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Wayne Johnson A. European settlement in Construction of the fort development. The confrontation between history. Introduction As part of this program of interpretation, Dawes Point Reserve became a focus for investi- The Dawes Point Battery remains are being gation in It is found that the park afforded spectacular views of a site that links Australia and its neighbors within the harbor. Until the only reminders of the the global theme of colonialism, forming a focus former military use were five pounder cannon for the interpretation of the centuries of conflict cast in the early s, although no plaque alerted between the European powers over their colonial the passerby to their significance or provenance. It was here, Subsequent historical research revealed a far richer too, that the some of earliest recorded attempts history, a story of one of the longest continuously at conciliation were made with the indigenous occupied sites since European colonization, not to occupants of Sydney, the Cadigal. The remains mention at least 10, years of use by the ances- also serve to focus attention on the reliance of tors of the Cadigal people of the Sydney region the European settlers on the sea. It was to sea Stockton A once- the southern end of Sydney Cove in The Historical Archaeology, , 37 1: Permission to reprint required. Like many place names out into the harbor at Dawes Point. Dawes had joined the expedition to Dawes was also responsible for one of the Australia at the prompting of Nevil Maskelyne, first attempts at conciliation between the Euro- the astronomer royal. His main aim was to peans and indigenous Cadigal people. Here he observe the stars, searching for the return of a befriended a woman named Patyegarang and comet predicted by Maskelyne, as well as to take learned her language, compiling the first study meteorological readings and fix the longitude of of the local people. Dawes became something of the colony. This was one of the last experiments a champion of the Aboriginal people. He later became governor of Sierra Leone, the British colony in Substantial archaeological remains were found Africa made up of freed slaves. As is always the case with archaeologi- tion of the author and were concluded the cal investigations, the excavation has prompted following September. Stratigraphic evidence further questions as to how the site developed showed that the topsoil had been stripped from and why. The revealed sandstone bedrock generally in the first place. It was a remote response bore the scars of leveling dating to the period to conflict that had been brewing for centuries between and The excavations failed and that places the settlement of Sydney in to locate any remains associated with the obser- one of the final phases of European colonial vatory. Topographic information in a letter from expansion. In December , the presumably removing evidence of the Dawes Dutch ship Waaksamheyd, from Batavia, brought occupation. It is possible, however, that wells news of a dispute between England and Spain, or other deep features survive elsewhere on the arising over the increased English presence in site from this period, yet to be uncovered. View of Dawes Point Battery ca. It is believed to have been based on a view now lost by Thomas Watling made before Private collection, courtesy of SHFA. Not, however, to be found totally unprovided, in case an lateth century with little or no attention being enemy should appear, a battery was planned near the paid to the more than 40, years of known entrance of Sydney Cove, and other formidable prepara- Aboriginal occupation of the continent. The tions set on foot Tench In the beginning of the month, the stone-mason, with Nationalistic historical studies, particularly the people under his direction, had begun working at the west point of the cove, where the governor purposed those of former colonies, often tend to look at constructing out of the rock a spot whereon to place the the subject-state in terms of its modern politi- guns belonging to the settlement, which was to wear the cal boundaries, with little or no reference to appearance of a work. The flagstaff was to be placed surrounding states, to the historical changes in the same situation. The British govern- Australia were federated. The colony of New ment, looking for the least reason to war, pre- Zealand opted for separate nationhood. Australian continent east of degrees lon- The dispute, known as the Nootka Sound Inci- gitude incorporating for a time New Zealand. When diers and male convicts from Sydney, forming an questioned about the origins of nonindigenous expeditionary force to the west coast of Canada

settlement on the Australian continent, the aver- Historical Records of Australia [HRA] The European Colonial Aspirations more informed might have some vague memory in Southeast Asia of once hearing that the Dutch had set foot in Australia some time before. From at least the 13th century, Macassan colonization of Australia are both numerous and merchant fleets traveled to the northern shores of controversial. The begin- certainly a major factor in the decision to ning of European colonial expansion can arguably establish the colony. There is often a tendency, be dated to the Portuguese colonization of the however, to examine history as a chain of Atlantic island of Madeira in The first was largely subsumed by Spain. The following year, this Bull was scrutinized at With the triumph of the Dutch independence the Spanish town of Tordesillas, its repercussions movement and release from Spanish sovereignty, echoing for the next years Figure 3. Dutch trading fleets swept into the void left by The Treaty of Tordesillas in fixed a line Portugal to contest Asian trade via the Cape. The captured the Javan town of Jacatra, renamed Bat- intention was to divide the undiscovered to the avia in From here, the Dutch effectively Europeans halves of the globe between Spain removed Portuguese competition in Asia. Portugal lost little time rounding further consolidated their position by securing the Cape of Good Hope and captured the Malay the Cape of Good Hope in , thus hold- city-state of Malacca in Commanding the ing the last provisioning posts before ships set sea route to the Moluccas or Spice Islands , Por- forth across the Indian Ocean and sailed up the tugal controlled the lucrative spice trade through west Australian coast for Southeast Asia. Dutch Malacca back to Europe via South Africa. Only the east coast remained hemisphere. It may be no coincidence that the of trade with China. English privateers such as Sir Francis the last decades of the 16th century, Spain and Drake had been active in the region since Substantial remains of their fort can still be seen. The inconclusive Second Dutch War of , which had seen a Dutch fleet sail up the Thames and capture and destroy a number of English ships, was concluded with the Treaty of Breda. All but forced by the Dutch out of Southeast Asia, a token English presence was, nevertheless, maintained from at Fort York later Fort Marlborough at Benku- len on the south coast of Sumatra; England also had substantial holdings in India. European colonies and trading settlements, its Colonial American policy, convicts and slaves â€” The capture of Manila went according to plan The War of the Spanish Succession, which only to be returned to Spain on the declaration saw the king of France, Louis XIV, claim the of peace by the terms of the Treaty of Paris in throne of Spain for his grandson Philip, was Balambangan proved to be a failure treaties, see King The linking of the as a trading center and was abandoned after Spanish and French crowns under the Bourbon 13 years in , following sustained attacks dynasty created a power bloc in Europe, which from pirates from the Sulu Straits. In , forced the English and Dutch into an alliance. Cook charted New Zealand, which he claimed For the major part of the 18th century, the two for Britain. The Seven Years War was the potential for fur trade with China. His expe- fought in Europe, America, India, and Southeast ditions had also noted the potential for whale Asia. Predictably the English and their allies oil harvest in the waters of the South Pacific. In one significant episode, a Brit- Pacific claims, Spain stepped up its presence on ish fleet captured Manila, the center of Spanish the west coast of North America. Between trade with China. The first was a book published by employed throughout the Philippines in the 16th Alexander Wright entitled A Method Proposed and 17th centuries. Like the record of preparations for the capture of Manila Seven Years War, it escalated into a multinational Cushner Lord Anson, as First Lord dispute. At first pitching Britain against its of the Admiralty, included the plan to establish American colonies and their ally France, in a settlement on the island of Mindanao follow- Spain and Holland declared war on ing the capture of Manila. His mission became a naval Sydney and the Nootka Sound Incident reconnaissance, recording potentially important information in case of future hostilities. It was also to stand him in good stead for another Reports in England of the rough treatment of mission on his arrival in England King The Treaty of Paris concluded the ment an opportunity to challenge the Spaniards American Revolution in Simultaneously over the Pacific. On a more positive note for and Spain from to the early s. King Britain, the Dutch ceded them full trading rights In it their territories. The the potential threat posed by the settlement position of governor and admiral of the fleet at Sydney to the Philippines and Americas. A was given to none other than that same Captain conversation between the British Ambassador Arthur Phillip who so recently had been charged to Spain and the Spanish prime minister at the with the duty of harassing Spanish

interests in height of the Nootka crisis serves to illustrate South America. Phillip had returned from India the role of the new colony as perceived by the in , and in the First Fleet set sail for Spanish government: Some transports of a like design against Peru and Chile, and as to our colony at Botany Bay that it must necessarily have the First Fleet, having discharged their human been founded with a view to seconding these designs cargoes at Sydney, heeded the reports of Cook and adding to our other conquests that of the Philip- and hunted for whale oil in the South Pacific: Duke of Leeds 16 June In that time, the British gov- leon Bonaparte whose brothers now occupied ernment had voted one million pounds to war the thrones of Holland and Spain. A For Spain, war would have been disastrous. In Mexico the Spanish viceroy advised: By March , and war averted. The threat had, in fact, narrowest part of Sydney Harbour, conveniently passed before the Australian colonists were even close to the main settlement. In the post aware of its existence. By the time news of the was staffed with personnel, quartered in treaty arrived, Dawes Point Battery was ready Sydney less than half a mile distant. This to defend the settlement. In addition was a Wars of the 19th Century company of carpenters, blacksmith, and bricklay- ers, as well as 13 stonemasons whose primary The rise of republican France and finally of task was to quarry and level the site. Although Napoleon in the closing years of the 18th century the site commanded a view up and down the swept away much of the traditional animosity harbor, it did not have a view to the entrance felt between the monarchies of Britain, Spain, some 7 mi. The entrance to Sydney Har- France, and Holland. The establishment of bour comprises three headlands: In a gun emplacement saw the Stadtholder William of Orange flee and signal station was set up at Middle Head, to England, encouraging the British to occupy which commanded the view from the entrance the Cape of Good Hope and the Dutch East back to Dawes Point. For the period of the Napoleonic Wars, a substantial amount of leveling of the sandstone bedrock was carried out and flagstones laid where faults and fissures occurred in the rock. Twenty- six convict stonemasons are listed as working on the battery in the muster of

2: Biography - William Dawes - Australian Dictionary of Biography

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Sydney Historic Notes and Themes Historical notes: It has a rich documented history beginning with the one of the earliest recorded cultural exchanges between the Eora Aboriginals and the First Fleet. Subsequently it remained in government ownership both as a place of strategic administration, defence and transport and as a place contributing to the magnificent landscape of our harbour city. The Aboriginal people who lived along the coastal area of Sydney were called the Eora. Long before British settlement, groups of Eora inhabited this area, this is substantiated by archaeological evidence. Just to the south of the site in Cumberland Street a campfire radiocarbon dated to about AD was uncovered. In it were the remains of a meal consisting of schnapper and rock oysters. Dawes Point is the place of one of the earliest attempts at conciliation being made with the indigenous occupants of Sydney. One young Cameragal woman named Patyegarang became friends with Lt William Dawes whose hut and observatory were situated at the point from They learned to communicate, and Dawes recorded the Eora words and their English translations in his notebooks. This friendship is one of the earliest recorded cultural exchanges between the British and the Eora people. After the First Fleet arrived at Sydney cove in January Equipped with meteorological and astronomical books and instruments, Lt Williams Dawes had established an observatory by August on the point, which he named Point Maskelyne after the Astronomer Royal, Neville Maskelyne. However the point was subsequently referred to as Dawes Point. Lt Dawes had served in the American War of Independence and subsequently pursued studies in engineering and surveying. From this point Dawes was to observe and record a comet which it appears was never sighted, he also recorded meteorological observations and official time keeping for the colony. Dawes journals provided a detailed chronology of the early weather of the colony and is considered to be of great historical significance by the international scientific community. Evidence of the timber observatory survives only in rough sketch form, it is however, located on several maps and illustrations of Dawes Point indicating its location. It is speculated that it was built up against a rock outcrop to ensure the stability of the astronomical instruments. The building was demolished in to make way for the early battery. It was another thirty years before the colony constructed another observatory. Dawes Point juts out into the Harbour providing spectacular vistas both up and down the Harbour, this was immediately recognized as a position with strategic importance in terms of defence. After word arrived in Sydney about a dispute between England and Spain over the British presence in the Pacific, Dawes Point was chosen as the site for a permanent fortification to protect the settlement in case of an attack from other European Colonial powers in the region. In Dawes Point Battery was completed with guns taken from the Sirius. With the continual threat of attack particularly from the French in , Captain Edward Abbot was given the responsibility for the batteries of Dawes Point and Georges Head. Minor improvements continued to be made until when Governor Macquarie ordered the convict architect Francis Greenway to redesign it. In Greenway had built Fort Macquarie at Bennelong Point, this was a square-planned "castle" with circular bastions at each corner and a castellated square tower. Greenway continued the castellated Gothic theme in his upgrading of the Dawes Point Battery in The original plans have not survived, however from archaeological evidence, contemporary descriptions and illustrations an idea of the structure can be formed. The new guardhouse building took the form of a central "tower" with two projecting walls, each terminating in a small room, the whole castellated and producing the illusion, when viewed from the harbour, of a grand castle in a stage set. The archaeological excavations revealed that the magazine was incorporated into the guardhouse. The former magazine became the basement to the guardhouse which was constructed on an artificial mound. Detachments of the Royal Artillery were sent to Sydney in to be stationed at the battery. On the other side of Lower Fort St a barracks were installed for the men. Five 42lb cannons were installed at the battery at this time and can still be seen in the reserve, although only one is in the original position and on a carriage. A lower battery was constructed about this time, which has not been subject to archaeological excavation. Photographs and maps from the late s record the position and

construction for these ramparts. Two subterranean powder magazines were uncovered during the archaeological investigations, no historical plans or records for the construction of these magazines have been located but they are believed to have been built between 1788 and 1791. As part of ongoing military activity, other buildings were erected on the site near the Sentry Box at the foreshore of Dawes Point. One of these buildings which appears to have been known as the Drill Hall, it was a timber framed building and was relocated to Moore Park in 1880, prior to the construction of Hickson Road. The battery was staffed by the Colonial Militia with at least one high ranking officer living with his family at the Dawes Point Officers Quarters and commuting to Victoria Barracks. Later, until the Battery was staffed by detachments from British regiments stationed in Australia. After Federation with the formation of the regular Australian Army, Dawes Point lost most of its military, with occupation ceasing in 1901. The whole western ridge of Sydney Cove up to the Wynyard Barracks had a military and naval flavour in contrast to the administrative role of the eastern spine of Macquarie Street. The construction of an Explosives Wharf and Sentry Box occurred between 1788 and 1791. It was an important point for guarding the entry of the Harbour. It is possible that the Sentry Box may have been designed by James Barnet, Colonial Architect, due to the careful detailing and execution of all elements in the structure. It became associated with early communications across the Harbour and was later used as an access point for telephone cables laid across the Harbour to the north shore. The Sentry Box has been a landmark on the Harbour promenade having originally been designed and used for both defence purposes and as an access point for telephone cables. Later it came to be associated with the Sydney Harbour Bridge precinct being of significance to Sydney-siders and tourists as an icon and a regularly used photo vantage point. In 1960 the Sentry Box was dismantled and moved off site as part of the initiative to upgrade the promenade. The Sentry Box was reinstated in 1980 and an interpretive installation explains its history and significance. Two subterranean powder magazines were uncovered during the archaeological excavations in 1960, no historical plans or other records for the construction of the magazines has been located. The notion of transportation to and from Dawes Point was contemplated as early as 1788 when Jamaican, Billy Blue had petitioned Governor Macquarie for permission to establish a boat dock to ferry people across the Harbour, and in 1791 he ran a regular Passage Boat to Dawes Point with his sons and son-in-law. They worked independently of Billy Blue, and had a bad reputation for strong language, being weak or drunk and rising the prices in periods of high demand. The steps were named after Alderman Isaac Ives around 1850. The likely departure point of the passage boats are evidenced in a Lycett picture of showing the point, it has a wharf, a shed and a road leading to it. The road extended down to the water before Hickson Road was built. During the construction of the Bridge this area again became a landing place with materials shipped across the Harbour from the workshops at Lavender Bay. Currently the Ives Steps Wharf is a landing place for commercial and recreational vessels as well as water taxis. Walsh designed an improved seawall in 1880 of pre-cast reinforced concrete, on the waters edge and it proved to be rat proof at the request of the newly formed Sydney Harbour Trust. The seawall acquired its iron rail in matching others installed at Circular Quay. In the Colonial government decided to build a public promenade around the military compound, it is possible that some of the steps, cast iron picket fences and bollards date from the last decades of the nineteenth century, although they may have been relocated during the works which included the widening of Lower Fort Street. A plan of 1880 also shows that public baths had been constructed by this date, most likely around 1850. Following Federation in 1901 defence became the realm of the Federal Government, after heated debate it was agreed that Dawes Point Reserve was the property of the state and it ceased to have a military function. Some of the buildings were leased as private residences, and in 1901 the Water Police took over the Greenway guardhouse. From the Officers Quarters were used as a tractor training school by the Department of Repatriation to train soldiers returning from World War 1. A plan was drawn showing the area to the east of the battery reserved for the public with a series of footpaths. Also intended was the extension of Hickson Road around the point. The planning of the Harbour Bridge would have had some bearing on the layout of these features and in all the buildings were empty to make way for their demolition. The Horse Ferry Wharf appears to have been built in the last decade of the nineteenth century, it commenced service in 1880 to Blues Point. It was built to relieve the main vehicular ferry wharf from Bennelong Point to Milsons Point. The completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 made both services redundant. The large timber wharf was demolished leaving only the masonry ramp and retaining

wall, which still exist today. It is possible that archaeological evidence of the wharf still exists below the water line. The Bubonic Plague scare in provided the New South Wales Government with the opportunity to acquire the harbour foreshore areas, including The Rocks, so that it could provide more modern and hygienic wharfage facilities. One of the primary concerns was the improvement of the wharfage facilities. The building of Pier One wharf replaced the former municipal baths building and necessitated the demolition of the general barracks associated with the battery. In the newly named Walsh Bay a further four finger wharves were built each with the same principle of an upper store connected to other roads by bridging across Hickson Road. Simultaneously, Lower Fort Street then an extension of George Street was widened and new retaining walls and stairs constructed at what is now the north-west corner of the reserve necessitating the removal of some of the battery outbuildings. The road then continued along the eastern side of Darling Harbour to meet with Sussex Street. In creating the road some timber-framed buildings were removed from what is now the site of the Bridge Pylon. The former explosives jetty with its sentry box became detached from the rest of the battery. A further consequence of the Rocks resumption on was the realignment of Cumberland Street. This occurred between and , involving amongst other works, changing the junction of Cumberland Street at its northern end from George Street to Lower Fort Street. This work anticipated the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge approach structure and approach spans. These works meant that Cumberland Street turned sharply running parallel with George Street for the last fifty meters before meeting Lower Fort Street at right angles. This left an area between the two streets, which was then subject to landscaping. Stone steps were constructed giving access from George Street, on a lower level, to Cumberland Street. A fountain, garden and public toilet facilities completed the structure, built Until the commencement of the construction of the Bridge approach, George Street terminated at what is now the north end of Lower Fort Street. When the Bridge was completed much of this triangle of land was incorporated into the Reserve and George St made to terminate at Lower Fort Street, what had been the northern end of George Street was then incorporated into Lower Fort Street. For the construction of the Harbour Bridge the battery and Greenway guardhouse were razed and on completion the ground levels around them were changed. The five cannon were removed to Taronga Park Zoo where they remained until their return to the Reserve in Two "U" shaped tunnels were excavated in the second half of , one on either side of the Harbour. The inlet for the southern shaft was situated on the site of the Greenway guardhouse, excavated to a depth of forty metres, and came out on the eastern side of the subterranean powder magazines. Through the shafts were threaded the two inch thick cables intended to hold back each half of the bridge arches until they met in the middle. When the two half arches met on 19 August the cables, having served their purpose were removed and the shafts filled. During the construction of the Bridge, Dawes Point was closed to the Public.

3: Sydney weather report from William Dawes's Meteorological Journal "Observations

Dawes was assigned to make astronomical observations during the voyage and, upon arrival, to set up an observatory to monitor a comet that was expected to appear in the southern hemisphere in 1791. Once in Sydney, Dawes built his observatory, in a hut on what is now known as Dawes' Point, under the south pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Sydney Historic Notes and Themes Historical notes: Unlike The Rocks, Dawes Point has contained a large area of relatively undeveloped land since the arrival of the First Fleet to Australia in 1788. This was primarily due to its military use. The Dawes Point Battery was built up as a military defence compound from 1788 through to the early twentieth century. This ensured that the Battery was spatially separated from both The Rocks and the rest of Sydney, largely because visitors to the site were restricted until the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge piers and pylon on the site in the 1920s further alienated this area from the rest of The Rocks. Dawes oversaw the construction of an observatory and hut at the point between The Rocks and the Harbour Bridge. It was here that he befriended a young Eora woman, Patyegarang. They learned to communicate: Dawes recorded the Eora words and their English translations in his notebooks, which survive as some of the first anthropological studies of the language and customs of the Australian Aboriginal peoples. They are the most complete set of information about the language spoken by the people around Port Jackson. The meeting between Dawes and Patyegarang was one of the earliest recorded instances of cultural interaction in the Colony of NSW. There was considerable need for a cemetery at Sydney Cove as the Second Fleet, which arrived in 1790, suffered a particularly high mortality rate with deaths out of some convicts embarked. Two hundred and eighty one of those died on the voyage, while the remainder died on arrival in Sydney. The earliest physical evidence of a burial ground in the area was discovered in 1970, the headstone of First Fleeter George Graves, a seaman who arrived aboard the Sirius. The headstone, dated 10 July 1790, had been used as a paving stone in Bethel Street. Jones was either a marine who arrived on the First Fleet, or a convict who arrived on the Second Fleet. Brennan allegedly fired a loaded musket at his superior, Sergeant Millwood, at Emu Plains. Brennan was buried on the site, although the exact location was not recorded. Battery and Powder Magazine A powder magazine and a second, replacement sandstone observatory was constructed in 1791, then in December 1791, word arrived by a Dutch ship from Batavia that a dispute had arisen between England and Spain over the British presence in the Pacific. A permanent fortification to protect the settlement in the event of an attack from another European colonial power in the region was required. The Battery was completed in 1792, armed with guns taken from the ship Sirius. From 1792, ceremonial salutes were fired from there to mark celebrations such as the arrival and departure of early Governors, Royal birthdays, the overthrow of Governor Bligh and the arrival of ships in the harbour. By 1795, the Colony was under threat of an attack from the French. Abbott was given the task of improving the batteries and in 1796 Governor King was able to state that Dawes Point Battery: Minor improvements continued to be made to the battery until 1800, when Governor Macquarie ordered the convict architect Francis Greenway to redesign it. Greenway continued the castellated Gothic theme in his upgrading of the Dawes Point Battery in 1800. Although the original plans have not been located, early depictions and the archaeological excavations provide evidence of the structure. The archaeological excavations revealed that the magazine had been incorporated into the guardhouse. Greenway constructed this building on an artificial mound, using the former magazine as a basement. The Dawes Point Lower Battery for field artillery was built to the east of the main battery. Images and maps from the late 18th century record the position and construction of these ramparts. Although archaeological excavation in the Lower Battery area has not been carried out, it is possible that evidence exists at a lower level as the ground level in this area has now been significantly raised. This was a single-storey building made of large blocks of sandstone, with a large verandah on the eastern side. On the western side of Lower Fort Street, a barracks was built to house the artillerymen and the five extant 42lb mounted cannon on traversing platforms were installed at the Upper Battery. Further improvements to the Dawes Point Battery under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel George Barney of the Royal Engineers and Surveyor General of NSW were carried out from 1800 to 1805, including two subterranean powder magazine rooms which were uncovered during the archaeological excavations in 1970. As no historical plans or other records for the

construction of these magazines has been located, the physical evidence provides the only detail of their construction. The last remaining Imperial British troops departed Australian shores in August 1794. Under the Military and Naval Forces Act of NSW, the Government was empowered to raise and maintain permanent naval and military forces in the colony. By 1795, new buildings had been erected at Dawes Point including a blacksmith and stables at the northern end of the Point, and a second barracks, a guardroom and a large public baths to the west of Lower Fort Street. In 1796 the authorities decided to build a public promenade along the foreshore, permitting public access to the military compound for the first time. Dawes Point ceased to have a military function after 1796 although some personnel remained on site until 1800, at which time the land was vested in Council of City of Sydney. The ceremonial use of the cannon at Dawes Point continued from the early twentieth century through to 1900. Prior to 1900, for example, a shot was fired from the Dawes Point Battery each day at 1. Salutes were fired from the current cannon between 1800 and 1900 on ceremonial occasions such as Australia Day and the Cook Bicentennial celebrations. This was in contrast to the administrative role of the eastern side of the Macquarie Street at that time. Due to its strategic position on the harbour, Dawes Point was an integral link in early communications between the colonial settlements from until the 1800s. A signal station and flagstaff were established at Dawes Point in 1795 to relay messages received from South Head upriver to Parramatta where the Governor sometimes resided. Early illustrations of Sydney Cove show that the Union Jack hoisted on the flagstaff at Dawes Point dominated the inner harbour from 1795. The area became the symbol of British presence in Australia, and when the flagstaff was removed in 1900 for the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, it was the subject of much nostalgia. On completion of works in 1900, the ground levels were built over the foundations of the Battery. When the Greenway guardhouse was demolished in the second half of 1900, the site became an important part of the bridge construction. The inlet for the southern shaft was situated on the site of the former guardhouse. The five cannon and gun carriages were removed to Taronga Park Zoo in 1900, where they remained until they were returned in 1900. In 1900 archaeological investigations were carried out at the Battery site and the findings were incorporated into a new interpretive park. This was opened in 1900 and the new name was adopted for the point. Dawes Point Tar ra has had a range of uses over the past years, including the military, navigation and astronomy, and more recently, for leisure. Compared to the rest of The Rocks and Millers Point, it was kept relatively free of development due these uses, and as the site of the abutment towers for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Dawes Point tar ra holds a significant place in the history of Australia. It is one of the first places where the contact between the Aboriginal and European people was recorded. With the assistance of Patyegarang, Dawes compiled the first "dictionary" of the Eora language between 1790 and 1795. This record provides the most complete set of information about the language spoken by the Eora people around Port Jackson. Dawes Point was the terminus of the first formal road in the colony. Originally a track beaten out in 1790 along a ledge of conveniently flat land, it later became known as George Street North. Ives was a political and industrial leader in Sydney the late nineteenth century. The remains of the Dawes Point Horse and Vehicular Ferry Wharves are the only reminder in the Sydney CBD of the busy inner harbour ferry trade carrying horse drawn carts, drays and motor vehicles across the Harbour prior to the opening of the Harbour Bridge in 1900. Until the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge from 1900, Dawes Point tar ra was a place with strong associations with patriotism, a national flag flying there from 1795, proclaiming the British colony and later the Nation to all those who sailed on Sydney Harbour, for a long time a primary means of arrival in Australia and transport to other parts of the Colony. Ceremonial salutes were fired from the Dawes Point cannon to mark celebrations in the colony between 1795 and 1900. Internationally the Bridge holds an important position in the history of civil and structural engineering, recognised as a National Engineering Landmark by the Institution of Engineers and as an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark 70 Dawes Point tar ra by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The bridge was designed by Dr J. Bradfield, one of the most important Australian engineers of the twentieth century. The anchorage cables each side of the Harbour restrained the Bridge arches before they met mid-span. It was the first major site in the defensive strategies of the British colony. Due to its strategic position on the harbour, Dawes Point was an integral link in communications in the colony. Between 1795 and the Dawes Point Signalling Station enabled rapid transfer of advice on approaching ships and general communications between the South Head Signal Station and Parramatta where the Governor at times resided.

Signalling was an important part of Government in the early colony informing of approaching ships of the current stability of the settlement. After a new Signal Station was established at Observatory Hill. The Cable Hut is associated with early communications industry and continues to mark an access point for the submarine cables across the harbour to the North Shore. The Cable Hut, possibly designed by James Barnet, Colonial Architect, is a rare finely detailed sandstone cylindrical structure that is a landmark on the harbour foreshore. Aesthetically, Dawes Point tar ra contributes to the magnificent landscaped setting for the internationally recognised icons of Australia - Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Opera House and Sydney Cove. The sheer size of the Harbour Bridge and its massive construction components are awe-inspiring when viewed from Dawes Point tar ra. The whole Bridge composition remains remarkably unaltered since its completion in The Bridge and Harbour as viewed from Dawes Point tar ra continue to be the inspiration for works of art. Dawes Point tar ra combines a range of urban design features from the early twentieth century, exemplary of the changing tastes throughout this period. The unpainted, rendered retaining walls and pilasters of the Hickson Road retaining wall s are particularly distinct, intact examples of Inter-War Stripped Classical civic design. The simple, relatively open landscaping of the majority of the Dawes Point tar ra Park is representative of park designs of the early twentieth century and results partly from the need for a simple setting for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Canary Island Palms on the harbour promenade and an avenue of Fig Trees in the Park are indicative plantings of the s and s respectively. The open space is representative of the pressure placed on Sydney Council from the late nineteenth century to provide "promenade" access to the Harbour in the vicinity of Sydney. The contemporary social values of Dawes Point tar ra are well founded: Dawes Point tar ra, as part of Sydney Cove and the setting of the international icons of the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, is revered by the majority of Australians. Dawes Point tar ra is important for its cultural values to several identifiable groups within NSW society including present and former residents of the Rocks and Millers Point; people involved in the fight to save the Rocks in the s; descendants of the many artillerymen and their families who were stationed at Dawes Point tar ra; and Bridge construction and maintenance workers, their families and descendants. Dawes Point tar ra, as a setting for the Harbour Bridge, is valued for its aesthetic and engineering significance by several identifiable groups including the Institution of Engineers Australia and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The remains of the Dawes Point tar ra battery remain exposed awaiting conservation and interpretation. The site still contains a significant archaeological resource unexcavated. The post archaeological remains at Dawes Point tar ra revealed to date are extremely important for their research potential. Such archaeological sites from the 18th century are exceedingly rare with the remains of First Government House and parts of the Dockyard on the western side of the Cove being some of the few examples bearing witness to the first 10 years of European settlement at Sydney Cove. With the excavation of the semi-circular battery an interesting part of his work has been rediscovered. Together with the presence of the cannon from this time, on their original timber block supports the Battery is an important archive of military history. The pres quarry on the Cumberland Street site exploited the narrow bands of stone for rough foundation work.

4: Australia's meteorological anniversary

The first known building to be constructed on the site of Point Maskelyne (later renamed Dawes Point) was an observatory constructed in early by Lieutenant William Dawes. [2] A powder magazine was installed in followed by the Battery in

The Founding of Australia, Oil sketch by Algernon Talmidge State Library of New South Wales. In that way, indigenous knowledge is important for understanding future climate change impacts. For now, our written record of climate variability is limited to when the English lobbed up, in The earliest meteorological observations from the British colony that would become known as Australia were not actually taken on land, but at sea. Bradley continued to take atmospheric pressure observations at Sydney Cove until February , and temperature until the start of October The first land-based weather observations for Australia then commenced on 14 September , recorded by Lieutenant William Dawes. Dawes was a young astronomer trained at the Greenwich Observatory in England. A modest wooden astronomical observatory was built for Dawes on a small headland in Sydney Cove, now known as Dawes Point, near where the southern pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge currently stands. Interestingly, Dawes only started recording rainfall in September But in , it was not such a big deal. In fact, standard numerical rainfall observations did not really start in Australia until the early s. Another possibility is that Dawes, as a trained astronomer, was used to only taking observations for astronomical calculations. Similarly, he may have only been familiar with recording the weather aboard a ship , where rainfall is not important for navigation and is difficult to measure. Regardless, Dawes left the colony shortly after his three years of observations, due to a dispute with the Governor over the treatment of the local Aboriginal people. So, what was the weather like back then? Adapted from my PhD thesis, Ashcroft Documentary reports show that the first six months of settlement were also dominated by wet weather, including a number of violent storms that killed livestock and destroyed newly built buildings. Dawes recorded a seasonal maximum of 12 raindays during January , including four consecutive days of rain from 9th–12 January. Rainday counts recorded for autumn and winter of indicate that dry conditions prevailed during that year. The only exception is April , when low pressure values were recorded, along with a marked drop in temperature. The summer of 1788 saw an end of the dry conditions, and a return to warm and wet weather. This is supported by evidence of flooding in Sydney during February and reports of rain during much of the first half of Below-average rainday counts were recorded for most of , and the impacts of the drought were reported by many of the early settlers. The summer of 1788 also included several days of extreme maximum temperatures, some of which were so hot that bats and birds were reported to have dropped dead from the sky. An immense flight of bats driven before the wind, covered all the trees around the settlement, whence they every moment dropped dead or in a dying state, unable longer to endure the burning state of the atmosphere. Although the settlers sweltered through some extreme temperatures in summer 1788, the monthly averages you can see in the graph indicate that cooler than normal maximum temperature conditions were experienced overall, although the mean Tmin values were very warm. This difference between daily extreme temperature values and monthly means is similar to that observed in January , where a record high temperature of According to documentary records the drought continued until , when wet conditions set in and continued until about But what does that mean for climate change? Positive temperature anomalies are present during summer and negative anomalies during winter, particularly for minimum temperatures. But it is much more likely that this residual seasonal cycle reflects sub-standard instrument exposure. In other words, the thermometer was recording more than just the ambient air. The quality of observations for monitoring long-term climate change must be very high, with standard observation techniques. This is one of the reasons why the high-quality temperature dataset from Bureau of Meteorology only begins in

5: Dawes Point Battery - Wikipedia

The first known building to be constructed on the site of Point Maskelyne (later renamed Dawes Point) was an observatory constructed in early by Lieutenant William Dawes. A powder magazine was installed in followed by the Battery in

He was gazetted second lieutenant in the marines on 2 September and in September was wounded in the action against the French off Chesapeake Bay. He was known as a competent astronomer and on the recommendation of the astronomer royal, Rev. Dr Nevil Maskelyne, the Board of Longitude supplied instruments and books for an observatory and asked Dawes to watch especially for a comet expected in His application for a shore appointment was refused, but he was promised the first vacancy, and meanwhile attached to the marines in the Sirius. From March he was employed ashore as engineer and surveyor, and by early July had been discharged from the Sirius. He had already begun to build an observatory on what is now Dawes Point, though at his request Hunter called it Point Maskelyne. He devoted as much time as possible to observations but the expected comet did not appear. With Watkin Tench he explored the upper Nepean, opened the way to the Cowpastures and joined many other expeditions, on which his training and skill were invaluable in computing distances and in map making. In October he applied for a further three years service in the colony and until late in he contemplated settling if a position could be found for him. He was interested in scientific studies and in the Aborigines, on whose language he became an authority, and he hoped to support himself in part by farming. Approval for his appointment as engineer was received in October but, since the marines had been ordered home, Governor Arthur Phillip offered with it only an ensigncy in the New South Wales Corps, and imposed the condition that Dawes apologize for his conduct on two matters. In December Dawes had refused to do duty on a punitive expedition ordered by Phillip because his convict gamekeeper had been fatally wounded by an Aborigine. Phillip was in general so humane in his treatment of the Aborigines that it is surprising that Dawes could not agree with him that this particular attack was unprovoked and that harsh measures were justified, but he seems to have had reason to suspect the victim. He reconciled his conscience to accompanying the party only after discussion with Rev. In he told William Wilberforce that he would like to settle in the colony and was recommended for appointment as superintendent of schools. Soon after Dawes arrived in England in he went to Sierra Leone as councillor to the governor, whom he succeeded in December. He was three times governor for the Sierra Leone Co. When Sierra Leone became a crown colony in he was one of the commissioners of inquiry appointed by the British government and made several valuable reports. On 18 April he was promoted first lieutenant and placed on half-pay on 13 December During his third term in Sierra Leone he was offered the governorship of the Seychelles but was unable to accept. While in England from the summer of to he lived first at South Lambeth and later at Bledlow in Buckinghamshire, where he helped to train missionaries for the Church Missionary Society. About Wilberforce suggested that he might work for the anti-slavery cause in Antigua and in he took his only daughter to that island. There he was a correspondent of the Church Missionary Society and established schools for the children of slaves. Tench supported his petition but the Colonial Office refused to consider the belated claim. Dawes died in Antigua in He had married first Miss Rutter, who died about They had a daughter, Judith, who married in Antigua, and two sons: William Rutter, who became an eminent astronomer, and Macaulay, who died in infancy. In Antigua Dawes married Grace Gilbert, who survived him. Dawes was outstanding in ability and character. In New South Wales he was the friend of the more cultured members of the small community. The Sierra Leone Co. He was of the company of the humane and deeply religious reformers of his day. Many of his papers were destroyed after the death of one his grandsons and others were lost in the hurricane of Curren-Jones, William Dawes R. Fitzhardinge Syd, C. Mander-Jones, 8 July privately held.

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