

Sydney's ever changing heritage

GA2023 Walking Tour



GML acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we meet for the GA2023. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Located at Tumbalong/Cockle Bay, now Darling Harbour, the ICC is on Gadigal Country. 'Tumbalong' means a place where seafood is found. This is reflected in the extensive shell middens found along the harbour's shorelines. Colonisation profoundly transformed Darling Harbour and the Gadigal's resources. The land grants, reclamations, industrialisation, shipping, export, technological change, to today's revitalised tourism and leisure precinct, are all part of Sydney's ever changing heritage.

During the GA2023, venture into the city and discover Sydney's history and heritage on a self-guided walking tour.

Start your walking tour at the ICC. It should take you 2-2.5 hours. Train stations are indicated if you need to get around quickly.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this map includes images of people that are now deceased.

Key

A Tour stop

— Tour route

T Train station



Scan to learn more

About GML

GML Heritage is an interdisciplinary heritage consultancy that has been supporting communities and clients to plan, manage, conserve, and interpret heritage for over 30 years.

Visit us at the Gadi Lounge or Booth 1 during the GA. We'd love to meet you and learn about what heritage means to you.

1 Barangaroo

The headland is named Barangaroo after a courageous Aboriginal woman who resisted colonists' entreaties. When her partner, Bennelong, attended the Governor's dinner she expressed her anger by breaking his spear. During the Great Depression era this foreshore became known as the "Hungry Mile". Harbourside workers walked between wharves trying to secure a day's work.

Hickson Rd, Barangaroo



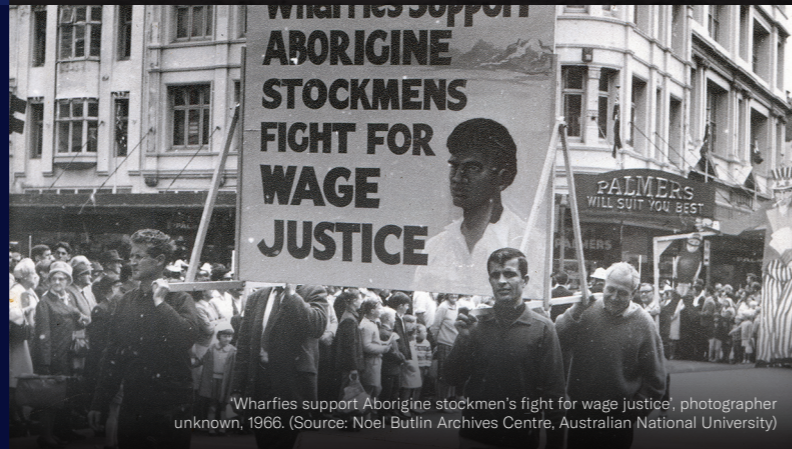
'8.40am: surplus labour', photo taken by Arthur Aitken, 1927. (Source: Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University)

2 Walsh Bay Finger Wharves

The Walsh Bay finger wharves, now home to leading performing arts companies, were once the site of fast paced dangerous work unloading cargo. Sydney Harbour Trust's construction of the wharves from 1906-1920 represented a globally advanced design for a shipping port.

During the 1930s, the unionized maritime workforce with many Aboriginal workers led fearless campaigns for wages, equity, education and land rights.

6 Cowper Wharf Roadway, Woolloomooloo



'Wharves support Aborigine stockmen's fight for wage justice', photographer unknown, 1966. (Source: Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University)

3 Dawes Point

Opening in 1932, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was constructed over 8 years. It required c1400 workers, 52,800 tonnes of steel and 6 million rivets.

The southern pylon is in Dawes Point, named after William Dawes, the colony's first astronomer. Dawes established a rudimentary observatory here in 1788, studying not only the stars but also Sydney's Aboriginal language with Patyegarang, a young woman.

Sydney Harbour Bridge, The Rocks



Sketch & description of the settlement at Sydney Cove Port Jackson, Francis Fowler, 16 April, 1788. (Source: National Library of Australia)

4 Jack Munday Place

Sydney was one of the first places in the world to have green bans—industrial action that prevented development of significant landscapes and places. Led by Jack Munday, the Builders Labourers Federation, alongside members of the community fought to save The Rocks, as well as places such as Centennial Park, Glebe, Kings Cross, and Woolloomooloo.

Argyle St, The Rocks



Jack Munday leads a protest against demolition at The Rocks in Sydney, 1973. (Source: Fairfax Media)

5 The Big Dig

This archaeological site contains remains from the late 18th century. With over 750,000 artefacts excavated it is one of the largest urban archaeological excavations in Australia. These artefacts are traces of a densely populated maritime village, where Cantonese, Gaelic, Maori and many other languages echoed in the streets.

110 Cumberland St, The Rocks



Excavations at the Big Dig site, 1994. (Source: GML Heritage)

6 Circular Quay

Circular Quay was an important resource and meeting place for Sydney's Aboriginal groups. It was transformed into a maritime industrial site following colonisation. People from many different nations established themselves at the Quay. Chinese traders and businesses were positioned in proximity to the wharves, and street hawkers were regularly seen selling their goods.

Circular Quay, Sydney

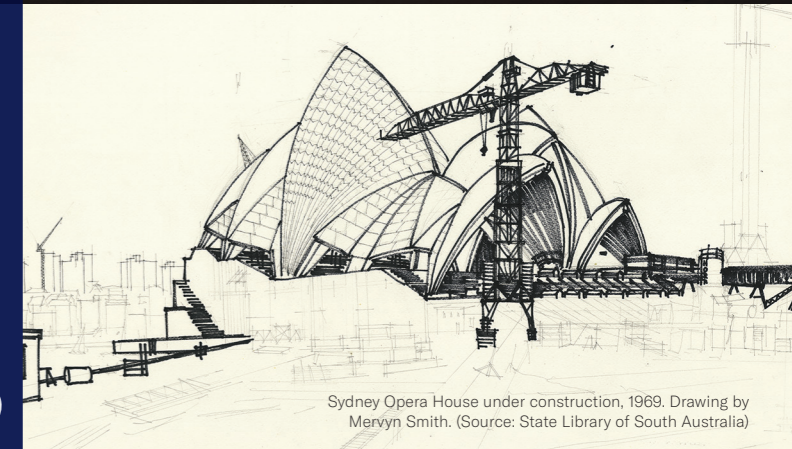


Chinese hawker at Argyle Street, The Rocks by Arthur Syer c1885-1890. (Source: State Library of New South Wales)

7 Bennelong Point

Home to the Sydney Opera House, the youngest building to be inscribed on the World Heritage list. Bennelong Point is a place of many pasts. A hut was constructed here for Bennelong, who was an important cross-cultural mediator between the colonist government and local Aboriginal people. In 1957, Danish architect Jørn Utzon won the international design competition for the Opera House. To many, it is a symbol of Australia's modernity and creativity.

Bennelong Point, Sydney

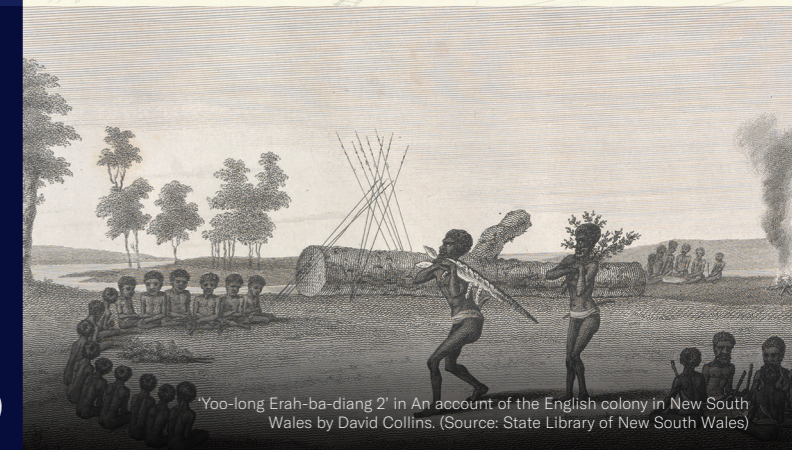


Sydney Opera House under construction, 1969. Drawing by Mervyn Smith. (Source: State Library of South Australia)

8 Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Discover the Botanic Gardens' Aboriginal heritage and explore the first government farm site, that is Australia's oldest scientific institution for botany and horticulture. The Gardens are associated with traditional gatherings. A Yoo-long Erah-ba-diang ceremony for young Aboriginal men was held here and recorded by David Collins in 1795.

Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney



'Yoo-long Erah-ba-diang' in An account of the English colony in New South Wales by David Collins. (Source: State Library of New South Wales)

9 Museum of Sydney, on the site of First Government House

Here in 1788 on the land of the Gadigal people, Governor Arthur Phillip built Government House. It was on this site that Aboriginal men Bennelong and Colbee were incarcerated in November 1789. Colbee fled after two and a half weeks but Bennelong did not escape for five months.

Cnr Bridge St & Phillip St, Sydney



First Government House, Sydney c1807, by John Eyre. (Source: State Library of New South Wales)

10 Hyde Park Barracks

Opening in 1819, the World Heritage inscribed Hyde Park Barracks is a convict designed and built barracks that is part of the Australian convict serial listing. It's now an immersive museum that tells the stories of the thousands of men, women and children held or housed there, and the Aboriginal communities profoundly impacted by the relentless push of colonial expansion.

Queens Square, Macquarie St, Sydney



'Hiring Immigrants at the Depot, Hyde Park', Australian Town and Country Journal, 19 July 1879. (Source: State Library of New South Wales)