoskins, North Sydney Council Historian.

²² Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, p50.

harbour, close to Sydney. They saw opportunities for the shorelines with deep water frontages. He named his grant Crows Nest farm, 'because from its highest part sweeping views of the harbour and countryside were possible,' he located his cottage 'on the brow of a ridge overlooking the Harbour, Town, & Botany Bay to the South.' The grant included Balls Head.

Although the grant was 'exclusive of rocks and sand' it pre-dated the 1828 reservation of 100 feet of foreshore land, the estate therefore included all its waterfront land from Gore Cove to Berrys Bay. The natural advantages of the Bay's western foreshores as a port facility prompted its early modification for commercial use. In contrast Balls Head and Berry Island remained, like most of the Berry Estate in a natural state. In 1832, upon Wollstonecraft's death, The Crows Nest estate passed to his sister Elizabeth, Berry's wife.

Creative inspiration

The landscape beauty of Sydney Harbour from the earliest days of the colony had stirred visitors and inhabitants to draw and paint its features. In the 1830s, the spatial quality of Berrys Bay's secluded and contained landform, its inspirational views, vantage points, and tranquil harbour waters attracted the interest of a fledgling artistic community. Balls Head, an important component of the Bay's scenic character was captured in many early renderings including those by Conrad Martens (1801-1878). A professional artist with an eye for topographical detail, Martens arrived at Port Jackson in 1835. He settled on the north shore and took advantage of its elevation which provided panoramic harbour views. In c.a. 1837 (**Figure 13 & 14**) and in 1840, Martens produced views of Sydney from the north shore, including over Berrys Bay towards Balls Head and Sydney, his works had an 18th Century European style influenced by Claude Lorrain. In the 1850s he experimented with lithographs, his first, one of his north shore vistas towards Sydney, printed in England achieved slow but eventual success.²³ These mass-produced vistas exposed the distinctive scenic qualities of the place to a larger market including that in Britain. They did not, however, always detail changes to foreshores. Rather the purpose was to juxtapose the natural attributes of the place in the foreground with distant vistas and busy coves beyond. So while some changes may have occurred at Balls Head these may not have been detailed in his works.

Upon Elizabeth's death in 1845 Berry inherited the Wollstonecraft estate, and while gradual subdivision occurred²⁴ little is known to have changed at Balls Head. Berry, in the 1850s and 1860s continued to activate and adapt the Berrys Bay western foreshores for mercantile

²³ Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, p.84, and <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/martens-conrad-2434> ; <http://www.uow.edu.au/~morgan/graphics/cmlitho.pdf> accessed 22 April 2017.

²⁴ Hoskins, Berrys Bay and Harbour Art.

shipping, leasing the land to two steam ship companies.²⁵ Alexander Berry died in 1873, his estate inherited by his brother David.²⁶

When David Berry died in 1889, he left an estate valued at £1,250,000, John Hay, a cousin became principal beneficiary²⁷ (**Figure 16**).²⁸ The will left many large bequests including for a hospital in the Shoalhaven.²⁹ Holtermann's photograph (ca 1870-1885) records Balls Head and Berrys Bay in this 19th century period (**Figure 15**). It stands intact as a surviving natural harbour landscape in comparison to those adjacent foreshores stripped of flora by extensive urban change. The image does capture small structures along Balls Head's northern waterline and a clearing to its south-eastern tip. After the passage of the *Colonial Naval Defence Act* of 1865, New South Wales acquired two torpedo boats which were stationed in the indentation of Berrys Bay adjacent to Balls Head, (near Berrys old store). This 'colonial navy' operated separately to the Royal Navy fleet stationed at Garden Island. Consequently, that part of Berrys Bay became known through the 1870s and 1880s as Torpedo Bay.

In 1906, foreshore sections of the Berry Estate including Balls Head and Berry Island were 'returned to public ownership in a transfer deal between the Berry Estate trustees and the State Government'.³⁰ Berry's land was acquired after an agreement was settled 'to build and maintain a public hospital at the town of Berry on the south coast.'³¹ Later that year, Woodleys Shipyard established itself adjacent to Balls Head.³² It had followed earlier shipyards such as Dunn's and Ford's.

Balls Head, Waverton Peninsula and Berrys Bay, in the early years of the twentieth century attracted interest mainly due to 'deep-water frontages considered suitable for industrial or commercial development.'³³ A Quarantine Depot (**Figure 17**) was established next to Woodley's in 1912, and the Coal Loader on the western side of the peninsula in 1913-17.³⁴ A metamorphosis of Balls Head bushland into a severely degraded state in this period, caused by large-scale industry, was not lost on the community. Henry Lawson (1867-1922), one of Australia's well-known writers, published a poem in 1916 'The Sacrifice of Balls Head', a lament and protest on behalf of the 'harbour people', its 'poorer families', at the 'sordid crime' of 'cutting down Balls Head. To make a wharf for coal.'³⁵

²⁵ GML, Waverton Peninsula Industrial Sites, CMP, p.62.

²⁶ ADB, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/berry-alexander-1773>, accessed 12/03/17.

Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, p.81.

²⁷ ADB, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/berry-alexander-1773> accessed 12/03/17,

²⁸ State Heritage Inventory for BP Site, (Former)

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4920094> accessed 12/03/17.

²⁹ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/berry-david-2983>

³⁰ Ian Hoskins, *A Short History of Balls Head and Berry Island Reserves 1906-1940*, 2016.

³¹ National Trust, National Trust Register Listing Report, Former Quarantine Boat Depot, 2015 also refer David Berry Hospital Act (1906) http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/dbha1906211/

³² State Heritage Inventory for Woodleys Boatyard

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4920101> accessed 12/03/17.

³³ Hoskins, *A Short History of Balls Head and Berry Island Reserves 1906-1940*, 2016.

³⁴ State Heritage Inventory for Former Coal Loader

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2180699> accessed 12/03/17.

³⁵ <http://www.ironbarkresources.com/henrylawson/SacrificeOfBallsHead.html>

Modifications such as ‘dredging and reclamation’ at Berrys Bay for the Quarantine Depot soon occurred.³⁶ In a shift of thinking about the harbour shoreline, Berry Island, close by, in 1916 was handed to North Sydney Council by the state government with a 15-year permissive occupancy agreement.³⁷

An artistic counterpoint to the industrialised harbour

Sydney’s artists became interested in the ‘picturesque’ qualities of the working waterfront at Berrys Bay in the mid-1910s. The high ground to the west of the peninsula afforded an ideal platform from which to paint or sketch. The small scale and rickety forms of the Dunn and Ford shipyards on the east side of the bay were featured primarily.³⁸ Balls Head, framed many inspired scenes.

In 1917, following the path of Conrad Martens and other early artists, Roland Wakelin (1887-1971), an artist and New Zealander arriving Sydney 1912, moved to Carr Street, Waverton. His painting ‘Down the Hill to Berrys Bay’, hints of early abstract paintings in Australia, had, in 1916, caused alarm.³⁹ At Waverton, Wakelin welcomed ‘the young and newly arrived Lloyd Rees’. Lloyd (1895-1988), from Queensland, came to Sydney at the invitation of Ure Smith, publisher and artist. In 1917-22 Rees stayed at his sister’s overlooking the harbour in Bay St, Waverton, his ‘first known oil painting of Berrys Bay dates to 1918. It was inspired by Wakelin’s ‘Down the Hill to Berrys Bay’ and was, indeed, acquired by Wakelin.

After Wakelin’s 1916 work, Berrys Bay was central to the development of a new artistic appreciation of the Harbour, one that celebrated the picturesque and formal qualities of working and modified waterfronts (**Figures 18 & 19**). This was very different to the juxtaposition of nature and culture evident in Martens’ work or the harbour beauty depicted by Heidelberg School member, Arthur Streeton’s many paintings. The emphasis on the chaotic series of late 19th century boatsheds in Berrys Bay was almost nostalgic when placed in the context of the modernising Harbour.⁴⁰ In 1922, Rees produced a book of complex drawings, its subjects included the ‘Gas Company and numerous extensive coaling wharves’ along the northern foreshores, these works demonstrated his early ‘acquirement of technique.’⁴¹ Rees 1931 drawing of the headland emphasises its landform and rocky features (**Figure 23**).

³⁶ National Trust, *National Trust Register Listing Report, Former Quarantine Boat Depot*, 2015.

³⁷ Hoskins, *A Short History of Balls Head and Berry Island Reserves 1906-1940*.

³⁸ Hoskins, *Berrys Bay and Harbour Art*, 2016.

³⁹ AGNSW collection <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/OA18.1961/> accessed 23/04/2017

⁴⁰ find.

⁴¹ Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, p.293.

Prominent Australian artists who celebrated Berrys Bay and Ball Head in their art included Sydney Long, Percy Lindsay, Lionel Lindsay, Martin Lewis, CES Tindall, Roy de Maistre, F Meade Norton and the photographers FD Collins, Harold Cazneaux and Henri Mallard.⁴² Lloyd Rees continued to paint Balls Head into the 1970s (**Figure 29**). The natural appearance of Balls Head, as an unspoilt reminiscence of the harbour, inspired artists to capture it as a physical and visual counterpoint to the industrialised working harbour.

1920s changes to Berrys Bay

A new chapter in the continuous use of Berrys Bay for shipping activity began in 1920 with the initiation of its western shores as an oil storage terminal.⁴³ Adjacent to Balls Head, over the next decades massive reservoirs were inserted into Waverton Peninsula's steep slopes modifying the beauty and scale of the small cove, altering its character to one of an industry. Coinciding with this phase, in the 1920s, Balls Head became further denuded of vegetation. Whether because of wharf construction, as implied by Lawson's 1916 poem, building activity for the new terminal, firewood gathering or bushfire, it is not known.

From 1923-1924, the creation of a reserve at Balls Head 'for a recreation ground' became a contentious local issue. John Sulman (1849-1934), a pioneer in town planning in Australia, had raised awareness in regards securing Balls Head as a public reserve as early as the 1910s.⁴⁴ The longstanding Bays Road Progress Association (established 1911) also turned its attention to securing Balls Head 'for the use of the public, as it commanded one of the finest views of the city and harbor.' Council invited the support of waterside municipalities to the west and north of the harbour including Balmain. Along with the Progress Association, it also sought co-operation from the Town Planning Association, Sydney Regional Plan Committee and the Harbour Foreshores Association.⁴⁵ The work of the Bays Road Progress Association, an early manifestation of the spirit that would drive the resident action group over the next decades, gained momentum in its bid to protect Balls Head.

An internal debate ensued at council, some councillors' thought the peninsula already industrialised, its deep-water frontage valuable for shipping. Some argued that 'a portion ... on the summit, from which a glorious view of the harbor is obtainable...should be preserved.' Others valued it as 'one of the most time-honoured spots for two-up schools in the district' (**Figure 20**). Berry Island and its lease became tangled into the dispute.

Although the NSW Government had given Council permissive occupancy of Berry Island (for seven years until June 30, 1931), a battle played out in the press (Head or Island), to

⁴² Hoskins, *Berrys Bay and Harbour Art*, 2016; Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, pp.292-293.

⁴³ GML, *Waverton Peninsula Industrial Sites, CMP*, p.64; State Heritage Inventory, *BP Site Waverton*, OEH, 2017. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageltemDetails.aspx?ID=2186292>

⁴⁴ Roslyn Burge, *Historical Report, The Flagpole Balls Head Reserve Waverton*, Correspondence – John Sulman to the Mayor of North Sydney, 27 July 1931, p.1.

⁴⁵ Burge, *Historical Report, The Flagpole Balls Head Reserve Waverton*, p.7.

exchange this lease for the undeveloped land at Balls Head.⁴⁶ Advocacy by members of North Sydney Council, Mayor Watts at the forefront, and the Progress Association, fought to retain both for 'public recreation.' The protection of Balls Head's scenic views had widespread support.⁴⁷ One article identified it as 'an isolated place central in the harbour with high panoramic views extending to Lane Cove, North shore, Balmain, Darling Harbour, the City and a vista down the harbour to Watson's Bay,' its views arguably 'not surpassed for extent and variety' anywhere else on the harbour.' A 1926 description of the headland, stated it as: 'still covered with stunted trees, the remains of what was once an almost impenetrable forest' with 'a vague track from the mainland to the highest point; a short rough road' which led to the quarantine depot. The remainder of the headland covered in long grass and undergrowth, the highpoints covered in 'short green grass,' its flat crest had potential as picnic grounds.⁴⁸ The bushland that Lawson had defended was by now virtually destroyed. Ironically, however, the views that were exposed became the saving grace for the headland. The stunted trees as the remains of the forest, its emerging undergrowth and the seed bank held by the soil, allowed its remnant vegetation community to survive.

The Coalition Government did not support the 'parkland' proposals, the Labor Party however did. When Labor came into office the two reserves were gazetted for public recreation 25 June, 1926, Premier Jack Lang later 'reiterated the need to protect public ownership of the Harbour's foreshore.'⁴⁹ Public agitation and community advocacy had successfully championed 14 acres [5.67 ha] of Balls Head to become a reserve. For its opening 23 October 1926, working bees cleared lantana and formed tracks.⁵⁰ A flagpole at the western end and high point of the reserve was utilised or built for the event.

The conservation network of Sydney and the replanting of Balls Head

In 1927, Annie Forsyth Wyatt (**Figure 21**) and her neighbours, in response to the wanton removal of bushland and its disregard as places to dump rubbish formed the Gordon or Kuring-gai Tree Lovers Civic League. Significantly, Wyatt, in 1945 would found the National Trust movement in Australia, and later receive an OBE. The early period of her activism, associated with the League was instrumental in forming her conservation campaign approach. As Honorary Secretary of the League, Wyatt developed widespread influence through her connections to a conservation network of likeminded groups and individuals - significantly the Australian Forest League NSW (established 1923) led in the 1930s by David Stead, and the Naturalists Society of NSW of which the eminent entomologist Walter Wilson Froggatt (1858-1937) was founder and a Councillor. Wyatt and W.W Froggatt were both

⁴⁶ *Sun*, 'Two-up' Reserve, Bay -road Wants Park Area at Balls Head, 10 September 1924, p.11; *SMH*, *Ball's Head, Proposed Public Park*, 26 September 1924, p.7.; *Sun*, *Head or Island? North Sydney Opinion Divided*, 21 October 1924, p.11.

⁴⁷ *SMH*, 15 September, Balls Head from the Bridge, 1924, p.7.

⁴⁸ *Newcastle Sun*, 7 November, 1924, p.6.

⁴⁹ Hoskins, *A Short History of Balls Head and Berry Island Reserves 1906-1940*.

⁵⁰ *Sun*, 21 September 1926, p.14.

Councillors of the Forest League,⁵¹ it is speculated that Wyatt organised its tree planting activities.⁵²

Froggart born in Melbourne lived in Croydon, Sydney. An acclaimed, competent and devoted Entomologist, he was a leading authority in Australia and had developed a field knowledge of botany. He held numerous positions, including as Government Entomologist to the Agriculture Department (1826-1923) and as Forest Entomologist to the Forestry Commission NSW for 4 years. A fellow of the Linnean Society, London, and member and President (1911-1913) of the Linnean Society NSW for 40 years, he was also connected to Director Joseph Maiden of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens.⁵³ In 1929, suggestions to replant Balls Head Reserve by W.W Froggatt were considered. This sparked debate in regards the general protection, cultivation and propagation of native plants, firebreaks and the need to stop annual burning-off of reserves.⁵⁴

Although Balls Head was only recently gazetted as a Reserve in 1926, an allotment to the eastern shoreline was to be leased-out as an oil depot to the Richfield Oil Corporation of California. Community action erupted and a petition of 830 signatures was delivered to Council followed by a deputation April 1930 to the NSW Treasurer protesting the proposal. This action was successful in quashing the threat.

An access road to the Reserve, funded by the state government for Depression unemployment works, was constructed between August 1930 - February 1931. Early in 1931, an eyewitness reported on 'improvements' to the place - a new two-way road and of 'paths and footways,' 'to open up the best of the bushland westward' of the Sydney Harbour Bridge 'not yet completed', and 'to enable visitors to enjoy harbour-side scenery' (**Figure 22**).⁵⁵

Significantly, soon after, Annie Wyatt wrote to Council's Town Clerk on behalf of a North Sydney ratepayer who had requested the Tree League, if they could, 'do anything in the matter of preserving the remaining natural beauty of the Balls Head Reserve.'⁵⁶

Prompted by the plea, and in response to the denuding of the headland (**Figure 23**), Council's Parks and Beautification Committee met with the Tree-Lovers' Civic League, Town Planning Association, Australian Forest League, Field Naturalists, Wild Life Association, Wattle League and School' Branch of the Australian Forest League. It decided, in conjunction

⁵¹ Peggy James, *Cosmopolitan Conservationists, Greening Modern Sydney*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Nth Melb. 2013, p.110.

⁵² James, *Cosmopolitan Conservationists, Greening Modern Sydney*, p.112. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wyatt-annie-forsyth-12081> (the date in the ADB entry is 1931 referring to the additional land that was dedicated not the original 1926 portion – that is misleading in the ABD but needs to be made clear in the nomination)

⁵³ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/froggatt-walter-wilson-6251>

⁵⁴ SMH, *Native Flora*, 31 December 1929, p.6.

⁵⁵ SMH, *Balls Head Park*, 10 January 1931, p.12.

⁵⁶ Burge, *Historical Report, The Flagpole Balls Head Reserve Waverton*, p.9. Correspondance – letter to Town Clerk, 3/9/1930.

with the Tree Lovers League, to initiate a Balls Head Beautification Scheme sub-committee. An Arbor Day tree planting program was planned with the intent of inviting the Governor, Premier and heads of government departments and organisations including scientific, botanical and historical societies, the Australian Museum, scouts and schools to the event.⁵⁷

The reforestation of Balls Head

The inaugural tree-planting ceremony was to be an extensive and highly organised affair. The sub-committee for the event comprised North Sydney Council's, ALD. C.W. Watt and Ald. S.W. Spain; Mr Birch, Council's Asst. Engineer; Mr Atkins, President Waverton Progress Association; Mrs Wyatt, Hon. Sec. Gordon Civic Tree Lover's League and Mr F.T. Berman, Hon. Sec. Aust. Forest League. The group orchestrated the programme (**Figure 24**).⁵⁸ The Australian Forest League minutes proposed it would be 'a function of exceptional interest to all tree lovers'⁵⁹ At the event, six groups were to plant a proposed total of 100 trees, members of each - Official, Civic, The Societies, Juniors, General Citizens and Pioneers party were to carry out tree planting duties.

On July 25, newspapers reported on the tree planting event attended by over 2000 people and its celebration with descendants of Lieutenant Lidgbird Ball, they planted a tulip tree *Liriodendron spp*, and a Port Jackson fig *Ficus rubiginosa* at the function.⁶⁰

Following the event, the Australian Forest League's minutes state it was 'probably the most extensive & most successful tree planting function ever held in the metropolitan area'.⁶¹ The League viewed the inaugural function as a 'splendid success', and, importantly, offered its 'best thanks' to Mrs Wyatt, the Honourable Secretary (**Figure 25**).⁶²

In October, the Waverton Progress Association (the renamed Bays Road Progress Association) planted a further '30 tree ferns and Christmas Trees.' One year later, Councillors and members of the Naturalists' Society NSW met and planted 50 Blackbutt Trees. These were noted as being amongst the original flora of the area and were planted to replace those that had died 'since the extensive tree-planting operation of a year ago' of which many trees had done well. These early environmental campaigns, the first such efforts, led by Froggatt assisted in the reforestation of the headland.

The early achievements of the conservation network at Balls Head provided confidence for its next target – the Dalrymple Hay Reserve. The advocacy movement for its protection began soon after the success of the first Balls Head tree planting. At the Dalrymple Hay

⁵⁷ Burge, *Historical Report, The Flagpole Balls Head Reserve Waverton*, p.9.

⁵⁸ Burge, *Historical Report, The Flagpole Balls Head Reserve Waverton*, Report to Council from Balls Head Beautification Scheme for the Inaugural Ceremony, Sat. 25 July 1931, p.1 (no date on report).

⁵⁹ The Australian Forest League Council, *Executive's Report*, item no. 3. Balls Head Beautification Scheme, 2 July 1931.

⁶⁰ Sun, Sunday 26 July 1931, p.5; SMH, Monday 27 July 1931, p.8.

⁶¹ The Australian Forest League Council, *Executive's Report*, item no. 2. Balls Head Beautification Scheme, 26 August 1931.

⁶² The Australian Forest League Council, *Executive's Report*, item no. 2. Balls Head Beautification Scheme, 3 September 1931 p.23.

Reserve's protest meeting, 16 October 1931, Wyatt attended officially as a local representative of the Gordon Tree Lovers League (**Figure 26**). Organised by the Australian Forest League, it showcased a talk by the Ku-Ring-gai Mayor one of Wyatt's fellow sympathetic conservationists. By 1934, the Dalrymple-Hay Forest Preservation Committee had formed with Wyatt as its (joint) Honorary Secretary.

The opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 had an enormous impact on the development of the north shore and placed pressure on bushland reserves. Conservation concerns about Balls Head continued when in 1935, another 8 ¾ acres [3.54 ha] were added to the Reserve. In the newly acquired area, the Annie Wyatt Lookout at the apex to the entry loop entry to the Reserve was constructed using relief labour.⁶³ Later in 1938, a lookout at Balls Head, overlooking Berrys Bay to the north-east, was named in honour of the recently deceased Walter Froggatt in recognition of his campaign to replant the reserve between 1931-1937.⁶⁴

A harbour pool was established at the Reserve in the 1930s, it existed until the late 1970s closed due to harbour pollution and insurance costs. Three sets of stairs, carved into rock, and using stone blocks and concrete, marked the entrance to the pool. Post holes and iron fixings are remnants of its step edges.⁶⁵

Other Depression Era structures at Balls Head Reserve were shelters. Some were later reconstructed, while other original structures were destroyed e.g. the fireplace in Tom's Cabin. The original walks and steps, cut into stone, were also built during this time, feature castellated stone balustrades occurred along these tracks and fenced viewing areas.⁶⁶

By 1943 (**Figure 27 & 28**) the promontory was effectively reafforested. In its vegetated state, Balls Head inspired eminent Australian landscape architect Bruce Mackenzie, who drew on the bushy character of the headland in his important reconstructions of Yurulbin and Illoura (SHR) as 'Alternative Parklands' in the 1970s. It later inspired Paul Keating to advocate for parklands at Ballast Point and the reconstruction of the headland now known as Barangaroo.

In recent years, metal hand rails were installed along the paths in the Reserve for safety reasons.⁶⁷ A formal crushed sandstone pathway from the picnic area on the southern side was constructed 1991 for wheelchair access to many of the site's stunning viewing areas.

A new network of tracks providing access to numerous locations throughout the

⁶³ Roslyn Burge, Historical Report, The Flagpole Balls Head Reserve Waverton, North Sydney Municipality, 2002, p.2 (chronology).

⁶⁴ <http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/people/science/display/23725-w.-w.-froggatt>

⁶⁵ North Sydney Council, Waverton Bushland Remnant, Balls Head Reserve, p.10.

⁶⁶ Waverton Bushland Remnant, Balls Head Reserve, pp.9-11.

⁶⁷ Waverton Bushland Remnant, Balls Head Reserve, pp.9-11.

Reserve was created in 1993. Interpretative and directional signage was also added.

The Balusters Track, a formal access along the lower southern foreshore area was upgraded in 1998 to limit erosion and to provide access to the fishing rock, a popular location.⁶⁸

E. Criteria

8. Assessment under heritage Council criteria of state significance

A. It is important in the course or pattern of the cultural or natural history of NSW

Balls Head Reserve is of state significance as a place that demonstrates early Aboriginal occupation and industry on the harbor foreshores. Middens, rock shelters and artworks of cultural significance to Indigenous people survive intact despite proximity to the epicenter of European colonization. The place provides insights into indigenous food gathering, tool manufacture and maintenance activities; creative and spiritual engagement with the environment and evidence of continual Aboriginal occupation pre and post contact.

It is of State significance for its tangible demonstration of early twentieth century activism related to one of the first planned environmental campaigns in New South Wales. Led by a movement of early 20th Century community activists it achieved successful, continuing, landscape conservation results at Balls Head Reserve. Its prominent leaders identified the place as under threat and worthy of conservation in the 1920s. In a co-ordinated approach, they influenced its acquirement and amelioration efforts in the 1930s to counteract environmental damage caused by adjacent industrialisation. A long-term landscape project, working with North Sydney Council over an almost ten-year period, the network achieved exceptional success in its revegetation of the headland and reconstruction of a natural plant community, by planting over 1000 trees, under the guidance of a prominent Australian naturalist expert, W.W Froggatt.

B. It has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW

Balls Head is associated with a collective of early 20th century conservation activists' such as: Sir John Sulman pioneer of town planning in Australia; Annie Wyatt, founder (1927) of the Tree Lovers League and National Trust movement in Australia (OBE); W.W Froggart renowned Australian Entomologist and founder (1891) of the Naturalists' Society of New South Wales; Waverton Progress Association members (established 1911 as the Bay Road Progress Association), one of the first such community action groups in NSW; David Stead, an active and influential naturalist, President of the Australian Forest League in the 1930s;

⁶⁸ North Sydney Council, Waverton Bushland Remnant, Balls Head Reserve, pp.1-2.

and North Sydney Councillor (1907 to 1936) and Mayor (1923 – 1926), Charles Watts. The place inspired them to connect and rally their respective advocacy groups as a broad-based environmental activist movement to lobby the NSW Government to regain Balls Head's for the lasting enjoyment of the public as a recreation area. Their sustained public outcries and actions which argued for its natural landscape, scenic and historical values to be protected, spanned the decades 1900s-1930s.

Annie Forsyth Wyatt was involved in Balls Head Reserve at a critical time that marked her emerging conservation and advocacy approach. It connected her to a conservation network of likeminded groups, significantly the Australian Forest League and the Naturalists Society of NSW.

Balls Head Reserve is of State significance for its association with W.W Froggatt who led the long-term campaign to revegetate Balls Head as a leader within the Sydney conservation community network of the 1920s and 1930s. Together with Wyatt, he contributed significantly to activities that led to the site's reforestation specifically selecting appropriate flora species and generating activities to replant it. His academic and professional background lent important weight to the campaign. A known promoter of the popular study of natural history in NSW, he was a founder in 1891 and later president of the Naturalists' Society of NSW, a council-member from 1910 of the (Royal) Zoological Society of New South Wales, made fellow in 1931. He was a founder of the Australian Wattle League, the Gould League of Bird Lovers of New South Wales and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, and a member of the Australian National Research Council in 1921-32. An acclaimed, competent and devoted Entomologist,⁶⁹ a leading authority in his field in Australia, with a field knowledge of botany, he held numerous positions, including as Government Entomologist to the Agriculture Department (1826-1923), and Forest Entomologist to the Forestry Commission NSW for 4 years. A fellow of the Linnean Society London, and member and president (1911-1913) of the Linnean Society NSW for 40 years, he was connected through the network to Director Joseph Maiden of the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens. Balls Head Reserve is of State significance as the only place in NSW to demonstrate his long-term conservation activities.

It is of local significance for its association with a local KAMERAIGAL (GAMERAIGAL) man, Carradah, Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball, a First Fleet officer after whom the bluff is named, and Edward Wollstonecraft and Alexander Berry, colonial entrepreneurs of shipping and agriculture. It contains traces of the Great Depression era and built remains of a community living on its shores.

⁶⁹ Entomology is the study of insects, including their relationships with other animals, their environments, and human beings.

It is of local significance for its association with Edward Wollstonecraft (English, 1783-1832) and Alexander Berry (Scottish, 1781-1873), business partners with grand scale plans. Together, they owned extensive agricultural holdings on the Shoalhaven River of the south coast, and a large portion of land on the harbour foreshores, expanding to 800 acres on the lower north shore, held in the family estate from 1821-1906, 85 years. Berry's grant area included Balls Head, although adjacent to industry, remained in a natural state up until the 1910s-1920s.

C. It is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW

Balls Head Reserve is of State significance as a landmark feature, a promontory of Sydney Harbour valued for its aesthetic distinctiveness. Intact as a natural, rocky, sandstone headland and shore, its bushland appearance, cliff lines, and prominent tree-covered ridge, evocative of 1788, contributes to reimagining the harbour as it once was.

Commanding panoramic views, of exceptional and dramatic quality, gained from along its elevated edges and highpoints, have generated an appreciation of its physical and aesthetic characteristics. Extensive vistas up and down the harbour, to its southern shores, to the Harbour Bridge and Sydney city skyline, and views over its north-eastern slopes have inspired a high degree of creative expression. Important works include those by significant artists Conrad Martens, Lloyd Rees and Roland Wakelin, eminent landscape architect Bruce Mackenzie and poetry by Henry Lawson one of Australian's best-known writers.

The tree covered crest and slopes of the Reserve connects to parkland on Waverton Peninsula, Berrys Bay and those of adjacent bays, headlands and islands, particularly Berry Island. Collectively they form an extensive vegetative harbourside fringe with a natural appearance and configuration which significantly contributes to the overarching 'landscape beauty' of Sydney Harbour, its water plane and view catchment. Within this framework Balls Head is a pivotal element and indelible feature.

Its landform, views, waterways and ridgelines have inspired, and continues to inspire, artistic expression. From the waterways of the harbour the promontory is dramatically situated, it forms a distinctive cluster with adjacent headlands such as Yurulbin, Ballast Point, Berrys Island around Me-mel (Goat Island).

The depth of Balls Heads encircling waterways is equally valued for its species richness and as an underwater cultural landscape with archaeological potential.

It is of local heritage significance as a rare inspirational environment, home to Aboriginal groups for thousands of years, a place that provided its saltwater clan with spiritual and physical nourishment. Its elevated landscape, distant vistas and abundant waterways

inspired its people to express their culture with numerous petroglyphs and artworks of spiritual significance. Europeans, since 1788, conscious of the same inspiring and scenic features of this natural landscape, chose to paint, draw and write, to capture its essence and physical spatial qualities.

D. It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Balls Head Reserve is of state significance in its demonstration of the activities and processes of the first 20th century Australian conservation movement campaign. Significant tree loss at the place awakened and galvanised widespread community awareness which impelled prominent activist groups to act as a collective. This led to the re-establishment of an authentic 'bushland' character in its valued although degraded area. A largescale organised response, the reforestation of Balls Head Reserve demonstrates the rare results of united environmental activism consisting of significant emergent conservationist groups and voices including those from the Field Naturalists' Society, The Ku-ring-gai Tree Lovers League, the Australian Forest League, Waverton Progress Association and North Sydney Council, which culminated in an empowering tree-planting event in 1931 at Balls Head, attended by 2000. These actions initiated a long-term revegetation program and the restoration of Balls Head Reserve's natural character.

E. It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of NSW.

Balls Head Reserve is of State significance in its ability to demonstrate potential Aboriginal heritage assessment findings because of the numerous site types in and around the Reserve. Intensely used, the modified natural landscape of Balls Head has a medium-low archaeological potential to produce further evidence of Aboriginal heritage significance and non-aboriginal historical significance. Further investigation, research and assessment into its site types particularly in context of adjacent Aboriginal sites on Waverton Peninsula, Berry Island and Waverton Foreshore Reserves which provide an opportunity to understand the Aboriginal Heritage Office values and SHR values of this Kameraigal landscape holistically.

F. It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural or natural history of NSW.

It meets this criterion of State significance because the reserve is rare for its status as a headland with an intact shoreline and landform within the harbour, particularly the upper harbour. It is rare due to its replanting, landmark values and story linked to the Cameraygal and Lidgbird Ball, the early twentieth century conservation activist movement and because it evokes and contributes to reimagining the western harbour 1788.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*, listed as Vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, and as Nationally threatened, feeds at the reserve. Of the four other threatened species, one includes the Little Penguin. There are four migratory birds that inhabit the place.

Locally rare plant species include *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Tuckeroo), *Desmodium rhytidophyllum*, *Calochilus gracilimus* (Late Beard Orchid) and *Liparis reflexa* (Yellow Rock Orchid).

G. It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places / environments in NSW

It is representative of a geographical feature, one of several promontories within Sydney Harbour.

Existing heritage listings

- Yes Local environment plan (LEP)
- No Regional environmental plan (REP)
- No LEP- Conservation area
- No Draft LEP – Draft heritage item
- No Draft LEP Draft Conservation area
- No State heritage register
- No National Trust Register
- Yes Aboriginal heritage information management system Department of Environment and Conservation)
- No Royal Australian Institute of Architects Register of 20th Century Architecture
- No National shipwreck database
- No Engineers Australia list
- No National Heritage List
- No Commonwealth Heritage List
- No Register of the national Estate
- No NSW agency heritage and conservation section 170 register

Other:

- Yes Landscape Lens Australian Institute of Landscape Architects NSW Non-statutory Database (LLANND).

F. Photographs

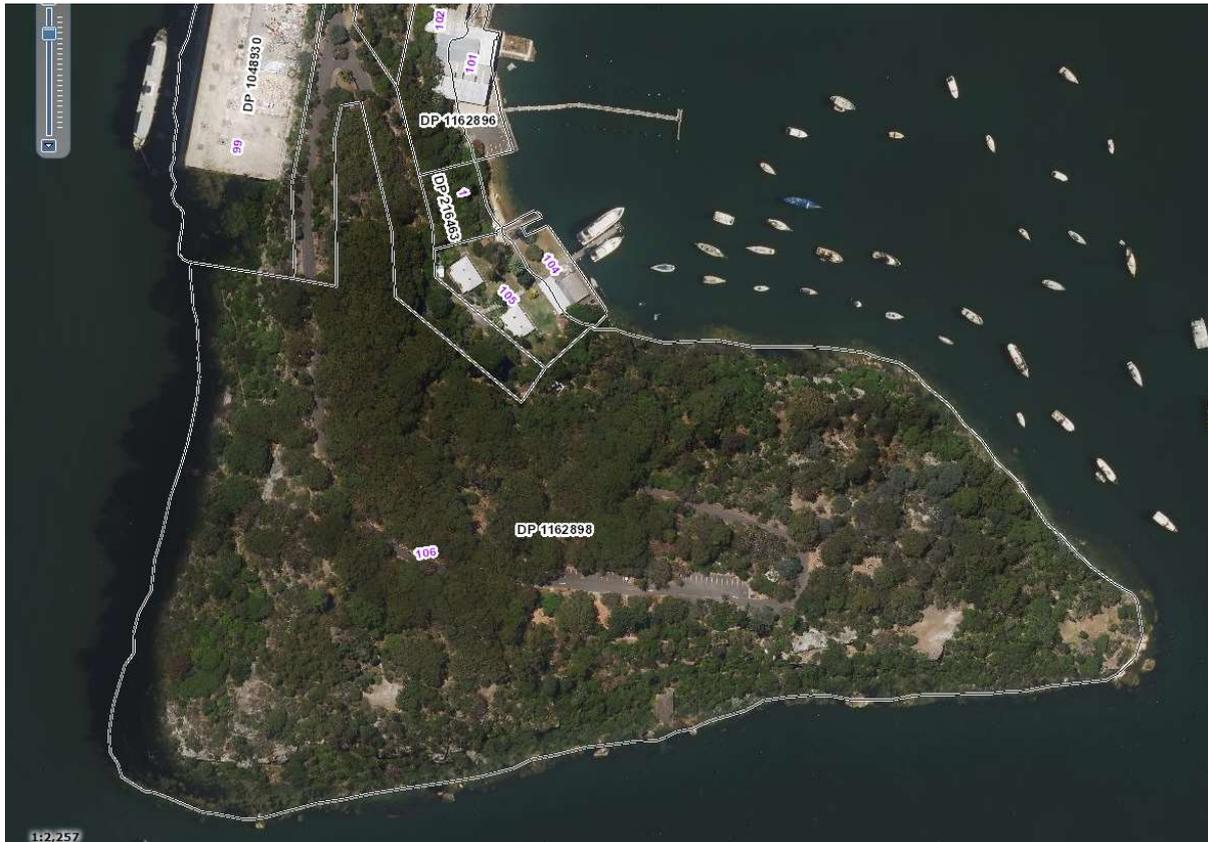


Figure 1, SIX Map plan illustrating Balls Head Reserve, Waverton, (Lot 106 DP 1162898) outlined in white. North is up the page, the image displays a bar scale. [Accessed 29 September 2017 <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>].



Figure 2, Image by J. Quoye, Balls Head Reserve lookout, south-eastern views to Me-Mel Goat Island, Millers Point

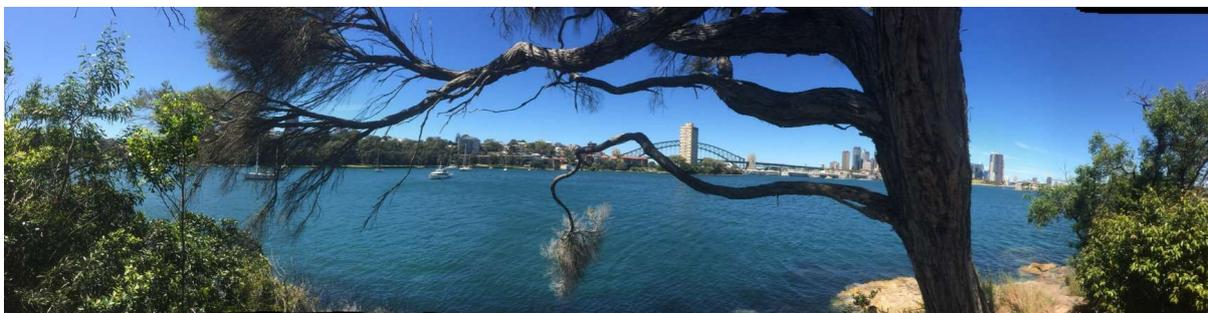


Figure 3, Image by C.Hay, South-eastern point of Balls Head, close to the waters edge, looking east across Berrys Bay to Blues Point.

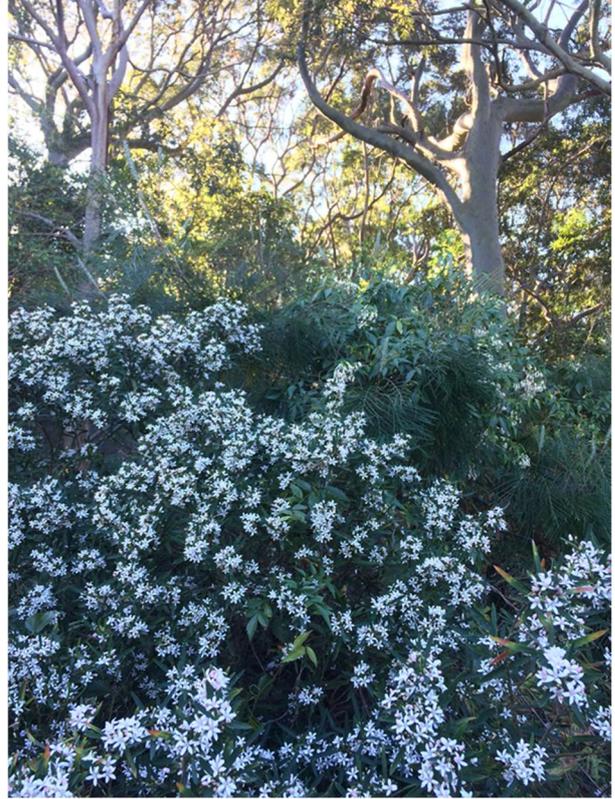


Figure 4, Image by C. Hay, distant view towards Balls Head Reserve's northern slopes looking south across Berrys Bay from Carradah Park.



Figure 5, Image by C. Hay, sunset view from Balls Head Reserve's western crest looking west towards Parramatta River.

Additional photographs, maps or other images



Figures 6 & 7, Images by C.Hay, LHS, *Angophora* forest walk; RHS, Flower, *Eriostemon* sp.



Figure 10, Image by C.Hay the Reserve's vegetation to the southern steep lower slopes



Figure 9, Image by C.Hay the Reserve's flat ridgetop Open-scrub vegetation community of Kunzea Scrub.



Figure 10 Photo by I. Etherington, Picnic area at Balls Head, November 2017.



Figure 11: Portion of 125, 000 Geological Map of Sydney, 1980s, showing detail of Balls Head (circled). Note Rh is Hawkesbury Sandstone and toned pale green. Dykes, illustrated as a black short line with a dot over, occur on several nearby peninsulas, including at Balls Head on the saddle between Waverton Peninsula.
 (Source: https://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/image/0006/343527/Sydney_100K_Geological_Sheet_9130_1st_edition_1983.jpg 7/02/2018)



Figure 12, Portion of soils map of Sydney, showing detail of Balls Head Reserve (circled) and environs. The 'ha' label denotes a Hawkesbury Soil landscape, coloured pale pink. Also, 'gy' denotes Gynea and 'xx' disturbed soil land. (Source: G.A Chapman and C.L Murphy, *Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100 000 Sheet*, Soil Conservation Service of N.S.W., Sydney, 1989.)



Figure 13 Martens, Conrad, *View of Sydney from the North Shore*, 1837. Balls Head believed to be the headland glimpsed at the centre of the image. [Source: <http://www.aasd.com.au/index.cfm/list-all-works/?concat=martensconra&order=1&start=351&show=50>, accessed 22 Apr 17]



Figure 14: From album of sketches and wash drawings of Sydney, ca. 1838-1857? Drawn by Conrad Martens f.3 *Berry's Bay, St. Leonards*. Looking west, compare with Figure 6. This image captures the double inlets of Berrys Bay. It illustrates the northern-eastern slopes of Balls Head thought to be the long horizontal headland in the middle-distance.
 [Source: SLNSW <http://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110314732> accessed 22 April 17]



Figure 15: A portion of Holterman's (ca 1870-1875) panorama looking south-west over Berrys Bay. It features the distinctive forested landform of Balls Head and its sheltered north and north-eastern slopes. A clearing on its SE tip and small structures to the Balls Head waterline is evident. (Figure 11 indicates a wharf in the smaller cove). Tucked behind the RHS headland, on the saddle of the peninsula, is a house believed to be that of Berry's clerk, Mathew's, built ca 1853.
 [Source: Mitchell Library SLNSW Panorama of Sydney from the Holtermann residence, Ref code: 63595
http://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=FL1252139&embedded=true&toolbar=false]

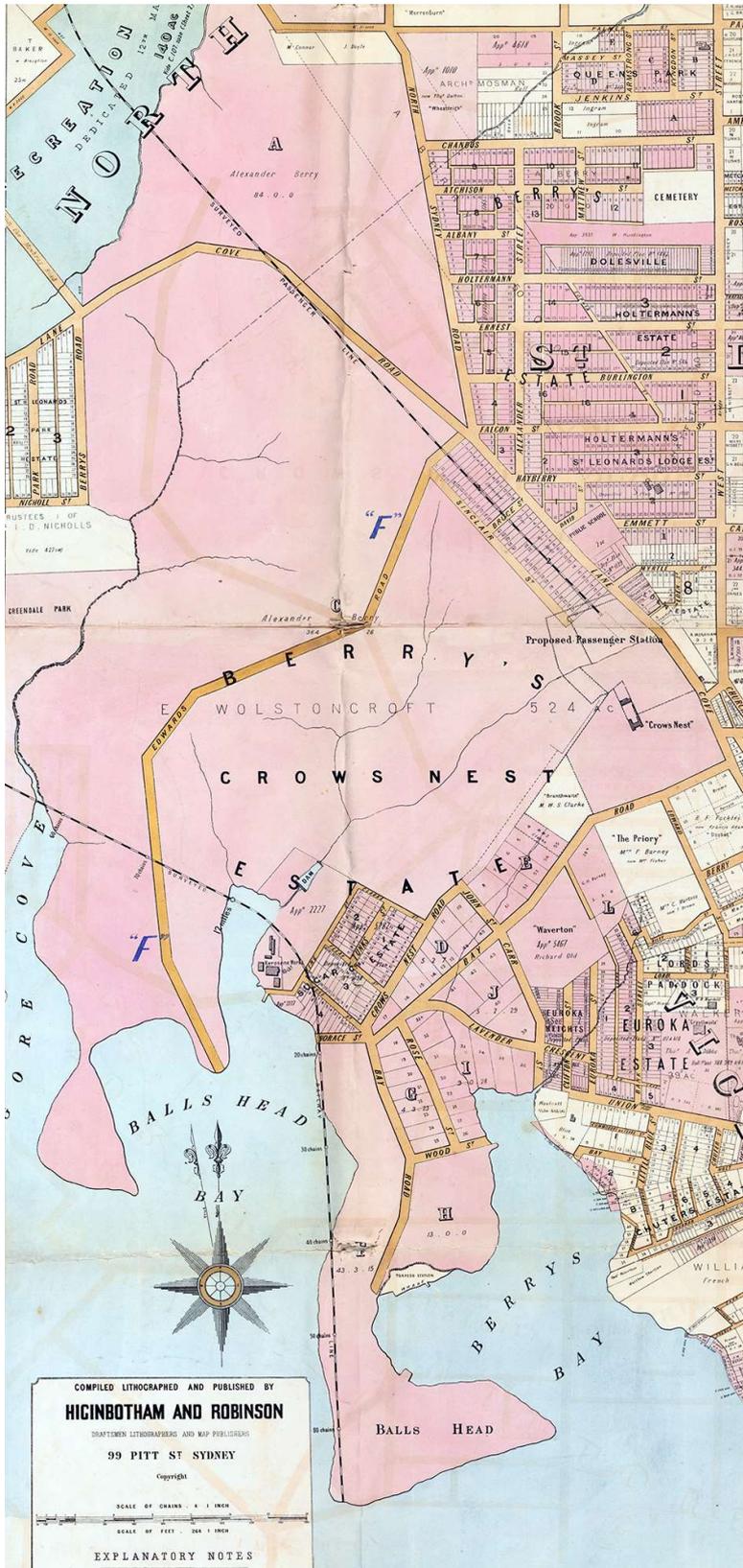


Figure 16: Plan of Berry's Crows Nest Estate, Higinbotham and Robison Berry Estate map, 1887, prior to the death of David Berry. A wharf or other structure is indicated on the site above the word 'Balls' in the 'Balls Head' label. The 'Torpedo Station' is marked at the end of Bay Rd.
 (Source: Stanton Library <http://www.athomeinnorthsydney.com.au/berry-estate.html> 13 March 2017)



Figure 17: Caption, Bill Riddington captains the Jenner approaching the Quarantine Launch Depot, ca 1912. The image captures a portion of Balls Head (Reserve) in the background, evidence of its depleted forested ridgeline. (North Sydney Heritage Centre, PF 733).

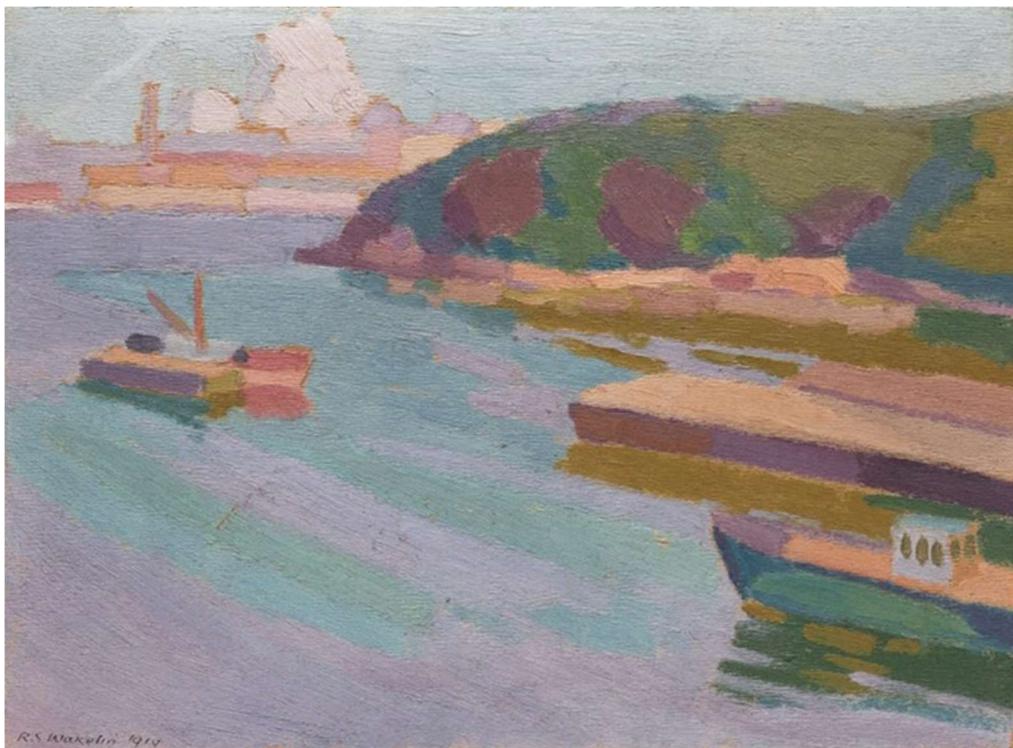


Figure 18, Roland Wakelin's *Berry's Bay*, 1919. The north-eastern vegetated slopes of Balls Head, painted as if intact, sit in contrast to the faded, smoky industrialised working harbour faded in the distance. The parallel brush strokes of the waterway, commercial watercraft and shoreline create a pleasing harmony. Balls Head as a natural landmark feature dominates the work. (Source: <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/9378/>)



Figure 19, Roland Wakelin's *Balls Head from Blues Point, Sydney*, no date. In this striking composition, the detail of the geometric shoreline at Blues Point, modified for boat access, are juxtaposed to the natural shapes and facets of the cliffs and vegetated slopes of distance Balls Head, painted as a dominating geographical feature within the waterway. (Source: The Bleasel Collection of Australian Paintings, Christies, Melbourne)

**BALLS HEAD FROM THE
BRIDGE.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Do we realise what a viewpoint the harbour bridge will afford from which to see this harbour of ours? Do we realise the vista east and west from the central span? Do we realise in the new western view how important a feature Balls Head will be? If we can but visualise this, then must we appreciate the opportunity which gave our Government this wonderful headland in exchange for a country hospital some years ago, and trust the present Government will now dedicate the remainder of the site—about 15 acres—to the public for all time. Balls Head is one of the only elevated points unalienated this end of the harbour, and it is of greater public value in that condition than it ever could be with wharfs, factories, or even residences upon it. I but voice the interest of many in urging this upon our Government.

I am, etc.,
Sept. 12. **FRANK WHIDDON.**

Figure 20:
SMH 15 September 1924, p.7, above, one of many letters supporting Balls Head's protection as a reserve.
Sun, "Two-up" Reserve, Bay-road Wants Park Area at Balls Head, 10 September 1924, p.11, RHS.

"TWO-UP" RESERVE

Bay-road Wants Park

AREA AT BALLS HEAD

An article that appeared in "The Sun" early last month, under the heading of "Keep Milson's Point for the People," has aroused the attention of residents of Bay-road to the necessity of securing a portion of Balls Head for the use of the public.

The question was before the North Sydney Council last night, when a letter was received from the Bay-road Progress Association suggesting that Balls Head should be secured for the use of the public, as it commanded one of the finest views of the city and harbor.

Ald. Newlands thought that it was hardly suitable for a reserve, as already most of it had become an industrial area. In his opinion Berry Island was better placed and fitted for a public reserve.

The Mayor (Ald. Watt): We have a permissive occupancy of the island already for a term of seven years.

Ald. Newlands: The Government would never allow any portion of Balls Head to be used for a park. It has a deep-water frontage that makes it valuable for shipping.

Ald. Rudder: There is a portion which is altogether unsuitable for shipping purposes, and that is on the summit, from which a glorious view of the harbor is obtainable. Its natural beauty should be preserved.

Ald. Waterhouse: No one will go there.

Ald. E. M. Clark thought that it would be better for the council to lease a portion of the headland. "It is one of the most time-honoured spots for two-up schools in the district."

The letter was referred to the general purposes committee for consideration.



Figure 21: Annie Forsyth Wyatt by Harold Cazneaux ca.1930, prior to the 1931 Balls Head campaign.



Figure 22 Aerial looking west over Balls Head Reserve ca 1931, which though bare of trees is covered in low vegetation, the new loop road seared into its crest, built ca 1931 is evident. In contrast to the BP site, and other shorelines, where extensive landform modification has occurred, Balls Head's landform as a natural headland is intact. Berry's store, is behind the large reservoir RHS (demolished 1933).

[Source: GML, Waverton Peninsula Industrial Sites: BP, Caltex, Coal Loader CMP, 2000, p.79,]



Figure 23: Lloyd Rees, *Balls Head, Sydney Harbour*, 1931. The aesthetic distinctiveness of the Balls Head landform from the harbour waterway captured at the time the Beautification Scheme was to be initiated, in response to its bare landscape.
 (Source: Art Gallery of New South Wales, down9/09/2017 <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/175/>)

Municipality of North Sydney

Balls Head Beautification Scheme

BALLS HEAD

Programme

Inaugural Ceremony: SATURDAY, 25th JULY, 1931

Location: - - The Flagstaff, Ball's Head

Presiding: - - His Worship the Mayor
(Alderman H. L. Primrose)

2 p.m.: - - Band Recital by N. Syd. Tramway Band

2.30 p.m.: 1. "A FOREST BENEDICTION"
(Band and Community)

TUNE: - NATIONAL ANTHEM

<p><i>God save these trees we plant, And to all nature grant, Soil and rain, Let not their branches fall, Save them from axe and saw, Save them for joy and shade, Guarding the plain.</i></p>	<p><i>Lord of the earth and sea, Pray for our sheltered trees, Save with Thy might, Save us from violence, Waste, and wantonness, And in Thy goodness, Lead us aright.</i></p>
--	--

FINAL: - GOD SAVE OUR GRACIOUS KING, &c.

2. **Introductory Address: The Mayor**
3. **Address: Rt. Hon. W.M. Hughes, M.H.R.**
4. **Address: B. Howe, Esq., M.L.A.**
5. **Address: R. W. D. Weaver, Esq., M.L.A.**
6. **Address: D. G. Stead, Esq.,
(President Australian Forest League)**
7. **Vote of Thanks: Ald. C. W. Watt
Mr. F. W. Atkins**

THE NORTH SYDNEY PRINTING CO. LTD., 500 to 510 MILLER ST., NORTH SYDNEY

Figure 24: Programme for the initiation of the Balls Head Beautification Scheme. Note the bare headland.
 (Source: SLNSW, Australian Forest League, Executive Report minutes, loose leaflet)

*Balls Head Beautification Scheme. Mr Welch, Mr Berman
 That the N.S. Council be congratulated upon the splendid
 success of the inaugural function and the best thanks
 of the League be conveyed to the Hon. Sec. Mrs Wyatt.*

Figure 25: The link connecting Annie Wyatt to the Balls Head Beautification Scheme csb-committee rests on this minute note which acknowledges hers and North Sydney Council's role in the success of the inaugural function. 'Balls Head Beautification Scheme. Mr Welch, Mr Berman 'That the N.S.Council be congratulated upon the splendid success of the inaugural function and the bests thanks of the League be conveyed to the Hon. Sec Mrs Wyatt.'
 (Source: SLNSW, The Australian Forest League Council, Executive's Report, item no. 2. Balls Head Beautification Scheme, 3 September 1931 p.23)

CIRCULAR PLEASE DISPLAY ON NOTICE BOARD

THE PRESS is asked to help the Forest League by giving publicity to this Notice
 KINDRED SOCIETIES by distributing it to their members



OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!

Citizens of Kuring-Gai, of all Northern Suburbs, of Greater Sydney, Nature Lovers and all whom it may concern.

The Parliament of New South Wales by recent Legislative Act, has decreed that the **DALRYMPLE HAY FOREST** Pittwater Road, Pymble Shall revert to Private Ownership.

This Beautiful Forest—practically the LAST REMAINING PORTION of the ORIGINAL CUMBERLAND FOREST was Officially Opened and Named by Hon. P. F. LOUGHLIN, Minister for Lands, on 22nd May, 1926. The Australian Forest League helped to organise the Opening Ceremony.

Pymble's Trees—Strength and Beauty

It now feels in duty bound to DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO PARLIAMENT'S RETROGRADE and TRAGIC ACTION. It therefore Convenes

A PUBLIC MEETING

to be held at

KILLARA SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1931, AT 8 P.M.

- To voice the sense of the Community's Loss.
- To take steps to Formulate a Plan whereby the Whole Area of the Forest (about 56 acres) may be Retained as a Public Resort, and to appoint a Committee therefor.

His Worship the Mayor of Kuring-Gai (Ald. W. CRESSWELL O'REILLY) will preside.

SPEAKERS.—Representatives of Nature Societies, Local Government and other Civic Bodies of the Northern Suburbs.

Look at the Pictures on this Handbill (kindly lent by the "Sydney Morning Herald") then make up your mind to come to the Meeting and help to save these noble trees.

DAVID G. STEAD, President
 FRED T. BERMAN, B.A. Hon. Sec. } Australian Forest League.
 Public School, Newtown. Tel. J 1688

Local Representatives.—Councillor T. E. ROFE, V.P., Hornsby Shire.
 Mrs. WYATT, Hon. Sec. Gordon Civic Tree Lovers' League,
 Park Avenue, Gordon. Tel. J X 1361

P.T.O. Holmes, Print. 178 King St. Newtown.

Figure 26: The 16 October 1931, protest leaflet advocating for a public meeting to protect Dalrymple Hay Forest. Note, Mrs Wyatt is officially listed as a local representative, and Honorary Secretary, for the Gordon Tree Lovers League.
 (Source: SLNSW, Australian Forest League, Executive Report minutes, glued in loose leaflet)



Figure 27: Aerial looking over Balls Head Reserve, 1943, the site appears generally vegetated, though sparse in areas associated with paths, the carpark and picnic area. Most distinctive are the cleared rock platforms, modified for viewing appreciating dramatic panoramic scenes of the harbour.

<http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/?search=%7B%22name%22:%22Suburb%22,%22fields%22:%7B%22suburbname%22:%22wickham%22%7D%7DNSW%22%7D>

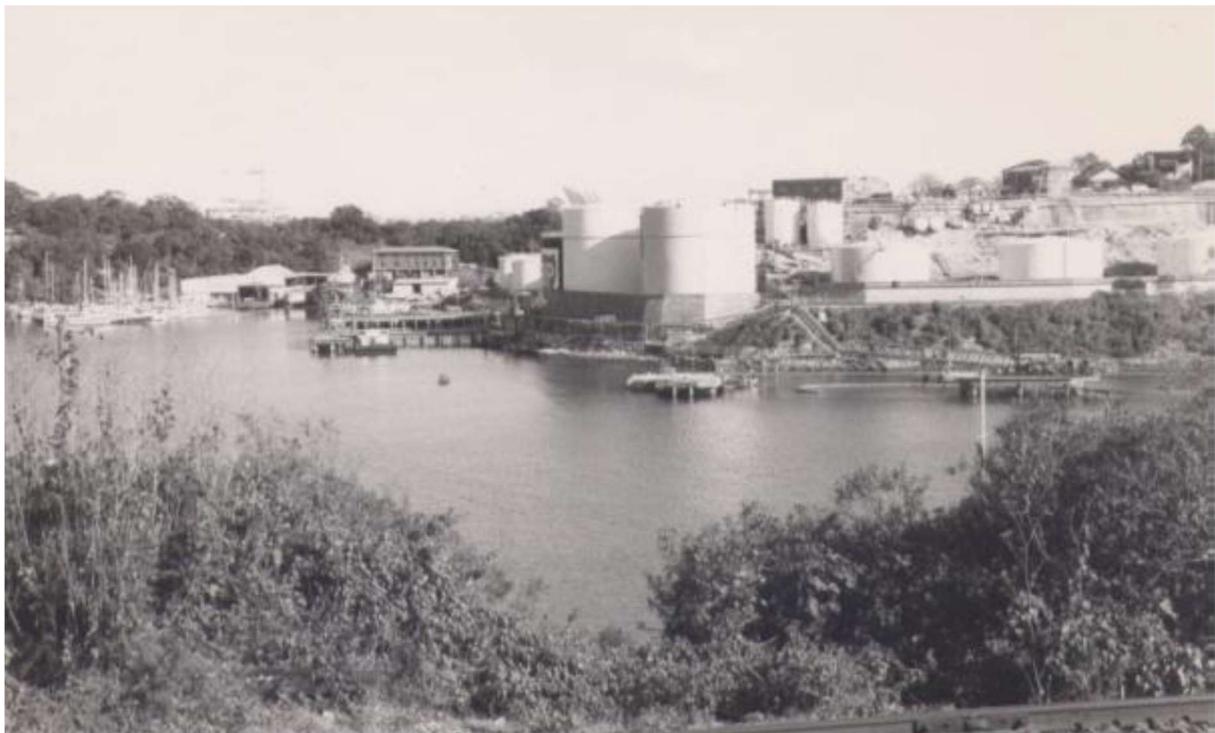


Figure 28: View west across Berrys Bay to BP industrial site, on Waverton Peninsula. Balls Head LHS, c1980. A portion of the Balls Head Reserve is observed and appears natural in a forested state.
[Source, North Sydney Heritage Centre, PF 1179/2].

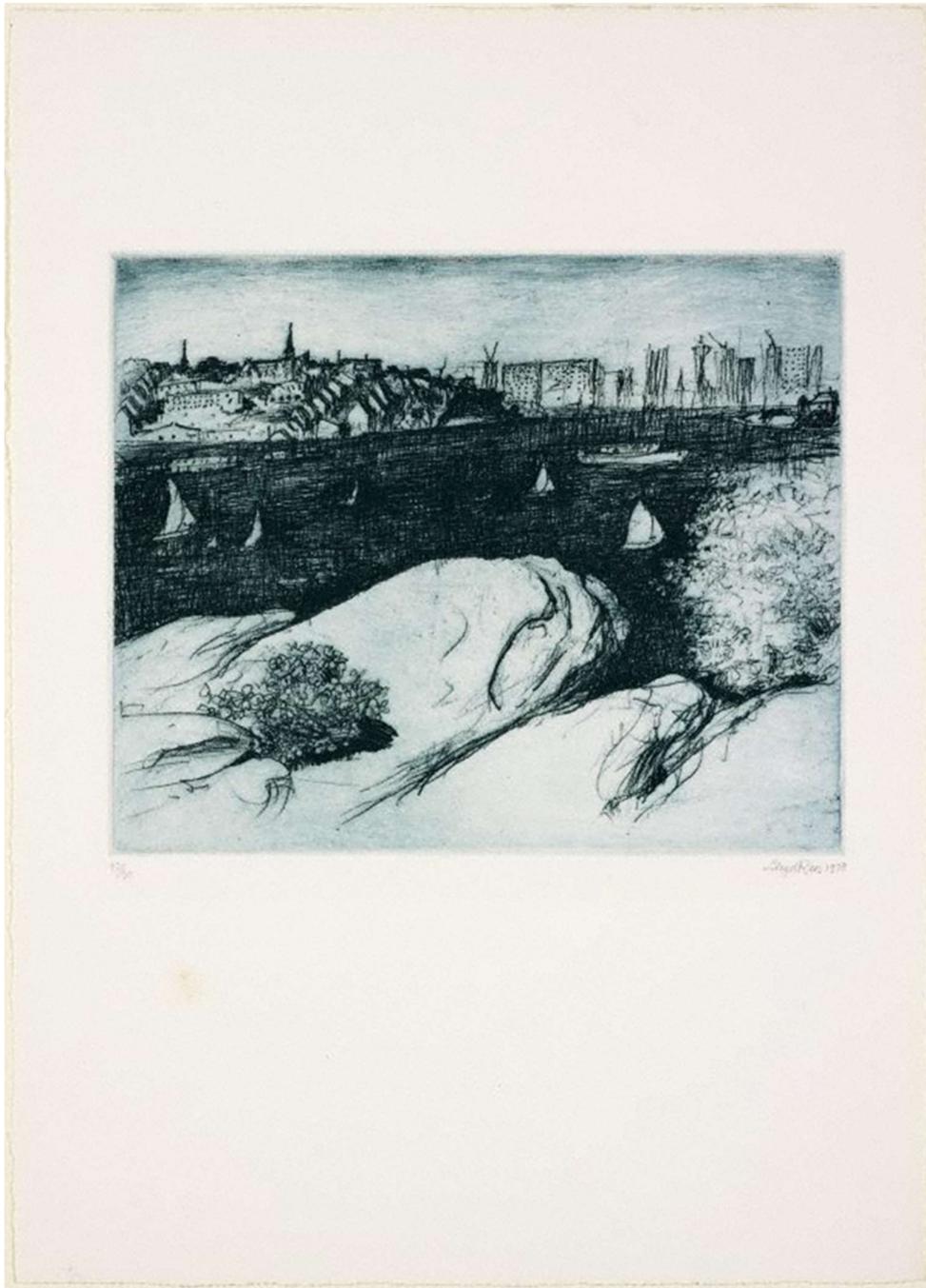


Figure 29 Lloyd Rees, *The summit, Ball's Head*, from the series *Tribute to Sydney*, 1978, [Source: <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/37.2005.3/>]

A snapshot of fauna found at Balls Head Reserve:

	Common Name	Conservation Status
Mammals	Brown Antechinus	Locally significant
	Common Brushtail Possum	Locally common
	Common Ringtail Possum	Locally common
	Grey-headed Flying-Fox	Nationally threatened
	Eastern Bent-wing Bat	Threatened in NSW
Amphibians	Common Eastern Froglet	Locally common
	Striped Marsh Frog	Locally common
Reptiles	Lesueur's Velvet Gecko	Locally significant
	Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko	Locally common
	Fence Skink	Locally common
	Eastern Water Skink	Locally significant
	Common Garden Skink	Locally common
	Delicate Garden Skink	Locally common
	Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard	Locally significant
Birds*	Australian Brush-turkey	Regionally threatened
	Little Penguin	Regionally threatened
	White-throated Gerygone	Regionally threatened
	Fairy Martin	Regionally threatened
	Rufous Fantail	Migratory species
	Spectacled Monarch	Migratory species
	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Migratory species
	White-throated Needletail	Migratory species

* Note there are dozens more species of birds found at Balls Head Reserve. See the full species list at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Table 1 A snapshot of fauna found at Balls Head Reserve.
[Source: North Sydney Council, Fauna Rehabilitation Plans Balls Head Reserve, Port Jackson Catchment, 2001]

G. Author

Primary author of this form Christine Hay

References used for completing this form:

Dr Ian Hoskins, including:

- Berrys Bay and Harbour Art.
- A Short History of Balls Head and Berry Island Reserves 1906-1940.
- Valuable edits, comments and historical contributions

Val Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past, Investigating the archaeological and historical records*, UNSW Press, Sydney, second edition, 2010

Roslyn Burge, *Historical Report, The Flagpole Balls Head Reserve Waverton*, 2003.

Sandra Bowdler, 1971. *Balls Head: the excavation of a Port Jackson rock shelter*. *Records of the Australian Museum* 28(7): 117–128, plates 17–21. [4 October 1971].

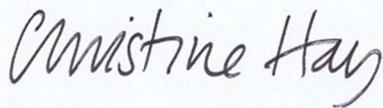
Peggy James, *Cosmopolitan Conservationists, Greening Modern Sydney*, Aus. Scholarly Pub, Nth Melb. 2013.

Godden Mackay Logan, *Waverton Peninsula Industrial Sites CMP*, North Sydney Council, 2000.

Eric Russell, *The Opposite Shore, North Sydney and its People*, Southwood Press, 1990.

Peter Smith and Judy Smith, *Natural Area Survey North Sydney Council*, 2010

Signed by Author

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Hay". The signature is written in black ink on a light blue rectangular background.

Signed by copyright holder(s) of image(s) character,