

**FOKE**



FRIENDS OF  
KU-RING-GAI  
ENVIRONMENT

2015 FOKE Heritage Festival Event  
in association with the National Trust's Heritage Festival



# Turramurra Heritage Walk



Sunday 17 May, 2015

Ticket Office  
Turramurra Railway Station  
Turramurra, NSW, Australia  
10am—12noon

# Turrumurra Heritage Walk

Turrumurra's village precinct is unique. It is a collection of Federation and interwar streetscapes and 'gardenesque' publically-owned carparks. They are all within walking distance of some of Australia's finest 20th century domestic architecture and some of Sydney's rarest urban forests — critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest.

This heritage precinct includes Turrumurra Railway Station; the 1920s Rohini Street shops; the Gilroy Community Centre, Gilroy Street Heritage Conservation Area, Turrumurra Lookout Community Garden, Hillview Conservation Area and much more.

FOKE proposes a new planning vision for Turrumurra for the benefit of the future city of Sydney. Its wants Turrumurra's development to be award winning, innovative and one that retains, enhances and celebrates its parkland charm, village character and architectural heritage.

Turrumurra village is important to the heritage of Sydney. Turrumurra presents an opportunity—just as the Rocks did when it was saved from demolition and high rise in the 1970s.

Turrumurra village is a gift with its abundance of publically owned carparks that still retain their park-like character. At two formal public hearings, FOKE, along with other community groups, successfully rejected the reclassification of their public land for sale. It was argued that they were too important to lose. Many community owned council carparks offer opportunities to sympathetically revitalise local shopping villages and provide more open space. Once the land is in private ownership the community effectively loses control over what is built on it and how big and high it is.

It is now time for Ku-ring-gai Council and the NSW Government to listen to FOKE's vision.

*Any great city ought to be able to boast an area such as Ku-ring-gai.  
In many cities of the world the values that are characteristic of Ku-ring-gai would be  
regarded as the things to be preserved.  
These values are universal.*

- Barry O'Keefe, AM, former National Trust (NSW) President, 2002

# Timeline — Turramurra's Heritage & Planning

- Pre 1788 The Kuring-gai people, known as the Terramerregal, were the original owners of the land of Turramurra. The word 'Turramurra' is the Aboriginal word for 'big hill'.
- 1820s-1840s **Turramurra's Timber Era**—Land grants issued to free settlers who cut down the immense, ancient forests of Turramurra.
- 1850s **Turramurra's Orcharding Era**—High rainfall and pockets of fertile soil produces a variety of citrus and other fruits. 'Boyd's Orchard' dates back to 1832 owned by Thomas Boyd.
- 1880s Land investment companies begin to purchase land to sell to middle class professionals for their family 'country' homes.
- 1890 Railway line opens from Hornsby and St Leonards. Rail line extended in 1893. Mr Ivan Auprince purchases land with house at Hillview.
- 1894 Yellowstone National Park—the first in the world—inspires Eccleston du Faur [1832-1915] to successfully advocate for Ku-ring-gai Chase to be Australia's second national park.
- 1895-1896 'Ingleholme' in Boomerang Street, Turramurra is built for John Sulman [1849-1934] renowned architect and town planning visionary.
- 1902 First mention of 'Hillview' as a health resort. Leased to a series of women who ran it as a grand guest house.
- 1907 'Hillview' purchased by E.W. Paul, who also purchases an additional ten blocks of land.
- 1913 E.S.W. Paul builds 2nd Federation house at 'Hillview'. In 1923 house converted into eight flats.
- 1920 Appearance of fruit fly and disease destroy remaining orchards. Growing demand for housing.
- 1932 Sydney Harbour Bridge opens. Views of Sydney Harbour Bridge can be seen from Pymble Hill.
- 1945 Annie Forsyth Wyatt, President of the Ku-ring-gai 'Tree Lovers' Civic League founds NSW National Trust—the first in Australia. Alderman Cresswell O'Reilly—also known as the 'Tree Mayor' of Ku-ring-gai is the founding President of the National Trust.
- 1973 Ku-ring-gai Council purchases 'Hillview' and leases it to the Health Commission.
- 1980 Hornsby & Ku-ring-gai Hospital purchase 'Hillview' with help from Rotary fundraising.
- 2000 Environmental Baseline Studies establish environmental sensitivity and limitations to Ku-ring-gai's urban development. Ku-ring-gai Council's Draft Residential Strategy 2000 [Michael Harrison, Travis McEwan Group] acknowledges that "Ku-ring-gai exhibits environmental splendour of such a scale it is of national significance." NSW Government rejects Strategy.
- 2004 Ku-ring-gai's Medium Density Era - Local Environment Plan [LEP] 194 allows 5 storey apartments.
- 2006 First Independent Hearings into the reclassification of community lands held by Ku-ring-gai Council. Selling off publically owned carparks rejected by community.
- 2008 January NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor imposes external planning panel on Ku-ring-gai Council. Planning Panel to approve high-density development in Ku-ring-gai Town Centres.
- 2010 NSW Planning Minister Tony Kelly announces 12-month extension of Ku-ring-gai Planning Panel who continue to make decisions on major developments rather than Ku-ring-gai Council.
- 2011 'Friends of Turramurra' win legal challenge to reject Ku-ring-gai Town Centre LEP —thanks to the support of the Environmental Defenders Office (NSW).
- 2012 Ku-ring-gai LEP (Local Centres) 2012 gazettes 5 storeys for Turramurra Town Centre. NSW Planning Minister Brad Hazzard overrides a recommendation for 2 storeys for 'Hillview' one of NSW's significant heritage sites and upzones it to 3 storeys that permits a roadway through the site.
- 2013 Jackson-Stepowski's Peer Review recommends Heritage Conservation Area that includes 'Hillview'.

## Allen Strom—a remarkable ‘Chief Guardian of Fauna’

SATURDAY 20 JUNE, 2015 10am-12 pm **Cost \$35**

Who was Allen Strom (1915-1997) and why in 1958 was he appointed NSW’s official ‘Chief Guardian of Fauna’? Learn about his pivotal role in founding the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW—two of NSW’s most significant environment organisations. Tutor: Janine Kitson. Bookings essential. Course No: 52WK099 Contact WEA, SYDNEY, Ph: (02) 9264 2781 E: [info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au) [www.weasydney.com.au](http://www.weasydney.com.au)

## Annie Wyatt & the Conservationists of the National Trust

SATURDAY 27 JUNE 10.30-11.30

Learn about the life of Annie Wyatt and other important conservationists who helped shape the National Trust, including Marie Byles and Thistle Harris. Northcott Function Centre, 1 Fennell St, North Parramatta. Cost: \$15 For bookings and payment visit [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au) Enquiries Ph: (02) 9635 8149

## Let’s Get Serious About Habitat ! *Wildthings Talkabout*

SUNDAY 19th JULY, 2015 , 12noon—5 pm

Turrumurra Masonic Hall, cnr Pacific Hwy & Turrumurra Ave—a short walk from Turrumurra Railway Station. Plenty of carparking available. Entry by donation. Bookings: [wildthingsnsw1@gmail.com](mailto:wildthingsnsw1@gmail.com)

## Myles Dunphy — ‘Bushwalker Extrordinaire’

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST, 2015 10am-12 pm **Cost \$35**

Learn about Myles Dunphy [1891-1985] bushwalker, architect, teacher, conservationist and his many extraordinary bushwalking adventures - including his 1914 Kowmung wilderness walk in what is in today’s Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Bookings essential. Course No: 53WK088 Contact WEA, SYDNEY Ph: (02) 9264 2781 E: [info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au) [www.weasydney.com.au](http://www.weasydney.com.au)

## JOIN fOKE—Ku-ring-gai’s environment needs you!

### fOKE Membership Form

Name (including Title)

.....  
of Home Address:

Suburb: .....

Postcode: ... ..

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

.....  
Hereby applies for membership of Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc. (fOKE). In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

Membership Fee

Annually January—December

Ordinary \$10

Concession (student/senior citizen) \$ 5

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Date received: .....

Date admitted: .....

**fOKE**

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