

CONTEXT – WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT KU-RING-GAI

NSW Heritage Office Website.

“Heritage consists of those places and objects that we as a community have inherited from the past and want to hand on to future generations.”

► **Thematic History of Ku-ring-gai 1987 Heritage Study.**

“Since the late 1880’s when the promise of a railway was first put forward many of the best Australian domestic architects have practiced in Ku-ring-gai. The result today is that Ku-ring-gai is one of Australia’s most comprehensive repositories of fine 20th century domestic architecture.”

► **Dr Tim Flannery to Ku-ring-gai August 1997.**

“Gardens really are important. They can provide vital habitat and links for wildlife living in areas such as national parks. The destruction of suburban gardens through medium density and other overdevelopment is, I believe, having a severe deleterious effect on urban wildlife in some areas.”

► **Emeritus Prof Gareth Roberts AM Ku-ring-gai Heritage Awards 1998.**

Ku-ring-gai is an environment whose location, topography, landscape and buildings make it a place of heritage significance.

► **Michael Harrison, for Travis McEwen Group. Draft Residential Strategy 2000.**

“Past Ku-ring-gai generations have left a legacy to Sydney of a unique blend of tall forest splendour, large areas of natural habitat (that accommodate a wide range of threatened species) and an extensive architectural heritage. It is incumbent on this generation to preserve and where possible improve upon this legacy for the future”.

“(In Ku-ring-gai) the areas where much of the beautifully designed heritage housing is located are typically near the Pacific Highway/Railway ridgeline where the topography drops away either side towards the bushland habitat and tall forest which houses Sydney’s largest variety of endangered and threatened species”.

“The two issues – the protection of the natural environment and extensive areas of built and landscape heritage – are valuable legacies of previous generations. The onus is firmly on the current generation to very carefully plan and design new development in order to leave future generations with a better environment”.

“The objective is that each individual development must result in a net environmental improvement (e.g. stormwater flow/quality and tree canopy protection – both fundamental to protecting biodiversity in Ku-ring-gai).”

“Stormwater runoff, sewerage overflows and other negative impacts from urbanization are major issues in Ku-ring-gai because they affect the ring of National Parks around Ku-ring-gai”.

“The importance of maintaining and enhancing the extensive tree canopy in Ku-ring-gai is a key issue because the canopy enables “biolinkages” with the surrounding National Parks for a wide variety of species”.

“Ku-ring-gai exhibits environmental splendour of such a scale it is of national significance.”

“Unique features of Ku-ring-gai include:

- *Most of the last remnants in the Sydney “bioregion” of the toweringly tall Blue Gum forests (the “bioregion” extends from Nelson Bay to Bateman’s Bay and from the coast to the mountains).*
- *The largest number of threatened species (plants and animals) in the bioregion for a local government area. It is noteworthy that Ku-ring-gai has similar numbers of bird and plant species as the entire British Isles.*
- *4 National Parks in and around Ku-ring-gai:*
 - *Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park*
 - *Lane Cove National Park*
 - *Garigal National Park*
 - *Dalrymple Hay Forest National Park (Nature Reserve)”.*

► **The Hon Tom Uren AO Former Federal Minister of Urban and Regional Development** launched the ACNT list 2000 Patron of the Defenders of Sydney Harbour Foreshores, Chairman of the Parramatta Park Trust, and Spokesperson for the Australian Council of National Trusts Endangered Places List 2000. 2001)

You have something special here in Ku-ring-gai. Fight for it.

► **The Hon. Barry O’Keefe, AM, Then President, The National Trust of Australia (NSW) 2002.**

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.

► **Peter Garrett, then President of the Australian Conservation Foundation, 2002.**

I want to express my strong support for today’s Rally. As a former resident of Ku-ring-gai I can vouch for the strong natural and heritage qualities of the Shire. Whilst we must be mindful of the equitable provision of housing in Sydney, the current proposals are not about equity at all. This is imposing inappropriate high-rise development where the developers’ dreams become the residents’ nightmare. This move must be resisted, your voices clearly heard, and Ku-ring-gai as you know it and love it must be preserved. (“Fight the Height” Rally 17 November 2002 held in Tryon Rd car park against the Minister seizing the six sites).