



THE PONDS WALK

"The Ponds, a name which I suppose it derived from several ponds of water, which are near the farms."

Watkin Tench, 1789

Parramatta and the surrounding districts were places of significant Aboriginal occupation prior to European settlement. The Ponds area was the land of the Darug language speaking Wallumedda clan. The Ponds Creek, originally a series of swamps and soaks, and its tributaries are the headwaters of a creek network flowing through a valley and joining Subiaco Creek. This walk follows the two creeks for most of their journey to the Parramatta River.

In July 1791, Governor Arthur Phillip settled 14 former convicts and their families on 30 - 50 acre Crown Grants along these creeks. Street names such as Brand, Rope, Tilley, Marshall and Summers remind us of these settlers. These Crown Grants were confirmed on 22nd February 1792, the boundaries of which are shown on the map on the sign's reverse. In the late 1790s the wider district was named Dundas after Henry Dundas, however the name of Dundas was not officially used in the area until the late 1800s. In these early years of the settlement the area was known as Pennant Hills.

Many of the new settlers, unsuited to farming life, eventually gave up their grants, selling them to Lieutenant William Cox, of the New South Wales Corps in the early 1800s. Cox extended his Brush Farm Holdings into Dundas Valley, growing wheat and corn and raising sheep and cattle. Gregory Blaxland, who later explored the Blue Mountains, purchased Brush Farm in 1806. His family gradually sold it by 1900.

In 1832 at a site in the valley now known as Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve, Major Thomas Mitchell examined the remains of a volcanic plug or pipe of columnar basalt and recommended that the site become a quarry (Pennant Hills Quarry). Due to the geological significance of the area famous scientists such as Darwin, Clarke, Dana, Mawson and David visited the site. Convicts quarried the 'blue metal' which was transported from the Ermington Wharf by boat to Sydney to be used in road construction. Local governments operated the quarry until it became uneconomic in the 1940s and it was later filled and dedicated as a reserve.

By the 1840s the valley farms had given way to orchards growing apples, oranges, lemons, apricots, peaches, pears and plums. One of the early pioneers of the orchard industry was George Spurway. During the 20th century, residential development gradually encroached on farming land which now included the seed nurserymen Yates and Rumsey. In the late 1940s most of the valley was resumed by the Housing Commission for post-war residential settlement.

The original vegetation in Carlingford, Dundas, Dundas Valley and Rydalmere is seen in the remaining bushland remnants along the Ponds Walk. Tall Blue Gum High Forest dominated the ridge-line along Marsden Road and gradually changed downslope into either Turpentine-Ironbark Forest or Shale-Sandstone Transition Forest. Along the lower reaches of Subiaco Creek, Sydney Coastal River-flat Forest is characterised by large Sydney Blue Gums. These bushland areas are small glimpses of the landscape that supported the Aboriginal people for thousands of years. All the bushland remnants are listed as endangered Ecological Communities under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and are protected. The majority of these plant communities have been cleared or disturbed in the past and are now being restored. Similarly the creeklines have been severely degraded through ongoing development and are also being gradually restored.

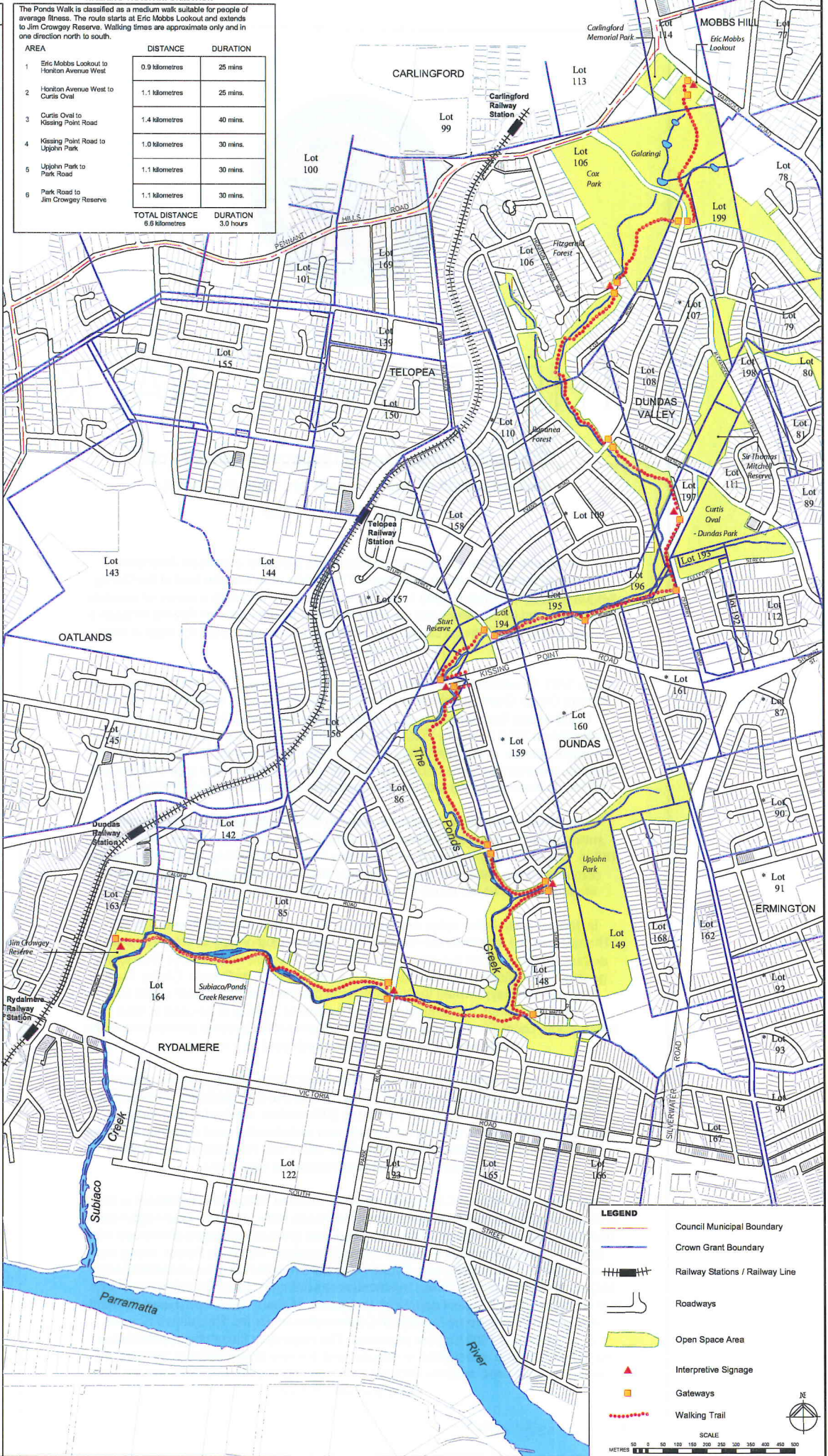
THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS

CROWN GRANT	DATE GRANTED/ AREA	GRANTEE
77	30-6-1823 100 acres	James Milten
78	6-7-1833 30 acres	William Mobbs
79	19-10-1831 20 acres	Joseph Eyles
80	20-10-1838 10 acres	James Reynolds "Comhill"
81	20-8-1834 20 acres	Mary Duggan
85	31-8-1833 100 acres	James Elder (Missionary and Carpenter)
86	3-10-1835 30 acres	James Elder (Missionary and Carpenter)
* 87	18-7-1791 30 acres	Curtis Brand (Ex-covert and Carpenter)
89	3-16-1794 100 acres	Rev. James Bate (Chaplain NSW Corps) "Comhill Hill"
* 90	18-7-1791 50 acres	Matthew Beveridge (Ex-covert and Law Clerk)
* 91	18-7-1791 50 acres	John Anderson (Ex-covert and Farmer)
* 92	18-7-1791 30 acres	Joseph Marshall (Ex-covert and Weaver)
* 93	18-7-1791 30 acres	Edward Elliott (Farmer)
94	3-2-1792 130 acres	Alexander McDonald (Marine)
99	15-9-1796 60 acres	Richard Partridge
100	19-11-1794 30 acres	William Batts
101	1-4-1794 30 acres	William Evans
106	1-4-1794 30 acres 15-9-1796 80 acres	Michael Fitzgerald (Farmer)
* 107	10-1-1792 30 acres	John Summers (Ex-covert and Farmer)
108	20-2-1794 30 acres	John Love (Army Private and Farmer) "Richard Farm"
* 109	18-1-1791 50 acres	John Ramsay (Ex-covert, Seaman, Farmer)
* 110	18-7-1791 50 acres	William Field (Ex-covert)
111	1-4-1794 20 acres	John Ramsay (Ex-covert, Seaman, Farmer) "Betsy Farm"
112	20-2-1794 30 acres	Thomas Tilley (Ex-covert)
113	10-5-1797 50 acres	James Larr (Ex-covert and Interpreter) "Hannah Farm"
114	10-5-1797 30 acres	James Jennings
122	3-1-1792 80 acres	James Manning (Ex-Marine and Settler)
123	3-1-1792 80 acres	John Carver (Ex-Marine and Settler)
139	20-10-1834 11 acres	Mary Bowerman
142	8-7-1833	Hannah Hawkins Macarthur (Farmer and Politician)
143	25-7-1833 90 acres	Percy Simpson (Army Officer and Engineer) "Outlands"
144	22-10-1838 100 acres	Henry Wilde "Creek Farm"
145	11-2-1838 100 acres	Robert Green
148	6-10-1892 97 acres	Henry Boucher Bowerman
149	7-7-1853 40 acres	James Warman
150	20-4-1836 40 acres	Robert Gerald Moffat "Adderton"
155	1-1-1806 75 acres	Thomas Francis
156	20-1-1792 30 acres	William Wade
* 157	18-7-1791 50 acres	William Hubbard (Farmer, Constable and Waterman)
158	2-2-1792 30 acres	John Pedrick (Farmer and Labourer)
* 159	18-7-1791 50 acres	Joseph Bishop (Ex-covert, Fisherman, Sawyer and Farmer)
* 160	18-7-1791 70 acres	Anthony Rope (Ex-covert and Bricklayer)
* 161	18-7-1791 30 acres	Edward Vardell (Ex-covert, Sawyer and Farmer)
162	5-9-1795 30 acres	Thomas Howard
163	22-2-1792 140 acres	Phillip Schaeffer (Ex-Farm Superintendent and Settler)
164	9-7-1822 160 acres	Hannah Macarthur (Farmer and Politician)
165	50 acres	John Seymour
166	60 acres	William Reid
167	22-2-1792 60 acres	Phillip Schaeffer (Ex-Farm Superintendent and Settler)
168	5-9-1795 20 acres	Elizabeth Ann Clarke
169	1-4-1794 50 acres	Benjamin (John) Carver (Ex-covert, Farmer and Constable)
192		John Gould
193		
194		Enoch Smith
195		C.W. Mills
196		George Stewart
197		Samuel Ogden
198		George Spurway
199	17-6-1867 21 acres	John Brown

WALKING TRACK INFORMATION

The Ponds Walk is classified as a medium walk suitable for people of average fitness. The route starts at Eric Mobbs Lookout and extends to Jim Crowgry Reserve. Walking times are approximate only and in one direction north to south.

AREA	DISTANCE	DURATION
1 Eric Mobbs Lookout to Horizon Avenue West	0.9 kilometres	25 mins
2 Horizon Avenue West to Curtis Oval	1.1 kilometres	25 mins.
3 Curtis Oval to Kissing Point Road	1.4 kilometres	40 mins.
4 Kissing Point Road to Uppjohn Park	1.0 kilometres	30 mins.
5 Uppjohn Park to Park Road	1.1 kilometres	30 mins.
6 Park Road to Jim Crowgry Reserve	1.1 kilometres	30 mins.
TOTAL DISTANCE	6.6 kilometres	DURATION 3.0 hours



* FIRST CROWN LAND GRANTS by Governor Arthur Phillip 1791. Confirmed by registration February 22, 1792.

* First Crown Grant Information provided by Elizabeth Boesel.