



A Hundred Years



A Hundred Years

an exhibition to mark the centenary of
Ivan Dougherty Gallery premises

1894 - 1994

5 November - 10 December 1994

Ivan Dougherty Gallery
The University of New South Wales • College of Fine Arts

A Hundred Years Ago ...

A hundred years ago Paddington was one of the most complete Victorian townships anywhere in the world. The terrace house boom, based on London terraces designed by Paul Nash, was at its peak. Dominating the evolving urban landscape was Victoria Barracks, erected some 50 years beforehand on the sand dunes of Old South Head Road (now Oxford Street). In 1894, the year that the current Ivan Dougherty Gallery was constructed, steam trams began operating through Oxford Street to Bondi. Able to reach speeds of 65km/hr, they gave rise to the phrase "shoot through like a Bondi tram".

1894 was the year in which South Australian women were the first in Australia to get the vote (eight years before they did in New South Wales); shearers were calling large-scale strikes in Queensland; Ethel Turner's children's novel, *Seven Little Australians*, was published and first captured the hearts of young readers and Tom Roberts painted that quintessential pioneering painting, *The Golden Fleece* and the well-known Sydney foreshore scene, *Mosman's Bay*.

Ivan Dougherty Gallery's current site was once part of Sydney Common, established by Governor Macquarie for the purpose of grazing animals, which would have otherwise polluted the Tankstream. The area was largely sand dunes, bordered on one side by the Lachlan Swamps (later Centennial Park) and on the other by Billy Goat Swamp. Until then Paddington had been a vast picnic ground, the dunes of Greens Road a favourite frolicking ground for picnickers. Shooting parties hunted pigeons, ducks, wallabies and bandicoots.

In 1879 the zoological gardens were established at Billy Goat Swamp, now the site of Sydney Girls High School at Moore Park. A variety of native and exotic animals were housed there, including a grisly bear, a polar bear, a jaguar, wallabies, an albino kangaroo, lions, monkeys, two white rats and an assortment of reptiles and birds. Jessie the elephant arrived as a gift from the King of Siam in 1883 and during 56 years of service provided rides for over two million people. Though an intelligent and gentle elephant, she had a habit of stealing and eating handbags. By 1916 all the animals had been transported by ferry to their new, drier and more scenic premises at Taronga Park.

With the construction of Victoria Barracks (designed by Major George Barney) between 1838 and 1842, the community of Paddington flourished. Houses and shops were constructed, including a hotel called The Green Gate. Soldiers were indignant at being sent away from the "interior" (George Street Barracks) and objected strongly to living amongst the scrub. Nevertheless, the population was rapidly spreading eastward. There was a bus service from King Street in the City to Paddington (with a fare of 1/- each way). The mostly working class residents of Paddington thought longingly of their homes across the sea, and it was the fashion during the second half of the century to take the carriage up to Bellevue Hill, just to catch a sight of the Pacific Ocean. The introduction of steam trams in 1880 replaced the old horse and carriage transport, to the relief of passengers who were forced by the notoriously bad condition of the roads to alight and walk alongside the horses up Paddington hill.

Paddington was an active community by the 1880s. The United Ancient Order of Druids established a Paddington branch, and the first Agricultural Society exhibition was held at the newly constructed showgrounds in 1882. The Post

and Telegraph Office was opened in 1885, followed by Centennial Park in 1888, the eastern suburbs tramline in 1890 and the new Town Hall in 1891. By 1910, Paddington had a total population of 75,000.

By the time Albion Street School was constructed behind the original Kinselas funeral parlour in 1894, there were more than 6,000 school age children living in Paddington. There were several public, church and private schools in the area. Paddington's first two schools were established in 1842: Mr T.W. Cape's in Glenmore Road and Mr Colquhoun's school in Paddington Street, followed by church schools and the National School in 1853 (now known as Paddington Public School). The schools vied for pupils amongst the parents of Paddington, in competition for government subsidies assessed on enrolment numbers.

In 1880 the Chief Inspector of the Department of Education had approved from the Minister one acre of land on Sydney Common, with frontages to Selwyn, Albion and Napier Streets. The total cost of the land was £6,960-18-5. Between 1883 and 1886 temporary buildings were erected to accommodate Albion Street School's first pupils, transferred from Crown Street Public School in Surry Hills. Work on the current building was commenced in 1894 by Mr G.W. Brewer, who charged £3,029 and completed construction in May 1895.

The building was divided into nine classrooms, with total seating accommodation for 693 (though enrolment records show that attendances were generally much higher: up to 893 by 1899). The students that attended the school in the early days were children of tradespeople, nurses, publicans and the like. In many families both parents worked: an 1894 consensus of the 89,502 female breadwinners in New South Wales found that 66,144 were working in "feminine" occupations such as needlework, domestic service, boarding-house keeping and shop-keeping. Their wages were half that of men in similar categories of work. The *Economist* reported that "Politically they belong to the same class as children, idiots and criminals. They are legislated for as unfit to know what is best for themselves".

Besides their reading, writing and arithmetic lessons, male school pupils played football, cricket and learnt carpentry. Female students at Albion Street School attended cookery classes at the Paddington Superior Public School. In March 1901 Albion Street School was also reclassified as a "superior" public school, a deceptively named classification based on quantity of students rather than quality of study. By the turn of the century the school was divided into three departments: boys, girls and infants, with a head teacher, assistant and pupil teachers allocated to each section.

In 1913 the school became a Public and Junior Technical School, then Sydney Technical High School in 1925. One of the school's most famous old boys is Clive James, who was on the senior debating team and a contributor to the school journal (as seen in the exhibition). In 1957 the building became part of the new Alexander Mackie Teachers' College, which became a College of Advanced Education in 1975, incorporating a School of Art in 1980 and re-named City Art Institute in 1982. In 1988 the institution became part of the NSW Institute of the Arts and in 1990, upon amalgamation with The University of New South Wales, the UNSW College of Fine Arts. Having been established in 1977 at the original Alexander Mackie site in Cumberland Street at the Rocks, Ivan Dougherty Gallery moved to its present location in 1981.

... A Hundred Years On

Over the last one hundred years the Albion Street Public School Building has functioned continuously as an educational institution. Ivan Dougherty Gallery is today a major educational resource of The University of New South Wales' College of Fine Arts. It focusses on exhibitions of contemporary and 20th century art, mostly group exhibitions of thematic, conceptual and technical diversity, organised by the Gallery's own curatorial staff and outside curators. Ivan Dougherty Gallery also participates in national and international events such as the Biennale of Sydney and International Symposiums of Electronic Art. Forums, floor talks and publications accompany each exhibition, and the Gallery runs a performance series, *Live Actions*.

The contemporary artists invited to participate in *A Hundred Years* are concerned with the nature of history and the history making process. Some have created work specific to this building; others are represented by ongoing projects addressing historical, archaeological and chronological subjects. All artists have a strong connection with the site, either as past or present lecturers at the College, as past exhibitors in the Gallery, or both.

Janet Laurence's installation of sandstone blocks date from 1788. They were excavated from the site of old Government House in the city, a site presently being transformed into the Museum of Sydney. Nicole Ellis' latex floorboard shrouds transplant traces of former human existences into the gallery space, while Bill Seaman's video installation makes a poetic evocation of time passing. George Schwarz has for some years made photographic collages of historical sites in his preoccupation with history, death and decay: all the works here are based on local sites around Paddington and Centennial Park. Virginia Coventry's wall rubbing brings to life the original school room wall, and Debra Phillips' photograph of an engraved date, taken in France, reminds us that the year 1894 still has living relevance to the hi-tech world of a hundred years hence.

In the words of T.S. Eliot:

*Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past.*
(Four Quartets - Burnt Norton)

Felicity Fenner and Jennifer Hardy
exhibition curators
with thanks to Catherine Benz
research assistant

Sources:
Paddington - Its History, Trade and Industries 1860-1910, Municipal Council of Paddington, 1910
Michael Andrews, *Australia Year by Year*, Trocadero, Sydney 1984
Chronicle of Australia, Chronicle of Australia, Ringwood VIC, 1993
Sydney Technical High School Journal, June 1924 and November 1956
Mitchell Library archives
Department of Education school archives
Victoria Barracks photographic archives

A Hundred Years

CATALOGUE OF ARTWORKS

Virginia Coventry
Rise 1992
charcoal and watercolour on paper
350 x 100cm

Nicole Ellis
Forerunner to a Psychology of Architecture, with apologies to Wöflin 1886 1994
acrylic paint, acrylic emulsion, paper, chairs, machine oil, found paint
285 x 287 cm (and chairs of variable dimensions)

Janet Laurence
Contested Ground 1994
sandstone blocks recovered from the site of First Government House, 1788-1845
(archaeological excavations 1983-1991)
185 x 145 x 31 cm
Courtesy Museum of Sydney
with thanks to Peter Tonkin, curator of archaeology, Museum of Sydney

Debra Phillips
Untitled (from Sillage #2) 1993
black and white photograph
15 x 40 cm

Debra Phillips
Untitled 1994
black and white photograph, slate and aluminium
60 x 50 cm

Tom Roberts
Mosman's Bay 1894
oil on canvas
64.7 x 97.8 cms
Collection: New England Regional Art Museum (Howard Hinton Collection)

George Schwarz
Untitled (from Relics series) 1994
photo assemblage
50 x 40 x 10 cm
Courtesy Stills Gallery, Sydney

George Schwarz
Untitled (from Extinction is Forever series) 1990
photo montage
50 x 40 cm
Courtesy Stills Gallery, Sydney

George Schwarz
Untitled (from *Extinction is Forever* series) 1990
photo montage
50 x 40 cm
Courtesy Stills Gallery, Sydney

George Schwarz
Untitled (from *Extinction is Forever* series) 1990
photo montage
50 x 40 cm
Courtesy Stills Gallery, Sydney

Bill Seaman
The Watch Detail 1994
limited edition disc

Bill Seaman
Time Book 1994
word drawing

Arthur Streeton
Near Streeton's Camp at Sirius Cove 1892
oil on canvas
30.4 x 22.7 cms
Collection: New England Regional Art Museum (Howard Hinton Collection)

Arthur Streeton
McMahon's Point Ferry 1890
oil on canvas
45.7 x 30.2 cms
Collection: New England Regional Art Museum (Howard Hinton Collection)

Unknown Artist
Captain Cook Hotel, Moore Park
from *Town and Country Journal*, Nov. 9, 1972, p. 596
coloured wood engraving
12.75 x 17.85 cm
Courtesy Joseph Lebovic Gallery

OBJECTS AND BOOKS

Dual Desk, Inkwell
Collection: North Ryde Public School

Chalkboard and Easel
Collection: North Ryde Public School

2 x *Primer Reading Sheet*
Collection: North Ryde Public School

2 x *Charts "Lessons from the Australian Class Book"*
Collection: North Ryde Public School

I'm an Australian Star Boy
advertisement
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Cookery Exercise Book
inscribed Agnes Gunderson
Collection: North Ryde Public School

School Work Book 1892
inscribed Robert Gillroy
Collection: North Ryde Public School

19th century ink bottle
ceramic
Collection: Alan Oldfield

Pen
Collection: North Ryde Public School

Pine pencil box
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Leather Football
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Copy Book 1896
inscribed Claude Schumacher
Collection: North Ryde Public School

12" x 9" slate
Collection: North Ryde Public School

Technical High School Journal vol. xxxx, no. 1, November 1956
Collection: Sydney Technical High School Archives

Cane
Collection: North Ryde Public School

Porcelain headed doll and cradle 1881
(cradle inscribed J. Eason)
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Wax and ceramic doll
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Pine money box
Jean King Novelties (manufacturer)
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Jock Whitehead - An Australian Fairy Story
by Hilda Bridges
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Glass Marbles
Collection: Beverley Fielder

Harbour Bridge pull along toy c. 1935
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

2 x Sewing Samplers 1906
sewn by Vera Purss, Forest Lodge Public School
Collection: North Ryde Public School

Sewing Sampler c.1900
sewn by Florence Mary Pearce, Darlows Ck
Collection: North Ryde Public School

The Australian ABC Book
Atlas Press Pty Ltd Melbourne (publishers)
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Advance Australia
Dean & Son Limited (publishers)
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The Arabian Nights (first edition) 1909
Charles Scribner's Sons (publishers)
Collection: Beverley Fielder

Cole's Play-Time Story Book for Little Australians
E. W. Cole (publishers)
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

True Stories from Australian History 1893
by A. Patchett Martin
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Seven Little Australians 1894
by Ethel S. Turner
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The Boy Through the Ages 1931
by D. M. Stuart
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Courtship and Marriage
board game
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Colonial board game
John Retts
Australian Childhood Collection, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Julian Ashton's painting box
Collection: Paul Delprat, Julian Ashton Art School

Artist materials sample box, c.1890
Collection: Idris Murphy

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Old School (undated)
Source: Sydney Technical High School Journal, vol. xxxx, no. 1, November 1956

Albion Street Technical High School 1926
Published in *Labor Daily*
Collection: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

The School Tuck Shop 1924
Source: Sydney Technical High School Journal, vol. viii, no. 8, June 1924

Senior and Junior Debating Teams 1956
Source: Sydney Technical High School Journal, vol. xxxx, no. 1, November 1956

Rugby Team 1920
Collection: Sydney Technical High School Archives

Albion Street Junior Choir 1901
Collection: Department of Education

Albion Street School Class of 1919
Collection: Department of Education

Albion Street School Class of 1901
Collection: Department of Education

Albion Street School Class of c.1924
Collection: Department of Education

Albion Street School Paddington 1916
Government Printing Office Collection, State Library of New South Wales

Albion Street School Paddington 1916
Government Printing Office Collection, State Library of New South Wales

Taronga Zoo "Zoobilee" poster 1991
(showing Jessie the elephant at Moore Park c.1890s)

Little Dowling Street 1913
Government Printing Office Collection, State Library of New South Wales

Taronga Zoological Gardens at Moore Park c.1890s
(showing Jessie the elephant in foreground)
Collection: Taronga Zoo Archives

Modern newspaper article about Taronga Zoo at Moore Park (unsourced)
Collection: Taronga Zoo Archives

Taronga Zoological Park at Moore Park c.1890s
Collection: Taronga Zoo Archives

Julian Ashton Art School, King Street 1890
Collection: Julian Ashton Art School

Julian Ashton Art School, King Street 1890
Collection: Julian Ashton Art School

Victoria Barracks 1871
Collection: The Army Museum, Victoria Barracks

NSW Garrison Artillery Victoria Barracks late 1890s
Collection: The Army Museum, Victoria Barracks

Departure of Soudan Contingent 1885 passing Victoria Barracks 1885
Collection: The Army Museum, Victoria Barracks

Detachment of NSW Lancers 1897
Collection: The Army Museum, Victoria Barracks

Old South Head Road (now Oxford Street), looking west (undated)
Source: *Paddington - It's History, Trade and Industries 1860-1910*, published by the Municipal Council of Paddington, 1910

The Duke of Cornwall & York riding down Oxford Street en route to the opening celebrations of Centennial Park, during the Commonwealth Celebrations of 1888
Source: *Paddington - It's History, Trade and Industries 1860-1910*

Advertisements 1910
Source: *Paddington - It's History, Trade and Industries 1860-1910*

Oxford Street c.1925
Collection: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

Old South Head Road looking towards Elizabeth Street from Regent Street 1859
Source: *Paddington - It's History, Trade and Industries 1860-1910*

Kinselas funeral parlour, corner of Oxford Street and Greens Road c.1890
Source: *Paddington - It's History, Trade and Industries 1860-1910*

Advertisements 1910
Source: *Paddington - It's History, Trade and Industries 1860-1910*



VIEW OF PADDINGTON, IN 1863, FROM THE SAND HILLS.

This shows the Victoria Barracks at the top of the picture on the right, with the Officers' Quarters at the end. The vacant land fronting Old South Head Road in the foreground is now occupied with the block of buildings commencing with Kinsela's down to Marshall's Brewery at the corner of Oxford Street and Dowling Street, the present boundary.



This is a view taken from Oxford Street showing Napier Street and Green's Road on the left. The latter street is used by the tramway authorities on special occasions when the heavy traffic from the show ground and Cricket Ground needs greater accommodation. Relief trams then run from these places to the city via Green's Road and Oxford Street.

A Hundred Years: historical chronology

Ivan Dougherty Gallery

1880 land on Sydney Common, with frontages to Selwyn, Albion and Napier Streets purchased by the Department of Education at a cost of £6,960-18-5
1883 + 1886 temporary bldgs erected to accommodate excess pupils from Crown Street Public School

1894

Albion Street Public School construction commences; nine classrooms could accommodate 693 pupils; total cost £3,029 (completed May 1895)

Paddington / Australia (1894)

1838-1842 Victoria Barracks built
1842 first two Paddington schools established
1841 Darlinghurst Gaol opens
1853 Paddington Public School opens
1879 Zoological Gardens in Moore Park opens
1880 Tramline to Moore Park completed
1881 Tramline along Oxford Street
1882 First Agricultural Society exhibition
1883 United Order of Druids Paddington branch est
1883 Jessie the elephant arrives at the zoo, a gift from the King of Siam
1885 Post and telegraph office opens
1886 Paddington Ionic Masonic Lodge established
1888 Centennial Park opens
1890 Eastern suburbs tramline opens
1891 Paddington Town Hall opens

1894

- Tom Roberts paints *Mosman's Bay and The Golden Fleece*
- Sydney Long paints *By Tranquil Waters*
- Ethel Turner's *Seven Little Australians* published
- women in South Australia get the vote
- Australian colonies abolish differing time zones
- the term "fair dinkum" first appears in print, in *The Bulletin*
- new Sydney Hospital opened
- Sir Robert Gordon Menzies is born
- a head on collision between two trains at Redfern claims 12 lives
- 112 lives are lost when S.S. Wairapa wrecked off the coast of New Zealand en route from Sydney to Auckland
- CBD of Melbourne lit by electric street lighting
- infamous Brunswick baby-farmer Frances Knorr hung for killing babies given into her care
- Sydney baby-farmer John Makin was hung and his wife Sara jailed for the murders of 12 babies found buried in the gardens of houses they had occupied
- Martha Needle, who fatally poisoned her husband and 3 young children with arsenic to collect on their insurance policies, was also hung

1895 Albion Street Public School opened
1901 reclassified as Superior Public School

1913 becomes a Public & Junior Technical School

1925 becomes Sydney Technical High School
1957 Alexander Mackie Teachers College founded
1975 reclassified as a College of Advanced Education
1980 School of Art occupies site
1982 renamed City Art Institute
1988 City Art Institute becomes part of NSW Institute of the Arts
1990 amalgamates with The University of New South Wales to become UNSW College of Fine Arts

1901 new Royal Hospital for Women constructed
1902 plague outbreak at Moore Park Zoological Gardens
1910 population of Paddington has reached 75,000
1916 Zoological Gardens move to Taronqa Park



The Old School.

Ivan Dougherty Gallery

Director: Nick Waterlow
Acting Director (July-Dec 1994): Alan Oldfield
Curator: Felicity Fenner
Assistant Curator: Jennifer Hardy
Administrative Assistants: Beverley Fielder and Yvonne Donaldson
Weekend Staff: Maria Wasson and Dominique Nagy

A Hundred Years

Curators: Felicity Fenner and Jennifer Hardy
Research: Catherine Benz
Installation Assistant: Maria Wasson

Ivan Dougherty Gallery

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Monday to Friday 10-5 • Saturday 1-5 • closed Sundays and public holidays