



Architectural Projects¹

2272

35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale
Heritage Impact Statement for SSDA
submission (113872990) of an 8-storey
residential apartment building

Prepared by: Architectural Projects

Prepared for: The Trustee for IPG Dev 2
Unit Trust & GOP AFF 1 Unit Trust & IPG
AFF 1 Unit Trust

May 2026

V.02

2272 – 35-39 DARLEY STREET EAST, MONA VALE – HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

Document Control

Version	Date	Status	Author	Verification
01	24.04.26	Draft	Jennifer Hill Director, Registered Architect 4811	Elizabeth Gibson Associate, Senior Consultant
02	18.05.26	Final	Jennifer Hill Director, Registered Architect 4811	Elizabeth Gibson Associate, Senior Consultant

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Architectural Projects were commissioned by The Trustee for IPG Dev 2 Unit Trust & GOP AFF 1 Unit Trust & IPG AFF 1 Unit Trust to prepare this Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) in April 2026 in association with a State Significant Development (SSD) SSD-113872990 for the demolition of all existing structures and the construction of an 8-storey residential apartment building comprising 53 apartments with 3-level basement carparking.

Under the Low to Mid Rise Housing controls of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Housing) 2021, lots within 800m of Town Centres are subject to controls which allow for the development of low to mid rise housing to address the gaps in housing stock. The subject site is within 400m of the Mona Vale Town Centre.

The site is not listed as a heritage item and does not lie within a conservation area listed in Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Pittwater Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP).

This HIS assesses how the proposed works may impact the heritage significance of the heritage item in the vicinity. This HIS is prepared in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment "Guidelines for preparing statement of heritage impact", 2023.

1.2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is identified as Lot 16 in DP18919 and is located at 35-39 Darley Street East, on the south side of Darley Street East as indicated in the aerial photograph.

Refer Figure 1.1 Location Plan and Figure 1.2 Aerial Photograph.

The site is not listed as a heritage item and does not lie within a conservation area listed in Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Pittwater Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP).

The site is in the vicinity of the following heritage items:

Listing type	Item name and document details	Listing number
Local heritage item	House 22 Darley Street East	I2270001

2. SITE HISTORY

2.1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SITE

No detailed history has been prepared for the subject site. However, the following section provides brief historical overview of the heritage item opposite the subject site.

2.2. HISTORY OF 22 DARLEY STREET EAST, MONA VALE

The site is located directly opposite of a heritage item at 22 Darley Street East, Mona Vale (Item No. I2270001).

The inventory sheet provides the following history of 22 Darley Street East:

This house has historical significance as it contains remnants of a 1890s structure known as Brock's Folly. It was built as a grand mansion by a Newtown builder, George Sydney Brock, who acquired the land from the Mona Vale Land Company.

Brock wanted to build a holiday guest house for tourists relying on the tramway extension, but went broke after the government changed and the extension did not proceed. The house was a significant landmark in the early Mona Vale panorama and is historically significant for the development of Mona Vale. The house is associated with the early development of the Northern Beaches as a holiday destination.

"La Corniche" stood as the premier landmark of Mona Vale for more than sixty years. It overlooked what was called Bongin Bongin ('Lots of shells') beach, now known as Mona Vale Beach. Over the course of its history it was a grand mansion, sometimes derelict and had a wide range of uses.

A Newtown local called George Sydney Brock originally bought the land from the Mona Vale Land Company and planned for an 'Oaks Polo Pony Stud farm' made possible when the proposed tram from Manly extended to Mona Vale bringing flocks of visitors to the beach resort.

The building of the grand mansion took a number of years from c.1890.

The construction came at a cost of around 30 000 pounds. The foundations were concrete layered on top with sawdust and bitumen then hardwood sleepers beneath parquet floors. The main building of the mansion was 'The Club House', which was an ornate three storey edifice with an odd assortment of architectural styles. The rest of the grand estate consisted of 37 rooms including dining halls, billiard rooms and a ballroom, 25 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, kitchens, servant quarters, a ladies lounge, theatre and promenade roof. The grounds also featured a lake with ornate fountains and statues, stables, a polo field and a sewage system and water supply. The grounds stretched from Bassett to Darley Street. Four smaller villas were built along Darley Street to the west with 'The Oaks' being the last on the corner of Darley Street and Newport Road.

When the extension of the tramway was later postponed with a change of government, Mr Brock's hopes for the mansion were quashed and drove him almost broke. He was forced to put the estate up for auction with 'Arthur Rickard's realty specialists' in 1907. The sale was not a great success. By this time in the Estates history it became known as Brock's Folly.

In 1910 there was an attempted relaunch of the mansion as the "Mona Vale Hydro". It was advertised as a getaway for businessmen or for country people who desired a seaside change. The

buildings remained unaltered however the racecourse and polo field had been converted into a golf course.

Around 1911, the mansion was being run by a French couple called Rainaud and the estate was renamed "La Corniche". Mr Rainaud was a French restaurateur who originally ran a successful tea room and restaurant at Cape Flat in Bayview since 1907 and brought the name with him when taking over the premises. The Rainaud's were a Sydney couple who also owned a successful restaurant in Phillip Street called "Paris House". The estate was also later called the Oaks and Pacific Paradise.

Less than a year later on the 8th January 1912 a fire broke out. No one perished in the fire, however the mansion was burnt to the ground.

The loss to the owner was roughly at 10 000 pounds.

Nevertheless, it was soon rebuilt. During World War I La Corniche was used as a Red Cross centre for wounded soldiers. In World War II La Corniche was commandeered by the Air Force and used as training ground for recruits. It was also used by the Army as an Infantry Training School for NCO's (Pittwater Online, 2011).

3. PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

3.1. THE CONTEXT

The site is located within R3 Medium Density Residential area that is currently transitioning as part of the newly introduced NSW Government's Low and Midrise (LMR) Housing Policy.

The site is located in a centralised position within walking distance of the Mona Vale town centre to the west, Mona Vale Beach to the east and Mona Vale Golf Course to the south.

The surrounding area between Barrenjoey Road and the foreshore is predominantly residential area characterised by medium density residential development, typically two to four storeys on large lots. The buildings are of mid twentieth century and early twenty first century structures.

The site is located directly opposite a heritage item listed as 'house' at 22 Darley Street East (LEP Item No. 2270001). It is the only single storey building along the street. It is a remnant of early twentieth century resort known as Brock's Folly. It is important to note that the building at 22 Darley Street East is not a remnant of the main building of Brock's Folly rather one of the cottages as part of the wider resort.

3.2. DARLEY STREET EAST

Darley Street East is a wide street. The southern side of the street has wide grass verges. The northern side of the road has a narrow concrete footpath.

The street is comprising of two to four storey residential flat buildings of mid twentieth century and early twenty-first century structures.

3.3. THE SITE AND SETTING

The site is identified as Lot 16 in DP18919 and is located at 35-39 Darley Street East and has an area of 2,679.4m², with a frontage of 38.1m and a depth of 70.41m.

There is an easement to drain water one (1) metre wide located along the western boundary.

3.4. DESCRIPTION OF 35-39 DARLEY STREET EAST

The site at 35-39 Darley Street East is currently occupied by a medium density strata complex (SP18919) comprising 18 dwellings (townhouses, apartments) and a swimming pool.

3.5. DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ITEM IN THE VICINITY

The inventory sheet provides the following Description of 22 Darley Street East:

Remnants of an earlier structure, Brock's Folly is on the original Mona Vale Farm. It is a single storey large pavilion with a central tower on the north facade. It features brick walls, terracotta tiled roof (not original), possibly re-using of the original capping. Decorative pressed metal roof on the tower. Interior details and joinery largely intact in 1991.

22 Darley Street East is a small remnant of a much larger building that originally covered all the land east of Barrenjoey Road from Darley Street East up to Hillcrest Avenue. It was an early twentieth century resort known as Brock's Folly.

The property has been divided into three units. The main frontage, the turret and circular verandah are oriented towards the rear boundary of the property. The building is largely concealed from Darley Street East by the tall, rendered masonry walls, with only the roof line and chimneys visible from the street. The building has rendered brick walls, and the original portion of the building has a tiled hipped roof. A single storey wing is located to the Darley Street East side of the building and has combination of hipped tiled roofs and corrugated metal skillion roofs and includes the two chimneys.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE ITEM IN THE VICINITY

The inventory sheet provides the following Statement of Significance of the heritage item in the vicinity:

The House at 22 Darley Street, called "La Corniche" or Brock's Folly, was built as a grand mansion by a Newtown builder, George Sydney Brock. The house was a significant landmark in the early Mona Vale panorama and is historically significant for the agricultural settlement and development of Mona Vale.

The grounds on which the house stood have research potential as it contains remnants of the early structure known as Brock's Folly. The house is associated with the early development of the Northern Beaches as a holiday destination.

The listing includes the interiors of the house; however detailed analysis and assessment should be undertaken at the time of any future changes to the interior in order to ascertain the relative heritage significance.

It is important to note that the building at 22 Darley Street East is not a remnant of the main building of Brock's Folly rather one of the cottages as part of the wider resort.

The original building was demolished in 1960s to make way for home units¹.

¹ The Daily Telegraph, 9 September 2017, George Brock's grandiose dream of holiday mecca for the rich derailed by no trams

5. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is described in Architectural Plans dated 14 May 2026, prepared by Plus Studio and included at Appendix A.

The proposal involves the following scope of works:

- Removal of the existing multistorey residential flat building and soft and hard landscaping.
- Construction of an eight-storey residential flat building with three levels of basement parking.
The building will include
 - o 15% Affordable housing.
 - o 53 apartments – mix of 2 and 3 bedroom units
 - o 124 car parking spaces and 28 bicycle spaces across three basement car parks

6. ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

The following is a merit-based assessment. It does not consider compliance or otherwise with numerical controls unless non-compliance will result in an adverse heritage impact.

The proposal is assessed by consideration of the following documents:

- Heritage NSW 'Guidelines for preparing a Statement of Heritage Impact' (2023);
- The relevant heritage controls of the Pittwater LLEP 2014; and
- The objectives and controls for new works to and in the vicinity of heritage items as per Section B1.2 of the Pittwater 21 DCP.

6.1. ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT USING THE DPE (2023) GUIDELINES

Matters for Consideration

6.1.1. Fabric and spatial arrangements

The proposed development which is located on the opposite side of street and separated by Darley Street East, will have no physical impact on the heritage item, nor will it impact its understanding and use as a private dwelling.

6.1.2. Setting, views and vistas

The proposed development will not be visible in view corridors from and to the heritage item.

The setting of the heritage item is comprised of buildings of a variety of scale and style, and such the proposed building is located on the opposite of the heritage item.

The R3 Medium Density Residential zoning for the heritage item and 35-39 Darley Street East as per the Pittwater LEP 2014 and the Low to Mid-Rise Housing provisions in accordance with the Housing SEPP 2021 anticipate the evolution of the setting of the item to larger multistorey residential flat buildings to allow for more diverse housing stock. The proposed structure has been designed with reference to the Housing SEPP provisions and is consistent with the future setting of the item.

6.1.3. Landscape

The proposed landscape is appropriate to the area and will improve the amenity of the streetscape.

6.1.4. Use

The proposal supports the existing use.

6.1.5. Demolition

The proposed demolition will not have a major detrimental effect on the heritage significance of the heritage item in the vicinity.

6.1.6. Curtilage

The curtilage around the heritage item can be defined as the lot boundary.

6.1.7. Moveable heritage

No moveable heritage has been identified.

6.1.8. Aboriginal cultural heritage

The site does not identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

6.1.9. Historical archaeology

The proposed works will not impact on the archaeological potential of the site.
An archaeological assessment is not required.

6.1.10. Natural heritage

Not applicable.

6.1.11. Conservation areas

Not applicable.

6.1.12. Cumulative impacts

The proposed works as part of this application are part of a broader scope of works / are related to other applications / previous approvals / a master plan.

The proposed works contribute to the cumulative impact/effect of works to the heritage item / conservation area as follows:

[insert]

6.1.13. The Conservation Management Plan

A conservation management plan has not been required or prepared for the site.

6.1.14. Other heritage items in the vicinity

The proposed development which is located on the opposite side of street and separated by Darley Street East, will have no physical impact on the heritage item, nor will it impact its understanding and use as a private dwelling.

The item does not have a landmark position along Darley Street East.

6.1.15. Commonwealth/National heritage significance

Not applicable.

6.1.16. World Heritage significance

Not applicable.

Given the above, the proposed works will not detract from the historic, aesthetic and associative significance of the item.

6.2. ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT USING NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL HERITAGE CONTROLS

The proposed scope of works is well within the relevant controls of Pittwater LEP 2014 guidelines. The proposed scope of works does not cause a significant impact upon the heritage significance of the heritage item and its setting.

Pittwater DCP

B1.2 Heritage Conservation - Development in the vicinity of heritage items, heritage conservation areas, archaeological sites or potential archaeological sites

Controls

Any development application involving work likely to impact the heritage significance of a heritage item, heritage conservation area, archaeological site or potential archaeological site is to be accompanied by a Statement of Heritage Impact prepared by an appropriately qualified heritage professional. Guidance on preparing a Heritage Impact Statement (Statement of Heritage Impact) is available at NSW Office of Environment & Heritage in the NSW Heritage Manual or superseding publication.

RESPONSE:

Complies. A Heritage Impact Statement is provided and has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment "Guidelines for preparing statement of heritage impact", 2023.

Developments in the vicinity of a heritage item, heritage conservation area, archaeological site or potential archaeological site are to be designed to respect and complement the heritage significance in terms of the building envelope, proportions, materials, colours and finishes, and building alignment.

RESPONSE:

The low scale period housing in the immediate area and heritage item opposite provide no design cues for the subject development and the development will read as part of the higher scale development. The proposed development is considered to be an appropriate, contemporary design and detail.

Developments in the vicinity of a heritage item, heritage conservation area, archaeological site or potential archaeological site are to minimise the impact on the heritage significance by providing an adequate buffer zone, and maintaining and respecting significant views to and from the heritage item, heritage conservation area, archaeological site or potential archaeological site.

RESPONSE:

There are no significant views from the heritage item. The heritage item will read against the backdrop of the multi-storey development in the immediate area.

7. CONCLUSION

This Heritage Impact Statement accompanies an SSDA for demolition of the existing building and a construction of an 8-storey residential apartment building at 35-39 Darley Street East.

The site is opposite the heritage item listed as 'House' at 22 Darley Street East (LEP Item No. 227001) under Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage. The site is separated by Darley Street East.

The proposed building is guided by the Low to Mid Rise (LMR) housing defined by the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Housing) 2021 which allows higher density housing within 800m of town centres. As the subject site is within 400m of the Mona Vale Town Centre and is zoned R3 by the Pittwater LEP 2014, the site is eligible for higher density buildings and can upscale to accommodate affordable housing.

The proposed works will have an acceptable impact on the heritage significance of the item in the vicinity being 22 Darley Street East as the proposed development will have no physical impact on the heritage item, which is located opposite to the site, separated by Darley Street, nor will it impact its understanding and use as a private dwelling.

8. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Apperley, Richard Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, 1989

Department of Planning and Environment, *Guidelines to preparing statement of heritage impact*, 2023

State Heritage Inventory sheet, Heritage Item ID: 2270001, *House, 22 Darley Street East, Mona Vale*

Pittwater Online News

9. LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
Figure no. 1.1	2026	Location Map	SIX Maps
Figure no. 1.2	2026	Aerial Photograph	SIX Maps
Figure no. 1.3	2026	Heritage Map	Pittwater LEP 2014
Figure no. 1.4	2026	Heritage Map - detail	Pittwater LEP 2014
Figure no. 2.1	1907	22 Darley Street East as shown in a sale photo for the property	NSW State Heritage Inventory
Figure no. 2.2	1920c	22 Darley Street is indicated by the red arrow	Pittwater Online News
Figure no. 2.3	1955	Aerial photograph	NSW Historical Imagery Viewer
Figure no. 2.4	1971	Aerial photograph showing developments in the area	NSW Historical Imagery Viewer
Figure no. 3.1	2026	Bird eye view of 35-39 Darley Street	Belle Property
Figure no. 3.2	2026	The site viewed from the street	Architectural Projects
Figure no. 3.3	2026	View to the site looking west	Architectural Projects
Figure no. 3.4	2026	View to the site looking east	Architectural Projects
Figure no. 3.5	2026	Darley Street East looking to the west	Architectural Projects
Figure no. 3.6	2026	Darley Street East looking to the east	Architectural Projects

2272 | 35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale

Figure no. 1.1 | 2026 | Location Map | SIX Maps

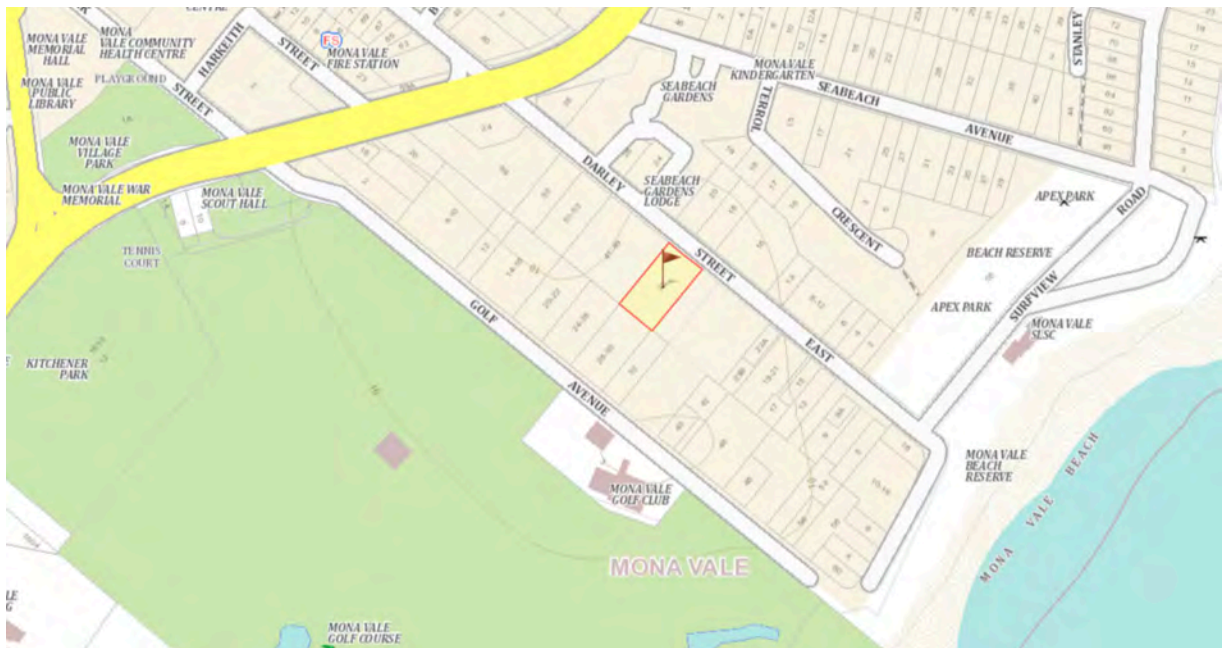


Figure no. 1.2 | 2026 | Aerial Photograph | SIX Maps

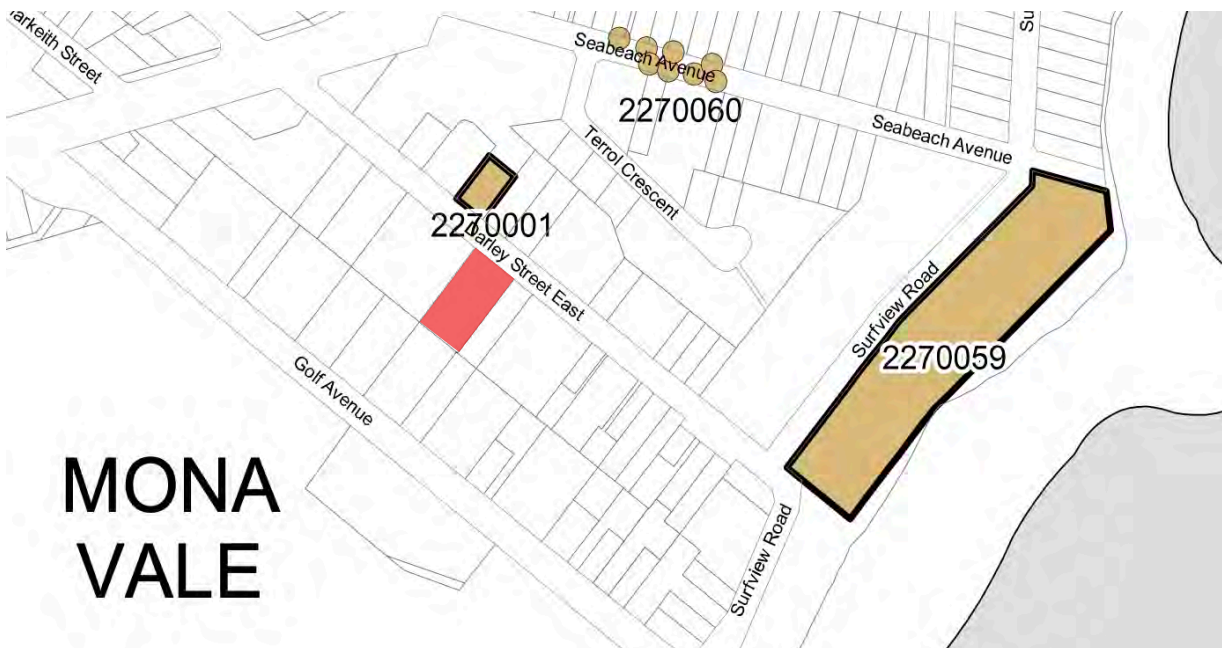


2272 | 35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale

Figure no. 1.3 | 2026 | Heritage Map | Pittwater LEP 2014



Figure no. 1.4 | 2026 | Heritage Map - detail | Pittwater LEP 2014



2272 | 35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale

Figure no. 2.1	1907	22 Darley Street East as shown in a sale photo for the property	NSW State Heritage Inventory
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Figure no. 2.2	1920c	22 Darley Street is indicated by the red arrow	Pittwater Online News
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2272 | 35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale

Figure no. 2.3 | 1955 | Aerial photograph

NSW Historical
Imagery Viewer



Figure no. 2.4 | 1971 | Aerial photograph showing developments in the area

NSW Historical
Imagery Viewer



2272 | 35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale

Figure no. 3.1 | 2026 | Bird eye view of 35-39 Darley Street

Belle Property

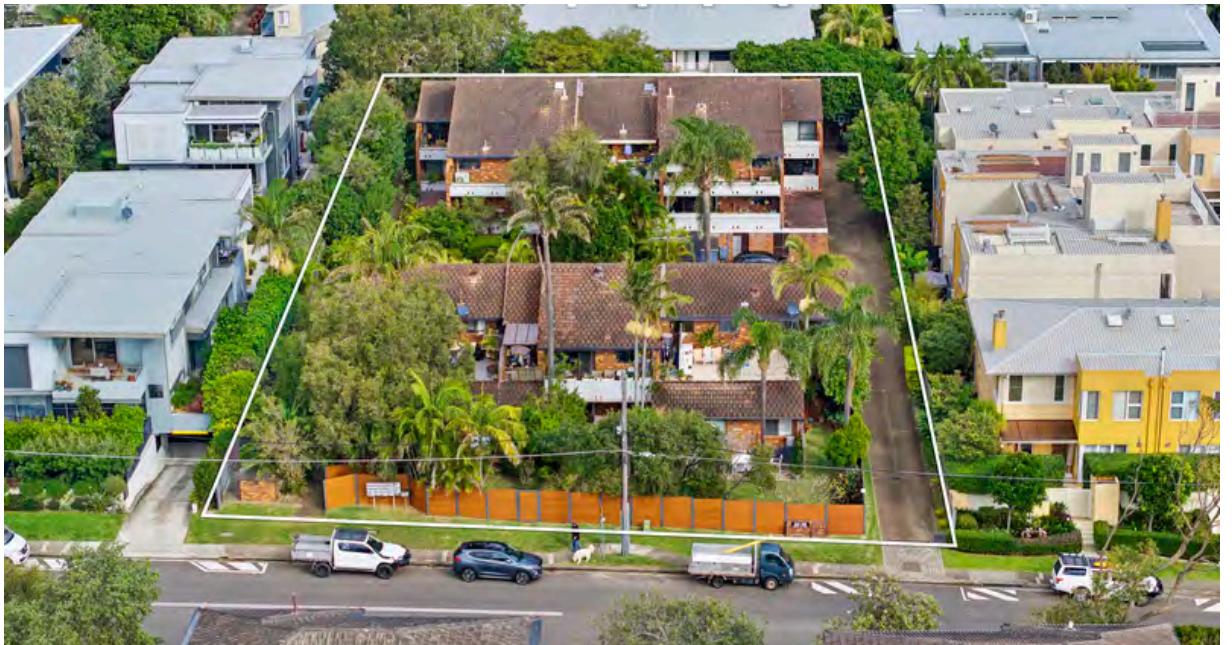


Figure no. 3.2 | 2026 | The site viewed from the street

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2272 | 35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale

Figure no. 3.3 | 2026 | View to the site looking west

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Figure no. 3.4 | 2026 | View to the site looking east

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2272 | 35-39 Darley Street East, Mona Vale

Figure no. 3.5 | 2026 | Darley Street East looking to the west

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Figure no. 3.6 | 2026 | Darley Street East looking to the east

Architectural
Projects

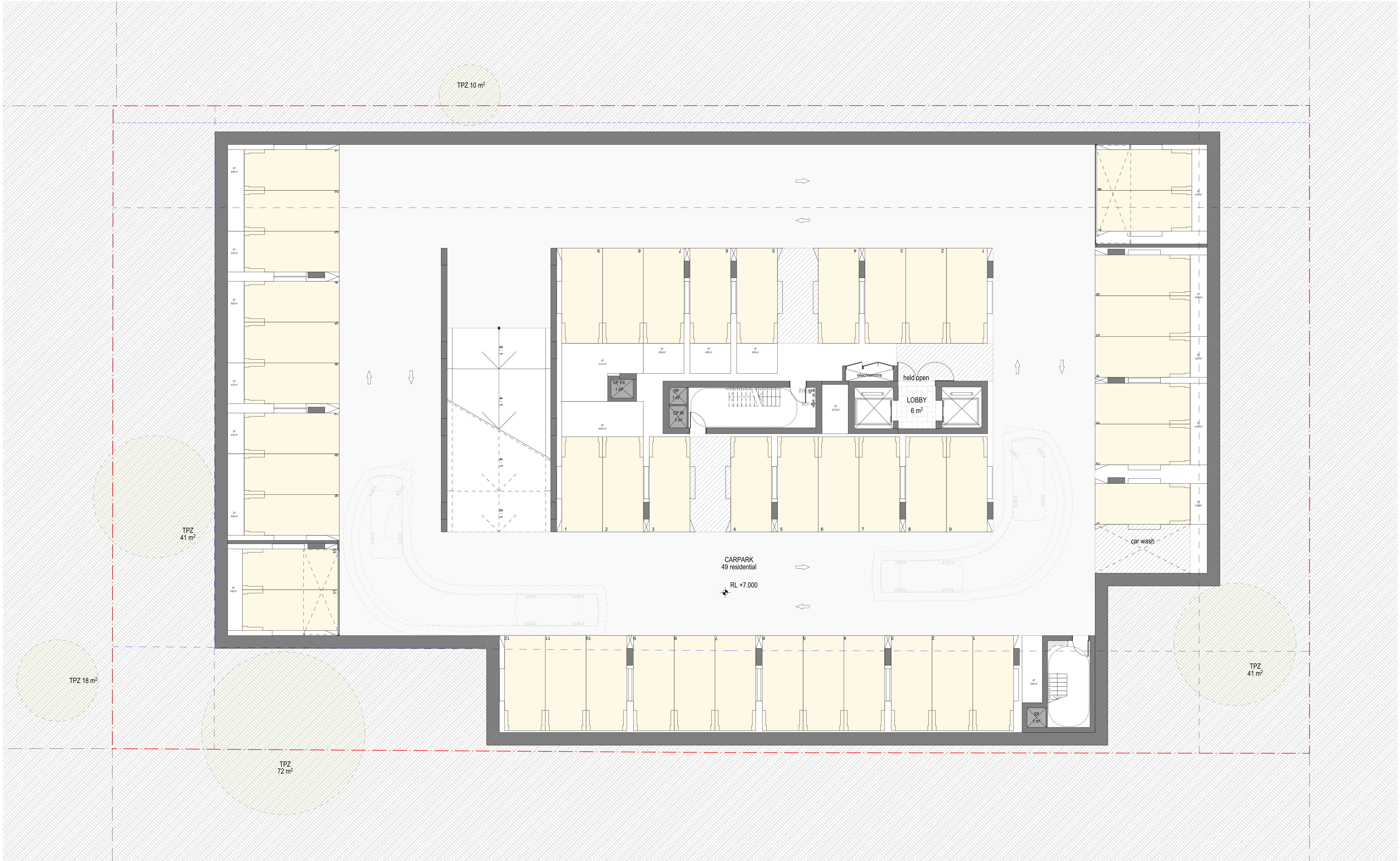


10. LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS PREPARED BY PLUS STUDIO – REVISION A
APPENDIX B	ARTICLES RELATED TO THE OAKS, LA CORNICHE AND GEORGE BROCK MANSION AT MONA VALE

APPENDIX A

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS PREPARED BY PLUS STUDIO – REVISION A



REV	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK
01	01	Issue		
02	02	Issue		
03	03	Issue		
04	04	Issue		
A	A	SSDA SUBMISSION - SSD-113872900	WS	JW
			WS	JW

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PROJECT TITLE

DARLEY ST E MONA VALE

PROJECT ADDRESS

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AUSTRALIA

CLIENT

The Trustee for IPG Dev 2 Unit Trust & GOP AFF 1 Unit Trust & IPG AFF 1 Unit Trust

APPROVED

JW

CHECKED

JW

DRAWN

WS

DRAWING TITLE

GENERAL FLOOR PLAN -
BASEMENT 03

PROJECT NUMBER

20895

DRAWING NUMBER

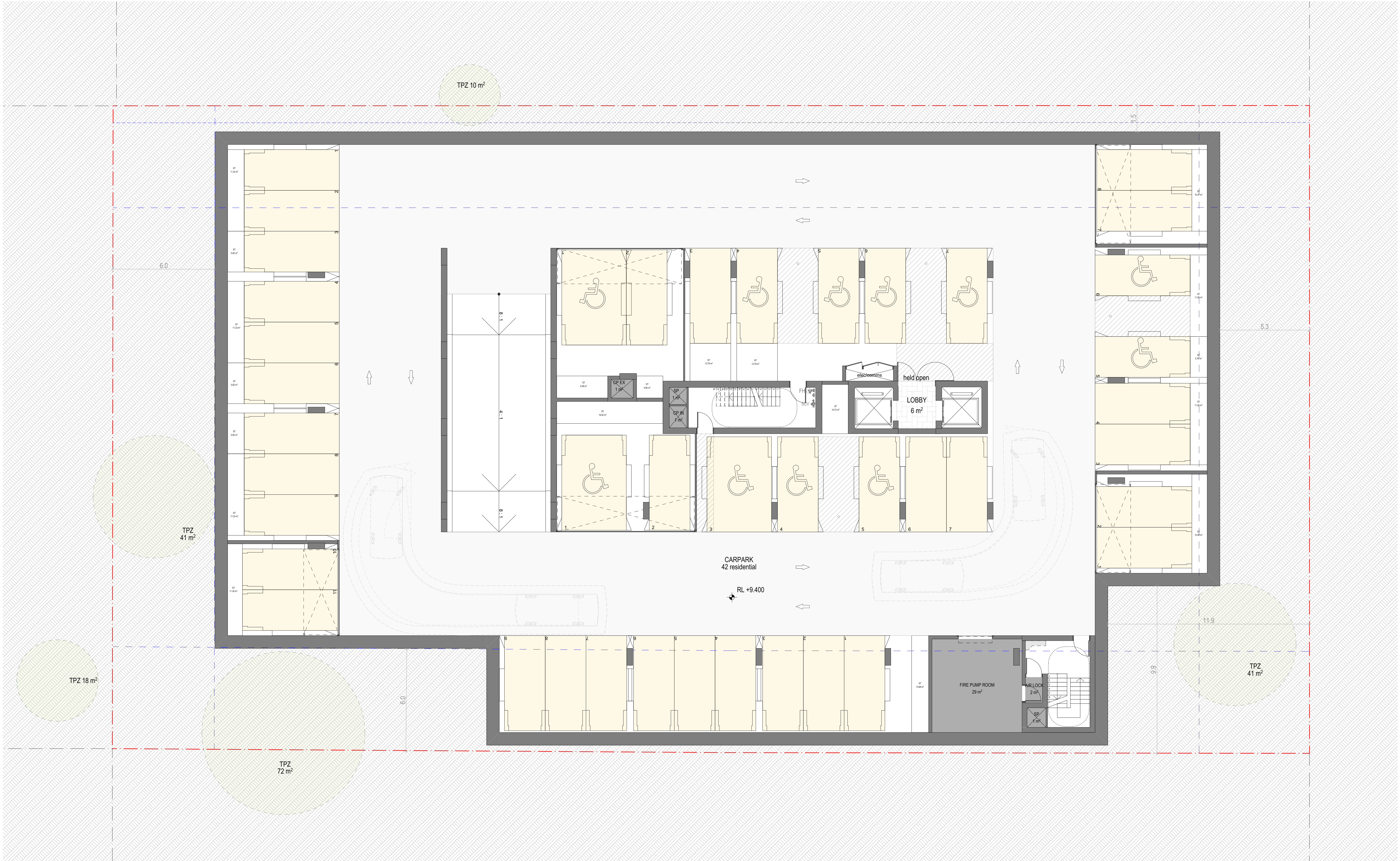
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STAGE

DA

REVISION

A



REV	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK
01	01	Issue		
02	02	Issue		
03	03	Issue		
04	04	Issue		
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The Trustee for IPG Dev 2 Unit Trust & GOP AFF 1 Unit Trust & IPG AFF 1 Unit Trust
APPROVED
JW
CHECKED
JW
DRAWN
WS

DRAWING TITLE
**GENERAL FLOOR PLAN -
BASEMENT 02**
PROJECT NUMBER
20895
DRAWING NUMBER
PLA-DA-10B2
STAGE
DA
REVISION
A



REV	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK
01	01	Issue		
02	02	Issue		
03	03	Issue		
04	04	Issue		
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PROJECT TITLE

DARLEY ST E MONA VALE

PROJECT ADDRESS

35-39 DARLEY ST E MONA VALE NSW 2103
AUSTRALIA

CLIENT

The Trustee for IPG Dev 2 Unit Trust & GOP AFF 1 Unit Trust & IPG AFF 1 Unit Trust

APPROVED

JW

CHECKED

JW

DRAWN

WS

DRAWING TITLE

**GENERAL FLOOR PLAN -
BASEMENT 01**

PROJECT NUMBER

20895

DRAWING NUMBER

PLA-DA-10B1

STAGE

DA

REVISION

A



* neighbouring existing buildings partly consists of assumptions based on approved DA drawings & real estate plans

REV	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK
01	01	Issue		
02	02	Issue		
03	03	Issue		
04	04	Issue		
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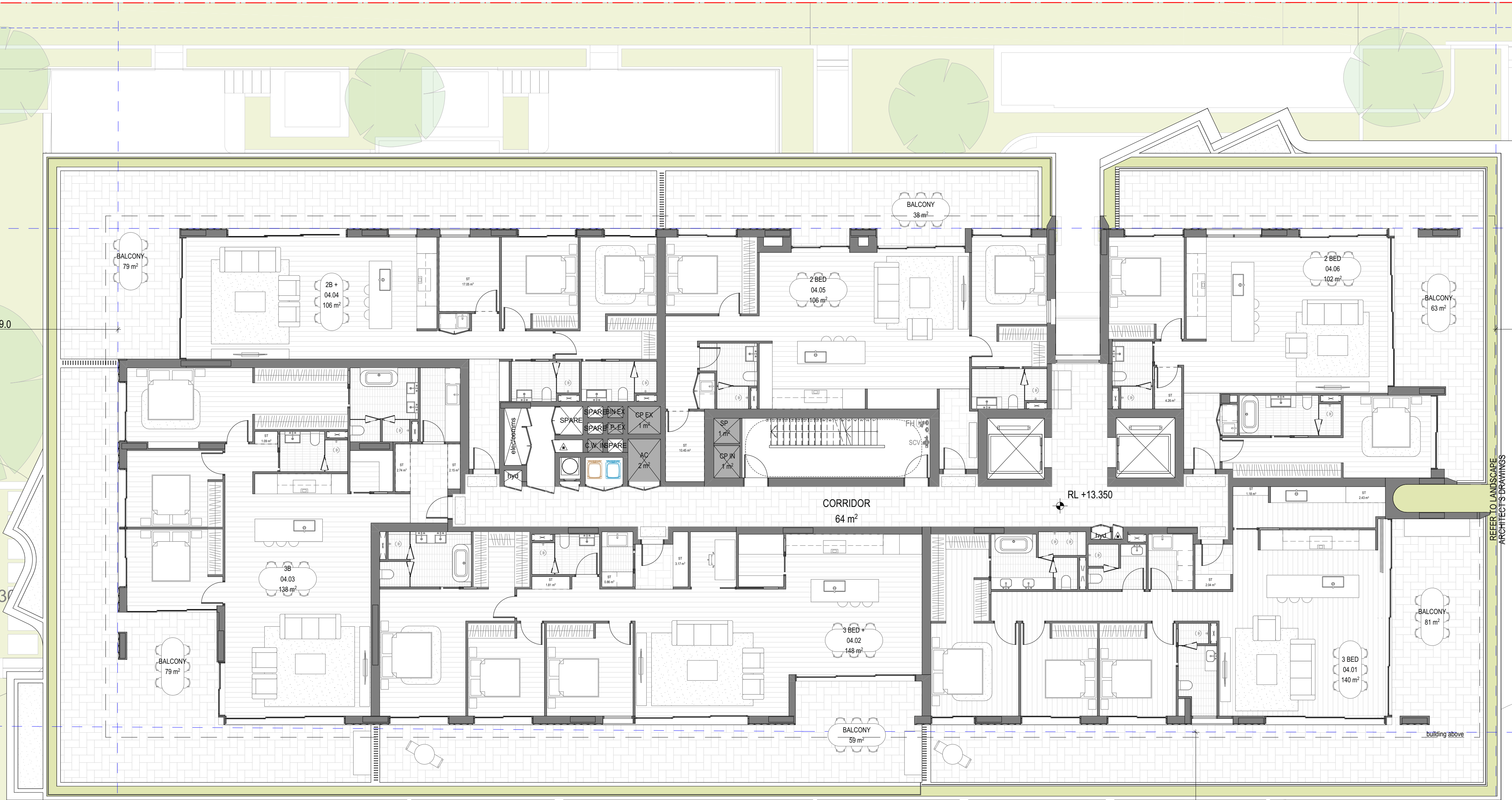
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DRAWING TITLE GENERAL FLOOR PLAN - LEVEL 01-03		STAGE DA	
PROJECT NUMBER 20895		REVISION A	
DRAWING NUMBER PLA-DA-1001			



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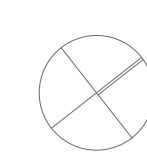
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GENERAL FLOOR PLAN - LEVEL 04

PROJECT NUMBER

20895

DRAWING NUMBER

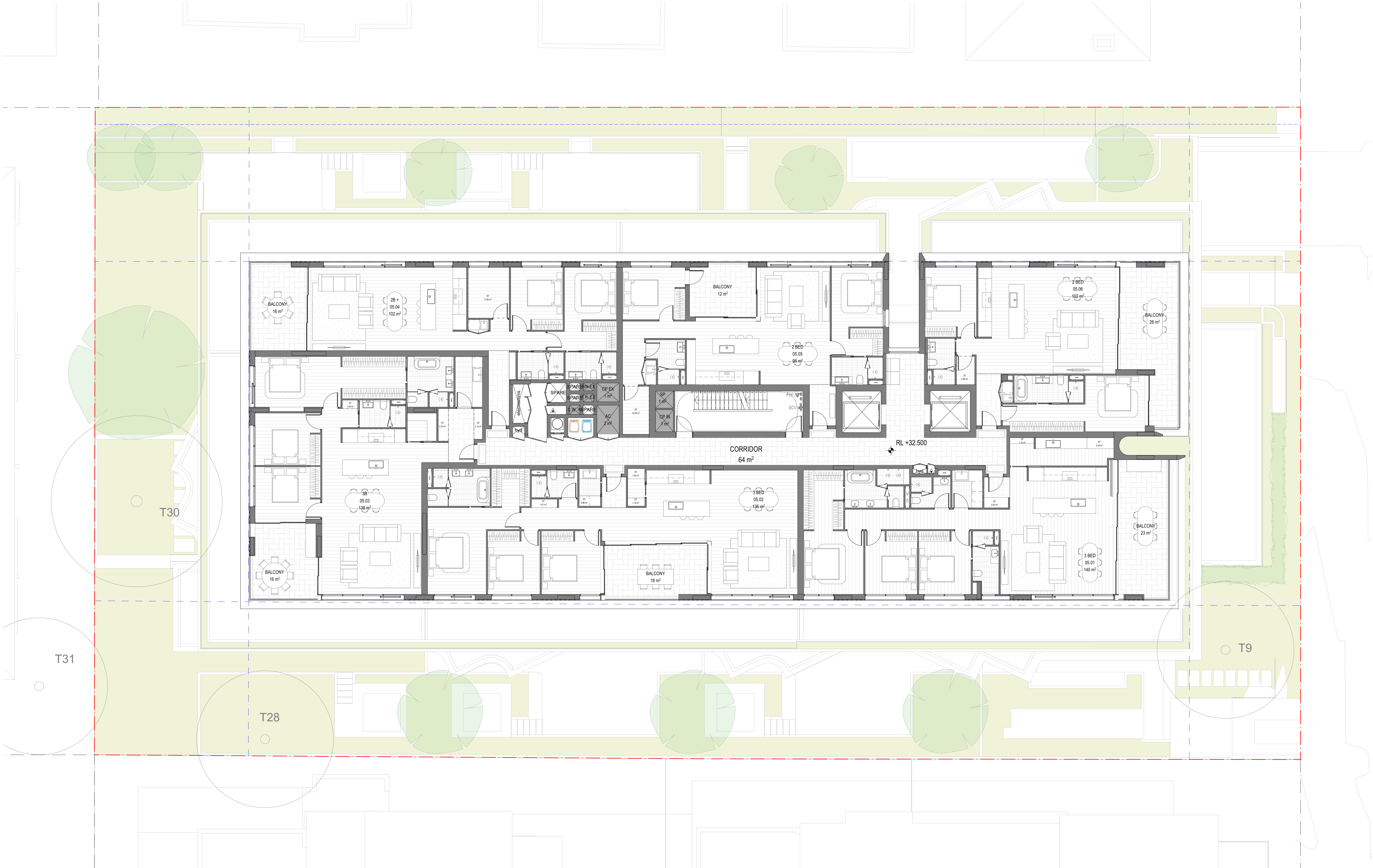
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REVISION

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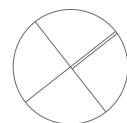
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GENERAL FLOOR PLAN - LEVEL 05-06

PROJECT NUMBER

20895

DRAWING NUMBER

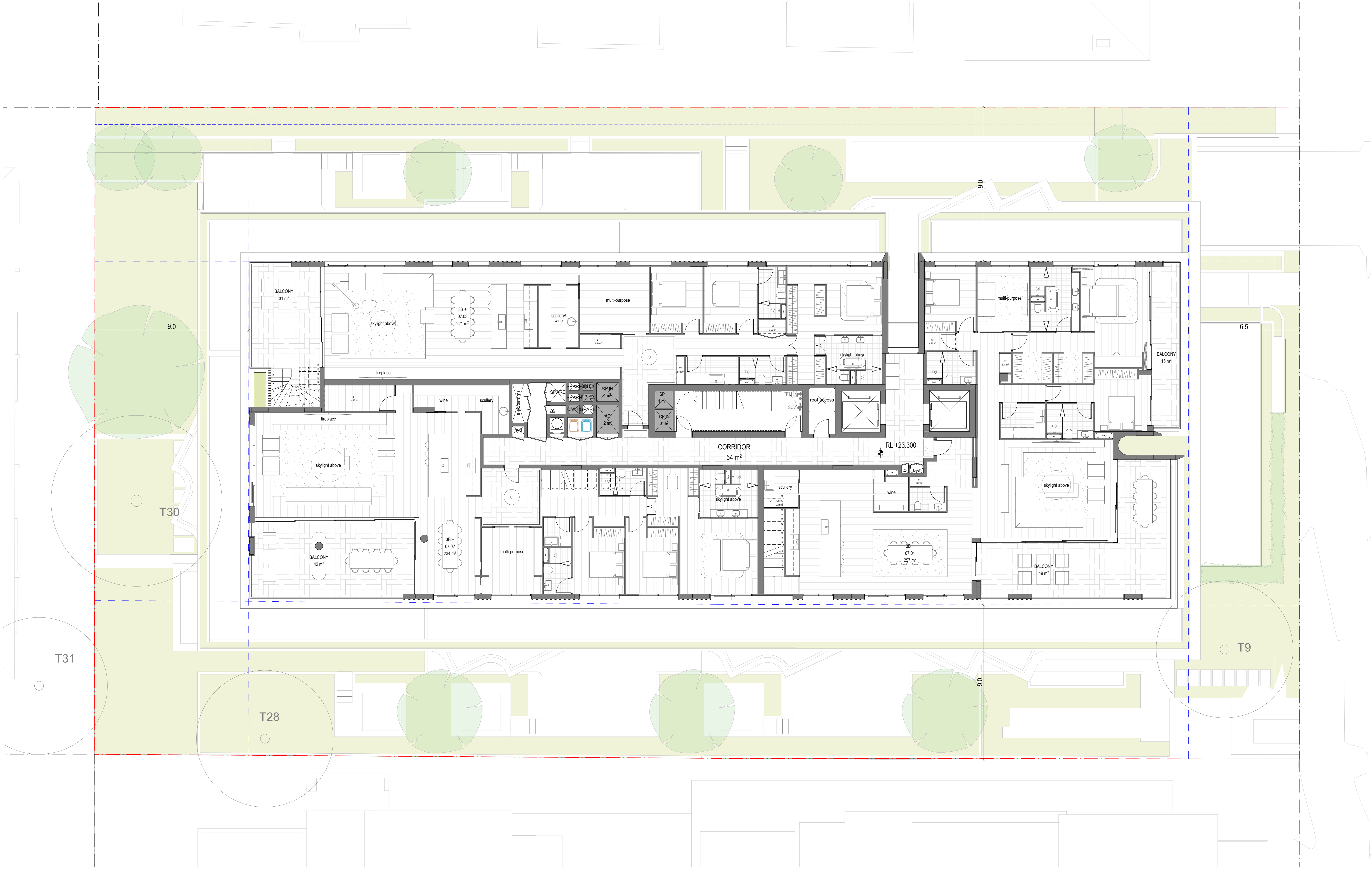
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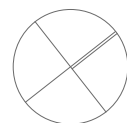
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GENERAL FLOOR PLAN - LEVEL 07

PROJECT NUMBER

20895

DRAWING NUMBER

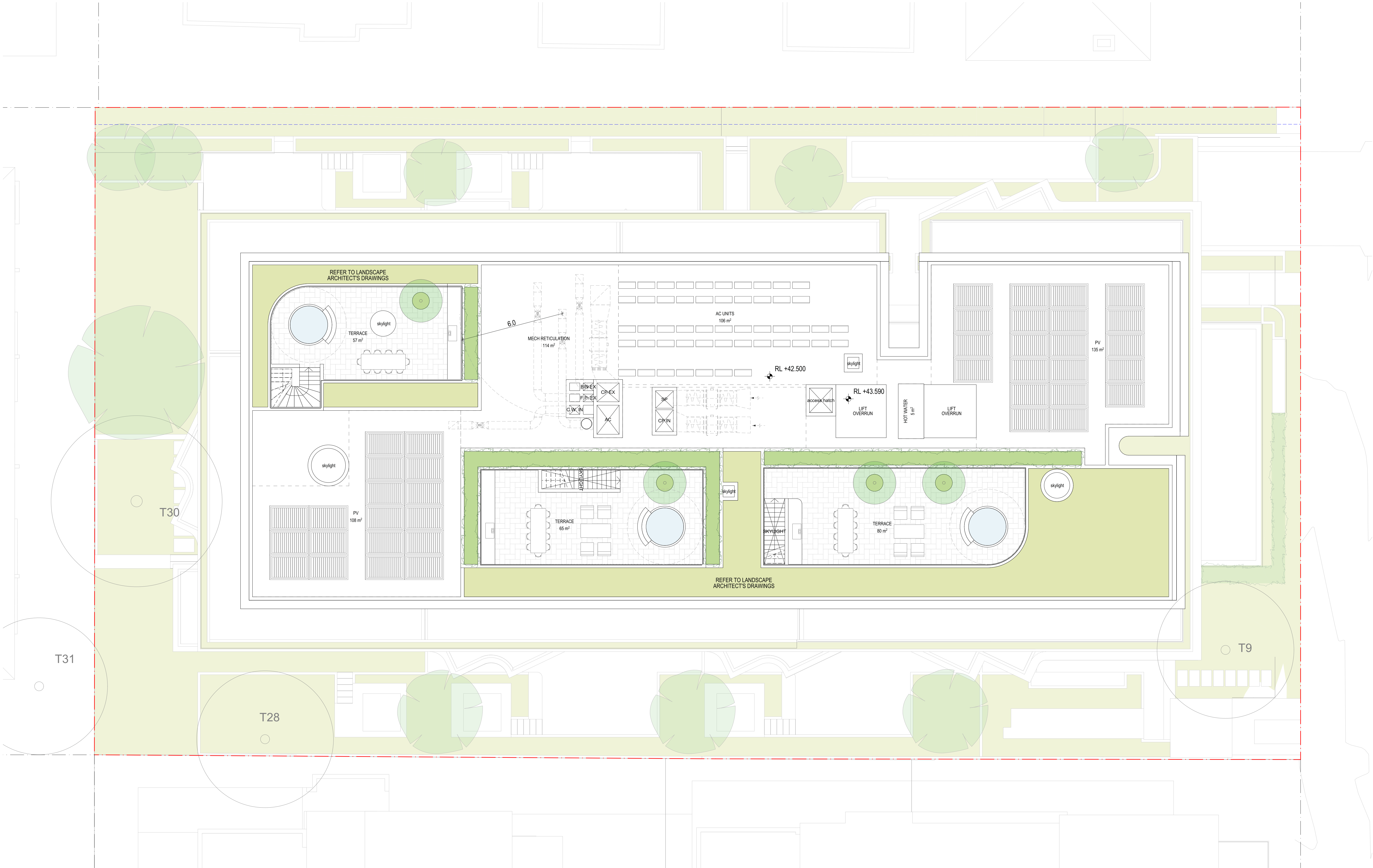
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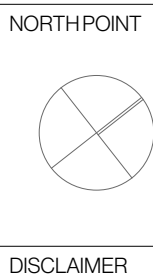
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GENERAL FLOOR PLAN - ROOF 08

PROJECT NUMBER
20895

DRAWING NUMBER
PLA-DA-1008

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APPENDIX B ARTICLES RELATED TO THE OAKS, LA CORNICHE AND GEORGE BROCK
MANSION AT MONA VALE



Newslocal Manly Daily

George Brock's grandiose dream of holiday mecca for the rich derailed by no trams

OVER the years, some grand and elegant homes have been built on the peninsula but few can match the ornate and ostentatious mansion George Brock built at Mona Vale.

John Morcombe

Manly Daily

 3 min read September 9, 2017 - 12:00AM

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Brock's mansion at Mona Vale. Picture: Courtesy of the State Library of NSW

OVER the years, some grand and elegant homes have been built on the peninsula but few can match the ornate and ostentatious mansion George Brock built for himself and his dream resort at Mona Vale.

And Brock's dream was based on an even grander promise — a tramline to Mona Vale.

Advertisem

In 1888 the North Shore, Manly and Pittwater Tramway and Railway Act authorised the construction of a tramline from North Sydney to The Spit and then to Manly, followed by a tramway to Newport.

The promise of a tram serving the isolated communities at the northern end of the peninsula held out the promise of further development and business opportunities.

Brock's mansion from a different angle. Picture courtesy Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society

Enter George Brock, formerly of Newtown, a man with a dream and a bundle of money, who bought an area of Mona Vale between Barrenjoey Rd and the sea, bounded to the south by Darley St.

Fronting Mona Vale Beach and Basin Beach, Brock's land consisted of undulating hills around a swampy lowland.

With his land by the sea, Brock set about constructing his great dream — an opulent Riviera-style resort and mecca for well-heeled of Sydney society to be known as The Oaks Polo Pony Stud Farm.

At the southern end of the estate, Brock constructed an ornate three-storey mansion to serve as a clubhouse, containing a main entrance hall, billiard room, ladies' lounge, smoking room, 25 bedrooms and six bathrooms, and was fronted by a four-storey tower.

On the eastern side, along with kitchens and servants' quarters, was built a large dining hall measuring 22m by 11m, with Oriel windows giving an expansive view over the estate and the sea.

The mansion had 25 bedrooms, a ballroom and a four-storey tower among a host of features. Photo courtesy of the State Library of NSW

On the western side were built four villas along Darley St, one of stone with a studio and music room attached, two of brick and one of concrete called The Oaks, which were rented to holiday-makers.

Another building, a two-storey octagon measuring 13m in diameter and called The Pavilion contained a ballroom with a specially-constructed floor, while state-of-the-art stabling was provided underneath.

Around the mansion were fountains and statues, while the swampy lowland was drained and converted into a small lake and a racecourse, polo field and golf course were laid out.

Using his own money and a large sum he borrowed, Brock spared no expense creating his resort by the sea.

The mansion after it was gutted by fire on January 8, 1912. Picture: Courtesy Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society

But Brock's grand dream was based on the promise of a tramline that would have brought the tourists right to his door.

The tramline reached Narrabeen by 1913 but that's as far as it went and, despite the promises and the hopes, the tramline to Newport never eventuated.

Manly

Don't miss out on the headlines from Manly. Followed categories will be added to My News.

But even if the tramline had made it to Mona Vale, it was too late for Brock.

Without an immediate return on his huge investment, he was unable to repay his loan and was eventually forced to sell what had become a white elephant that soon became known as Brock's Folly.

The whole estate, including the mansion four villas and 176 residential lots, was put up for auction on October 7, 1907.

The mansion after it was rebuilt as La Corniche in a less flamboyant style.

But the auction of the Brock Estate was not a success and a second auction was held on February 4, 1911, and yet another called Brock's Surf Beach Estate on March 21, 1921.

But worse was to befall Brock's grand dream — the mansion was gutted by fire in the early hours of January 8, 1921, and 30 boarders were forced to run for their lives.

The third storey of the mansion and the top of the tower collapsed into the inferno, leaving only a smoking two-storey shell.

At the time, the mansion was owned by real estate agent Arthur Rickard but was being operated by a French couple and had been renamed La Corniche, after the road connecting Nice and Mentone on the French Riviera.

The estimated value of the mansion was £10,000 but it was only insured for £6000.

After the fire, La Corniche was rebuilt in a less flamboyant style by Henri de Possel and Auguste Briquet, the latter being the son-in-law of Leon Heureux, the builder of the nearby Rock Lily Hotel.

Another part of La Corniche.

The mansion then passed through a succession of hands and a variety of uses but never turned a profit and gradually decayed.

In 1937, Questhaven Schools leased the mansion for use as a progressive school until the company moved to Melbourne just before World War II, after which it was used by the Air League for weekend camps and training.

After the war, the mansion was bought by a real estate agent who, like Brock, had grand plans and renamed it the Pacific Country Club but his plans came to nought.

The grand old mansion was finally demolished in the early 1960s and replaced by home units.

Brock's grand dream had fallen victim to broken promises, his own financial woes, to fire and finale to development.

Advertisem

At least George Brock had dreamt.

Pittwater Online News (./)

[Front Page \(./\)](#) [Contents \(Contents.Php\)](#) [Community News \(Community-News.Php\)](#) [Profile Of The Week \(Profile-Of-The-Week.Php\)](#) [History \(History.Php\)](#) [Children \(Children.Php\)](#) [Youth \(Youth.Php\)](#) [Seniors \(Seniors.Php\)](#) [Environment \(Environment.Php\)](#) [Inbox News \(Inbox-News.Php\)](#) [Pictures \(Pictures.Php\)](#) [Aquatics \(Aquatics.Php\)](#) [Park Bench Philosophers \(Park-Bench-Philosophers.Php\)](#) [Events \(Events-In-Sydney.Php\)](#) [Food \(Food.Php\)](#) [DIY Ideas \(Diy-Ideas.Php\)](#) [Past Features \(Past-Features.Php\)](#)

June 19 - 25, 2011: Issue 11

The Oaks - La Corniche



'Brock's' 1907, showing what would become the Barrenjoey Road.



'Brock's' circa 1907, from beach front



La Corniche [exterior view] circa 1914 - 1927 Image No.: a105577, courtesy State Library of NSW circa 1920-25

The Oaks - La Corniche



The mansion built at Mona Vale by George Brock which he commenced in 1894 and sent this poor man broke, became known as 'Brock's Folly'. The gentleman himself called it 'The Oaks'. It overlooked what was called then Bongin Bongin ('lots of shells') beach, now known as Mona Vale beach. Frequented by many who travelled specifically here (The Allen Family and father of PG Taylor (sir-patrick-gordon-taylor-history.php)) the expense incurred at building such a lavish structure did not attract the clientele he needed to ensure success.

PARADISE WITHIN EASY HAIL.

They say that 'the cobbler's always the worst shod.' Certainly the residents of the crowded city greatly neglect the marvellous opportunities at their very door to spend a pleasant holiday at the minimum of expense. Why go to the far-off mountains, with its scorching days, hot winds, and high fares, solely on account of the cool nights, or take the long journey down the coast to meet with all sorts of inconvenience, when by taking the 9.15 a.m. Manly boat, you have waiting for you well-appointed four-horse coaches to carry

you on to the lake country par excellence of Australia. The placid reaches of Pitt Water are at the present time alive with all the delicate fish that swim in the southern waters, with fine, large, luscious prawns at the entrances of the lagoons.

For an excursion, take a boat in the early morning from Mermaid Basin, on the ocean side, now teeming with schnapper and other large fish travelling up the coast ; or scamper over the long stretching beaches from Narrabeen to Barrenjoey on the panics, so easily obtained locally. Or, for quiet picnicking, go up . the shallow, .clear sandy creeks on the Kuringai Chase, with its magnificent waterfalls, ferns, palms, and luxuriant foliage, not to be equalled by the far-off, highly-praised New Zealand Sounds ; or, further afield, travelling by sail or launch to the entrance of Brisbane Water, .with its silver shoals and splendid fishing grounds, passing the famous Basin and Scotland and Lion Islands. These trips through Wild , country, farms and orchards, ferny dells, and mountain heights, on the Kuringai Chase side, and hundreds of miles of the Hawkesbury beyond, are all obtainable at a fare of 3d by steamer to Manly, and 1s coach to Rock Lily, the centre of the whole district. From Mermaid's Basin you are in touch with the ocean, ?with Bay View, Newport, Winjijinni Point. Well-found fishing and rowing boats, launches, men, and nets can be obtained from 1s per hour ; with man and net, 2s 6d per hour; prawning parties in the lagoon, man, boat, and net, 2s 6d per hour. Old English quarters Can be had at two or three comfortable establishments in the neighborhood, as well as hampers for picnic parties, boats (either for the ocean or the calm water inside), and ponies for riding parties. For day visitors or parties, meals and accommodation range from 2s ; hampers and tea -room meals are sold at Sidney prices; and the full run of the orchards is allowed for a shilling. Although not one in a thousand know of this cheap and beautiful holiday district, nevertheless it exists, and before the puffing trams arrive to spoil it, advantage should be taken to visit a spot which certainly would be the selected sight for the Federal City only for the 100-mile bar limit. — **'MONA VALE.'** PARADISE WITHIN EASY HAIL (1902, January 19). *Sunday Times*(Sydney, NSW : 1895 - 1930), , p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article126428645> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article126428645>)

George Brock was bent on making the place a success, he named it a 'model village'. He also had a passion for horses, and polo in particular, which caused to name the place 'The Oaks Polo Grounds'. He also accommodated visiting Lancers and Light Horse squadrons - see *Mona Vale Training Grounds - From Lancers on Horses to Lasses on Transport Courses*.

This would not be the first time the grounds would be used as such - prior to and during WWI they were used as training grounds, they formed part of coastal reinforcements during WWII and housed recruits being trained.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. MANOUVERS BY THE LANCERS IN THE VICINITY OF NEWPORT.

The Sydney and Parramatta squadrons of the New South Wales Lancers were engaged on Saturday and part of yesterday in some interesting fluid operations in the neighbourhood of Rock Lily and Newport. The parade was also the last of the year.

The Sydney squadron, numbering 69, under Captain King, was as supposed to represent the advance party of an enemy which had landed at Bongan Bongan Beach, near the entrance to Broken Bay. The squadron left the city at 8.30 a.m., and bivouacked at 1 p.m. at Narrabeen. The lauding party, by arrangement, commenced to make its dispositions at 2 p.m. from the Rock Lily Hotel, and the idea, was that the telegraph lines should be tapped in order to prevent reinforcements of the defending force coming from Hornsby.

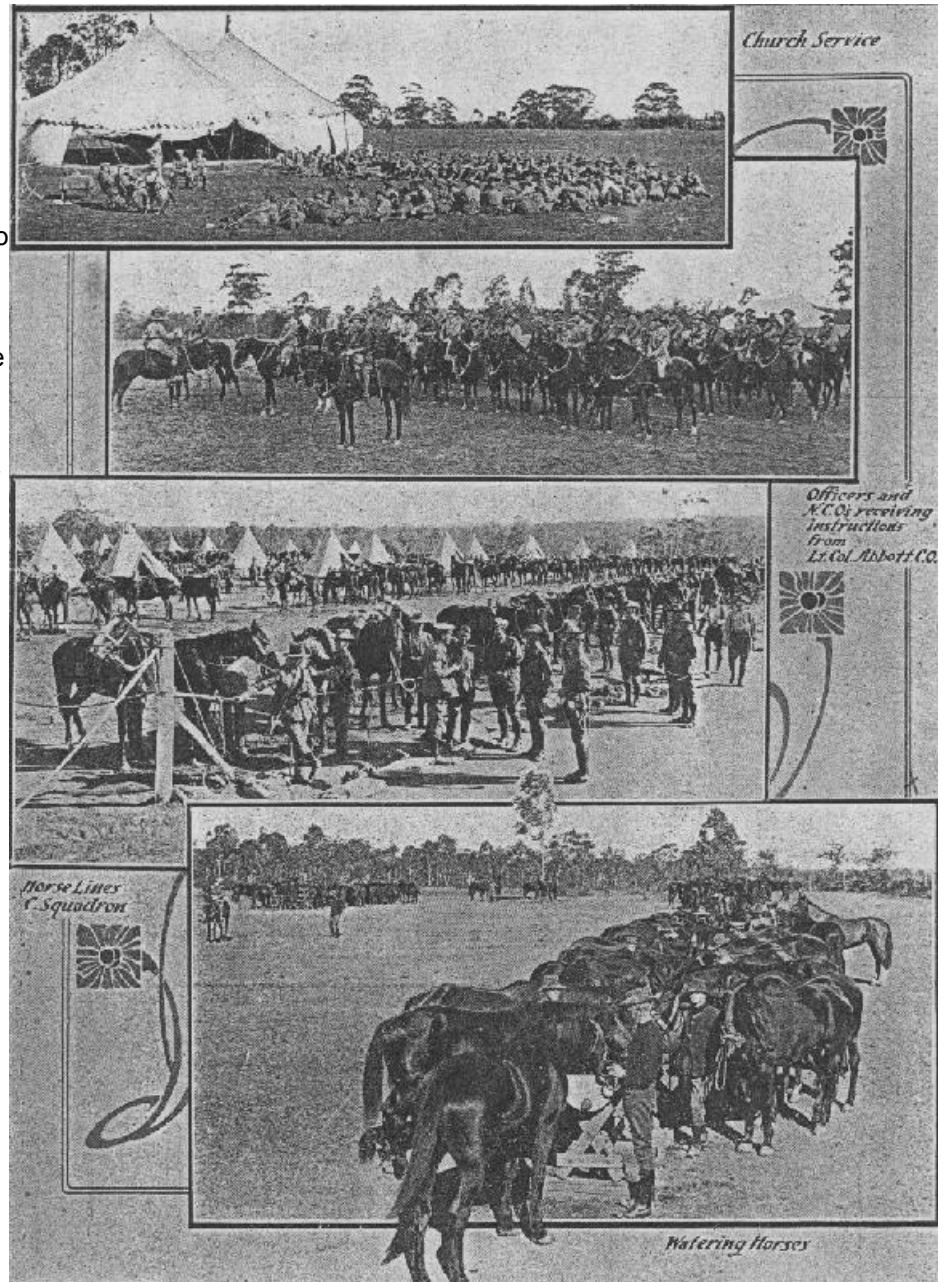
The Parramatta, squadron of Lancers was ordered to find out the strength of **the enemy that had landed at Bongan Bongan Beach.** According to the plan of operations the road via the Spit was held to be untenable, so that the detachment had to proceed via Pymble. **The Parramatta men mustered 72,** and were under the command of **Captain Mackenzie.** They left Parramatta at 8 a.m. and reached Tumble-down Dick, near Pymble, in time for lunch. **Lieutenant-Colonel James Burns,** officer-commanding, accompanied them, and at Pymble **Brigadier-General Finn, Major A. P. Luscombe, D.A. Q.M.G., and Lieutenant Macartney, A.D.C.,** joined the party with a view to witnessing the manouvres.

A start was made at 2 p.m. from Tumbledown Dick to ascertain the whereabouts of the enemy, and very rough country was encountered, but trooper's and horses got over the ground capitally. The enemy's landing party not having time apparently to achieve its object, its **officer-commanding threw out a line of outposts extending from the Rock Lily Hotel to a little point near Newport.** Shortly alter 3 p.m. the Parramatta squadron got into touch with the outposts about two miles from the hotel, and after some good work on both sides the evening's advance guard, according to the prearranged plan, was driven back to the reserve near the beach.

Owing to this reverse and the weather becoming thick and stormy the landing party was supposed to be unable to re-embark by boats on board of the cruisers, consequently a position was taken up on Bongan Head. In this phase of the operations, however, the Sydney squadron no longer represented the enemy, but joined the Parramatta men. The enemy's position on Bongan Head was represented by eight canvas targets, which had been erected under the supervision of Major M. Hilliard, D.S.O., and Captain P. C. Timothy. Four of these were located about 500 yards from the main road and the other four about 900 yards distant, but the ranges were unknown to those who subsequently took part in the firing. It was decided that the attack on this position should be made shortly after daybreak on the following day by the entire body of Lancers representing the home force.

The two squadrons a little after 5 p.m. **reached Mr. George Brock's Mona Vale estate, where Captain Timothy had arranged with the owner for the whole force to bivouac for the night.** The troops were here joined by **Colonel H. D. Mackenzie, A.A.G., Captain J. Purves, and Captain J. S. Brunton,** the two latter travelling by motor car. The Lancers band also came down by a coach provided by the officers, who also contributed the commissariat supplies.

The State Commandant addressed the officers and N.C.O's. during the evening, and said that he was well pleased generally with the tactics, intelligence, and conduct of the troops. The men had shown their efficiency as skilled horsemen in very rough country, and he complimented them on their mobility. The outpost work was creditably performed, but at times rather humid.



After tea a camp-fire concert was held, in which the band figured conspicuously, and Mr. Brock' rendered valuable assistance. A boxing bout between two amateur champions, **Troopers Parbury and R. Baker**, proved exciting, as were also some smart singlestick tourneys.

At daybreak yesterday the reveille sounded, and the Lancers at 5.45 a.m. were on the way to attack the enemy's position, indicated by the canvas targets on Bongan Head, forty rounds of ball cartridge were fired per man in the attack, which was at unknown distances. The shooting was good. One target had about 200 hits on it. **The weakness of the attack, according to Brigadier-General Finn, lay in the fact that the men were too prone to expose themselves and rush forward in large numbers instead of in twos and threes.** These were defects apparent in all sham fights, however, and only corrected by a taste of the " Real thing."

The troops returned to camp at 8.16. After morning "stables " a bathing parade was held, in which nearly every Lancer participated on his horse. Mr. Brock was thanked for his kindness in quartering the forces, and route march was then taken via the Spit for the Sydney Squadron and via Pymble for the- Parramatta men. - The Sydney detachment reached the city in the afternoon. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. (1902, December 15). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 9. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14521240> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14521240>)

George Brock was relying on the ill-fated tram line being built to Mona Vale, even Newport as it was first touted. This did not occur in time for him. The tram eventually terminated at Narrabeen. A description of the place during the its construction:

' THE OAKS," MONA VALE.

One of the most interesting places on the coach road between Mosman and Newport is "The Oaks," the home of Mr. G. S. Brock. Just after passing the Mona Vale Stores, you see on your right a picturesque group of buildings. The style is very attractive and uncommon in this country. A large gateway lets you into the grounds, where tame kangaroos and other animals, are playing about on the grass. Some fine dogs greet your approach to the main buildings where, if you are fortunate, you will find Mr. Brock at leisure - for he is a very busy man.



Mr. Brock has made a great impression upon the district.

He is of average height, compactly built, with strong features. His face reminds one of the old Romans as they have been pictured for us. He is clean shaven, quick in speech, and direct-in his utterance, very prompt and somewhat masterful in manner. A man, that can be plainly seen,— a man of strong individuality. He stands alone, and requires no support but his own keen brain and active body. He is a man to take the lead and keep it, a man who by his greater pushfulness makes enemies as well as friends.

One of the most noticeable buildings about the place is Circular in Shape. The ground floor is used as stables, and here Mr. Brock has some fine horses, including the stallion " Souvenir," a beautiful and spirited Arab that seems to understand every word his master says to him. On the next floor is a music room, with piano, organ and other instruments. Being circular, it is splendidly adapted for dancing. Among the articles hung upon the walls are fencing foils and boxing gloves,—and a glance at the face of the proprietor will convey to you the hint that if you are not anxious for violent exercise you had better at all hazards

retain his hearty good will. There are other buildings on the heights above this one, in course of erection. They are intended for a grand series of residences, **and there will be a Great Central Hall**, with contiguous apartments for the use of all the residents. This hill overlooks the ocean, and gives a splendid view of the bright Pacific. The beach is but a few yards off; to the left, on land, is a fine racecourse; in front a lake, on which swim black swans, some of them paying devoted attention to their floating nests. There are other birds and animals in the lake. Gambolling after one of the young ladies is an alema, a curious animal, 'something between a monkey and kangaroo, very pretty and perfectly harmless. Mr. Brock purposes starting **A Dairy on the other side of the racecourse from the houses**, for the use of the residents. He has had many handsome offers for the estate, but refused them all. Several of the would-be purchasers wished 'to turn it into a pleasure resort, but as the probability was they would get a licence and sell drink Mr. Brock promptly refused to consider their proposals. As soon as the Government begin in earnest to build the Spit to Newport Tramway, **Mr. Brock promises to put on 200 men** to complete all the work which for years he has planned for this beautiful country home. If they do not start it in a reasonable time he may himself **install a 80 passenger Motor-Coach, but only to "The Oaks" and only for the service of the people living there**. Families will be able to come to the Oaks and stay any length of time at moderate expense enjoying all the delights of country and ... farm life—without all the work. ' '

There is an **Art Gallery Also** in the buildings, where Mr. Brock, junior, plies his capable brush. The walls are covered with his pictures, all showing marked talent. **On the way from America**, the land of novelty, is **A Sculpturing Machine**, which a skilled operator can make facsimiles of a human face simultaneously. From the photographs of the it is a wonderful affair, costing a pounds. The marble busts can turned out very fast and cheap,—say 5 or 6 hours for about a pound a piece' quite knocks out hand work—but it requires a hand to guide the rapidly cutting chisels, and the hand of an artist in order for good results. A sculptor, however, can with one of these machines of much better work than with the hand only. The instruments that do the out-resemble somewhat the little cutters dentists use to bore out teeth for stopping. They have only to be moved over the marble slowly and the lifelike image is graven. When the tram was started from Manly Mr. Brock put on about 200 Men to get the place ready, but when that fine project fell in pieces he took most of the men off again. He keeps a brick kiln going constantly, and there are always men employed building.

Some day " The Oaks " will be the name of one of the finest health resorts in the world,-meantime it is a most comfortable and beautiful home.

"THE OAKS," (1904, September 3). *The Mosman Mail* (NSW : 1898 - 1906), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article247008613> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article247008613>)

Some visitors:

FISHING. **(By 'GLAUCUS.')**

The Navigator, the Printer, and the Journalist, all members of the Amateur Fishermen's Association, had a memorable trip last Friday to 'The Oaks,' Newport; the well-known beautiful residence of Mr. G. S. Brock. The Navigator (Capt. A. Barron, of the s.s. Upolu) took five young edible turtles to the coastal beauty spot, and the other two went with him at Mr. Brock's Invitation. The little turtles were 'all a-growin' and a-blowin' ' in a billy full of sea water. They were some that had been hatched out in sand on board the vessel after being taken from their nests in the Island beaches. The little chaps flapped about comfortably on one's hand and bit at the finger pushed at their noses. Pulling one out of the billy in the packed coach the ladies inside were enabled to inspect the curious little fellow. 'Where did you get them? ' was the natural query, but the Navigator's reply, that he had hatched them himself, was greeted with disbelief by the lady passengers. Presently after being assured by the Journalist, who is reputed to have the least honest face of the three, that the statement was correct, an elderly lady with a twinkle in her eye said she had a clutch of Orpington eggs at home that the hen had left, and that the Navigator might sit on them if he liked. Quoth the Printer at that stage: 'The only clutch you could safely put him on would have to be a china set.' The Navigator, it should be parenthetically observed, weighs nearly 13st. One of the ladies thought It would be a good Win. 'Mother,' she said, 'we might get a new china dinner set that way.' Amid much merriment the trio travelled to Rock Lily, and, resisting an Inclination on the part of the Printer to inspect the paintings in some of the private rooms, journeyed to 'The Oaks.' Their subsequent adventures would fill a sizable volume.' **The host, gave them a 'day in the country,' and finally mounted the thee inexperienced riders on polo rides for a trip round the estate and thence to Pittwater.** The results of that ride remain with the party yet. The Navigator had to eat his meals next day of the mantelpiece, and the Printer and the Journalist sat down very steadily whenever they they had to sit during Saturday.

After a sail down to Newport Arm in Mr. Brock's speedy yacht, The Dolphin, the yacht rescued a party of ladies in an open boat from dying for want of afternoon tea and took them for a cruise down to the Basin and back. The wind left the yacht on the way home, and it was 8.30 p.m. before the quartette got back to the horses. **After accomplishing a perilous ride back to 'The Oaks,' some musical contributions from talented members of Mr. Brock's family whiled away a half-hour, and the party left to catch a supposed 10.30 p.m. boat from Manly.** The boat, however; left at 10.15 p.m., so they were in good time for the next at 11.15 p.m. Recognising that 11.50 p.m. at the Quay was too late to allow of a cab catching the midnight train, the Journalist pretended he liked work, and went to the office that tolerates him to write leading articles until the 2.45 a.m. train for Strathfield should start. The other two took a cab and chanced it. Naturally they missed the train by two or three minutes. The Navigator lived at Summer Hill and the Printer at Croydon so they held a united prayer meeting and set out in the cab with a city driver, who knew not the suburbs. The sailor-man reached home about one o'clock, but the Printer had most alarming adventures, being driven away up near Homebush instead of Croydon. He got home about 3 am. The Journalist, being an old dog for a hard road, and knowing the ropes, so to speak, travelled in one of the all-night trams to Redfern, had a coffee and 'saveloy and mashed' at the coffee stall, and reached home at 3.15 a.m. Now if anyone wants to hear language he has only to invite the three to tell the narrative of their day at 'The Oaks.' **FISHING. (1905, January 25). Referee** (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939), p. 9. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article120495249>



Brocks 'The Oaks' - 1st version Broadhurst postcard, circa 1902 - 1912

George Brock was relying on the much spoken about for a long time tram to Pittwater to make easier access and more people visiting a means to return some of the thousands of pounds he must have spent by then on this property and its buildings. By late 1904 he even proposed to fund the building of the tramway himself:

NEWPORT-PITTWATER.

Though the continued appeals to the Government for the construction of the tram from Manly to Pittwater have not met with anything beyond the usual shelving promises, the matter is not by any means being allowed to cool. **An effort is now being made to allow private enterprise to take the matter up, and the following letter has been addressed by Mr. George Brock of "The Oaks" (la-corniche-history.php) to the Hon. Secretary of the Newport Progress Association.—**

" Dear Sir,—I beg to bring before the notice of your Council the proposal I have made respecting the tram which I propose to take over and have completed by this time next year to Narrabeen and in two years to Pittwater. I trust your council will give the scheme every support and by doing so will give private enterprise an opportunity to do what the Government have fairly messed up. As there will be a large amount of employment, it being intended to start from Pittwater end as well as from Manly tram sheds, your council (in the event of my getting the concession to be allowed to take it on) might provide or partly so the labor for Pittwater end."

A rough plan accompanies the letter showing that the route proposed to be taken does not follow the road all the way. His intended to have three sections Brookvale threepence, Narrabeen sixpence, and Pittwater ninepence. If the matter is taken up as it should be the tram to Pittwater may become an accomplished fact, and the proposal now made is worthy of the hearty cooperation of all concerned.

The Postmaster General of the Commonwealth has notified the Hon. Dugald Thompson, the Federal Member for Warringah, that the mails for the residents round the bay at Pittwater will be delivered by the launch that is used in carrying the children to school. The post and telegraph office at Barrenjoey having been closed, the work is now being done at the Newport post office. **NEWPORT-PITTWATER. (1904, November 26).** *The Mosman Mail* (NSW : 1898 - 1906), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article247009079> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article247009079>)

The following letter will interest visitors to Newport and Bay view: — 'Dear 'Glaucus,'

— For the last few weeks I have been trying the points between Manly and Barrenjoey for rock fishing, but without success, and we found fresh water as scarce as the fish. There seems to be none procurable at all as far as we could see. Any suggestion you can make will be acceptable, as to likely points. I might say that we ride bicycles, and so distance is not of much account. We tried Narrabeen Lagoon without success. This place is a disgrace to all concerned in looking after its welfare. Could you not do something with the A.F.A. to prevent the netting going on, and to have the opening made as you suggested, so as to let the lake fill again P.S: We used to have first-rate camps up Deep Creek a few years back, and the fishing was fair at times, too. — Yours, &c, C.H.S.'

C.H.S. might try the Mermaid's Basin and rocks thereabout. It is on the coast at 'The Oaks,' Mr. Brock's beautiful home near Newport. BILLIARDS (1905, February 1). *Referee* (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939), p. 9. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article120499644> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article120499644>)

And to get people there:

MOTOR OMNIBUSES. THE MANLY-PITTWATER, SERVICE. INAUGURAL RUN.

The two motor buses recently imported from England for the service between Manly, Rocklily, Bayview, Newport, and Pittwater, made their initial trial on Thursday afternoon last. The run was to the residence of Mr. Brock, of Newport, and return to Manly, a distance of 23 miles. The 'buses, which were imported to the order of Messrs. Reid Bros., of Manly, are likely to be handled by a company, known as the Manly-Pittwater Motor Omnibus Company, Limited, with a capital of £8500. It is the intention of the company to shortly import a number of similar vehicles, as well as some steam 'buses, to tap the various populated districts at present badly supplied with tram or horse 'bus service. Manly was en fête for the occasion on Thursday, and a big crowd assembled at the Pier Head to witness the start, which took place at 2.20 p.m.

Amongst those who took part in the trial were Mr. Dugald Thomson, M.P., Dr. Arthur, M.L.A., Mr. F. F. H. McKenzie, M.L.A., Alderman Quirk (Mayor of Manly), Alderman Walker, Alderman T. J. West, Alderman Lear Bioiinth, Alderman Ogilby, Messrs. S. L. Ridge, **Charles H. Kerry (director of the Motor Company)**, E. E. Kennedy (secretary to the company), E. A. Laurence (of Laurence and Laurence, solicitors to the company), John Bennett, Wm. M'Leod, Daniel Farrell, H. T. Roby George Rodda (of Adams and Co.), Alexander Edward (secretary to the Traffic Commissioners), D. S. K. Millar (Bank of New South Wales), W. J. Bradley, and **Mr. Houreaux**.

As the buses left Manly for Newport with 16 passengers on board each vehicle there was much enthusiasm, and it was evident that the introduction of the latest form of propelled vehicle was highly appreciated by the residents. Flags were flying from various buildings and arches had been erected at various parts of the road. As the 'buses made their run towards Newport several other petrol vehicles escorted the new service. All were gaily decorated out of compliment to the new Motors. There is little doubt that with a good and quick service many people will soon make the trip. Considering that the buses were shod with solid tyres the run was very smooth throughout.

The first 'bus, with the "Herald" representative on board, reached Mr. Brock's residence at 3.9 p.m., having covered the 11 ¼ miles in 49 minutes. There had been no rushing in the journey, as it was the intention of the owners to allow the party to view the magnificent scenery en route. With the exception of a slight delay at Sheepstation Hill, owing to the fan belt slipping off the pulley, the run made by the first bus was a delightful one, and must be deemed very successful. Unfortunately, the second 'bus had not quite so good a journey, as the carburetor stopped up when near Sheepstation Hill, and a halt had to be made. It took the chauffeur a considerable time before the obstruction in the petrol feed tube was removed. The delay was most vexatious to Messrs. Reid, who had already accomplished several journeys without a stop. It was especially unfortunate that the stoppage should have occurred in the inaugural run, as such things often tend to dishearten enthusiasts. Considering that the buses are as yet practically new, and that they will not be in thorough working order until they have covered at least a couple of hundred miles, the speed and hill-climbing capabilities displayed during Thursday's run must be deemed excellent.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSES.

Each bus is fitted with a 22-h.p. Aster engine, 4-cylinder rod, and with the cylinders cast separately. The full power of the motor is got at 1000 revolutions, but the speed may be brought down very low by the manipulation of the throttle. The engine is supported in the chassis by two strong channelled steel stays running from one side to the other, thus keeping the motor firm and secure. Elseman high tension magneto with synchronised ignition is fitted, the accumulator and coil supplied extra being carried as a standby. Each of the four cylinders is run from one coil by means of a distributor, and the switch fitted on the dashboard enables the chauffeur to turn on or off either ignition at will. The manipulator of the spark and throttle is of the latest type, being attached to the steering wheel, so as to allow the driver easy control. The change speed gears being at the driver's right hand allow easy management. As regards the chassis, it is made of pressed steel, of U section, and narrowed in front, so as to allow a bigger wheel look. The length of the frame is 15ft 7in, and the width 4ft 9in, while the wheel base is approximately 11ft the latter width being practically that of an Australian waggon track. The weight of the respective models turns out to be a little more than expected for a single-decker, totalling altogether 2 tons 5cwt for chassis and body. There is little doubt that the woodwork in the motors is substantial, but had a little less solidity been supplied they might have been better. The artillery wheels fitted to the 'buses are strong, and, having solid forged axles, there is little likelihood of any injury to them. The drive is by chain, a stout 3in block chain being fitted on each side. The chain may be tightened when required by means of a substantial radiating rod. The springs of the vehicle, though apparently strong, proved on the running to be just a trifle weak for the Manly-Newport road, and one could often experience at certain places slight jars. It would certainly be advisable to have an extra leaf or two of spring put on.

Each 'bus is fitted with three speeds and reverse. Between the differential and the gear box is a strong coupling shaft with two flexible joints. The Panhard system of gearing with direct drive on the top is employed, and the estimated greatest speed is about '20-25 miles an hour.' As regards the water circulation, this is supplied by means of a powerful pump. Tubular radiators and a large fan driven by belt off the shaft help to keep cool the engine. The brake work on each chassis is of the external band type. Although for heavy vehicles the internal expanding system of braking is to be preferred, those on the new 'buses seemed very effective, and were able to pull up the latter quickly when descending some stiff gradients. The tyres, which are solid, were turned out by the Dunlop Company. It is a pity the company who purpose running the buses did not see their way to fit twin tyres on the rear wheels, as the wearing qualities of the latter are superior, and there is less likelihood on the part of the vehicles to skid.

As regards the body part of the respective cars, the design and finish seem simple, yet neat. In each 'bus there are four cross seats, each vehicle being capable of accommodating about 16 to 18 passengers. A very desirable feature about the seats is that each of the four rows is placed on a different level, the back one being the highest. This arrangement enables each back row of passengers to have an equally good view with those in front. There is a canopy, with convex roof, fitted to each car, and supported by tubular pillars. To protect the driver or passengers in dusty or rainy weather, two folding glass panels can be lowered, as can the folding side blind. The finish of the vehicles is in excellent taste, the cars being upholstered in dark green leather. The woodwork is painted dark chocolate with yellow lines on one model and dark green with light lines on the other. A luggage carrier is fitted on the top of the canopy.

SUCCESS OF THE SERVICE ASSURED.

When the buses reached Mr. Brock's residence refreshments were served, **after which some photographs of the new vehicles with the passengers aboard were taken.** Mr. Quirk, Mayor of Manly, occupied the chair, in the course of his remarks he said that every credit was due to Messrs. Reid for having had the courage to import motor 'buses.

Mr. Dugald Thomson, M.P., proposed success to the new venture, and eulogised the Importers as men of enterprise, who had surmounted great difficulties. He hoped soon to see a regular service of 'buses running between Manly and Pittwater, and trusted the venture would meet with the success it deserved.

Dr. Arthur, M.L.A., in supporting the toast, said he was a humble admirer of anything in the shape of enterprise. He thought the Manly-Pittwater buses would be a decided acquisition to the neighbourhood. He characterised Pittwater and the surrounding neighbourhood as one of the loveliest districts in this State, and hoped the present buses would be compared favourably with those at present in Sydney, would always be kept busy.

Mr. M'Kenzie, M.L.A., also spoke, and pointed out the necessity that existed for proper communication, between Manly, Newport, and district. He had no doubt that in a short time many more similar buses would be in use.

Mr. Cried responded and spoke of the initial difficulties in inaugurating the service. He was perfectly satisfied that once the novelty had worn off the present buses they would successfully cater for the demands of the Manly and Pittwater residents.

MOTOR OMNIBUSES. (1906, February 10). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 17. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14732737> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14732737>)

However, the success of this service was not assured and the venture was liquidated soon afterwards - the tyres didn't do too well on the roads and people had to rely on the coaches still.

His daughter, **from The Children's Corner** – then conducted by Ethel Turner, author of '*Seven Little Australians*', '*Three Little Maid's* etc.): and soon to be a regular at Palm Beach herself!

BY THE SEASIDE IN N.S.W.

"The Oaks," Mona Vale, via Manly.

Dear Dame Durden,-It seems quite a time since I wrote you. I was so pleased to see I was mentioned in the first and second honours of the last competition. The other day I sent in a story for Princess Spinaway's Competition. It is the first I have ever completed. Often I have written them, but never finished them.

Nearly every morning a friend, my sister, and myself go for a swim before breakfast in the surf. It is glorious swimming in with the big strong waves, one after the other. When the swim is finished, we lie down on the sand and have a sun bath, which nearly burns us black. There are so many different and beautiful things on the beach. Some of the shells are a work of art, the colours on them are so prettily tinted, some shading from dark to light.

My sister has a lovely collection of shells, mostly gathered off the beach near us. I think the sea egg is the quaintest of them all. To get a large one of these, you must hunt for it amongst the rocks where it lives in a round hole, as the shell itself is round. It is covered with pointed spikes which enables the fish (who lives inside the shell) to travel about. The largest sea egg I have seen just fitted into my hand(which is not very small) and the smallest I have seen was about the size of the tip of my finger. The shell is very delicate, and is either grey or pink. There are so many different things to tell about shells and their wonders that I am afraid, dear Dame, it would take all the page to describe them; but as the sea-egg is a favourite of mine, I thought I would tell you all about it. I suppose you have seen an octopus. It is a very funny fish. However, I will tell you the kind we have here. The body is flat and long, with great long legs and arms projecting from its body, and each leg and arm has suckers underneath them, which is like a tiny white shell, very soft and jellylike. The fish is harmless in the way of biting, but is dangerous when it is a very large one, as it dings to you and squeezes with great strength. When it is angry with you it throws black liquid all over you. I love to spend a whole day on the beach and interest myself in its wonders. I hope you will understand my descriptions of the sea-egg and the octopus; they are poor; but I hope to improve each time I write to you. I will finish my letter now, and hope you and the rest of the Court are well.-I am your loving correspondent.

Viva Brock.

(The Jester:

A Sea-egg and an Octopus were walking hand in hand;

They wept like anything to see a girl upon the sand.

"If she were only swept away," they said, "it would be grand."

"If seven whales and seven sharks hung round for half a day,

Do you suppose," the Sea-egg said, "that still she'd want to stay?"

"I fear so," said the Octopus and brushed a tear away.

"If I were only old enough," it added, with a sigh,

"I'd squeeze her up to jolly in the winking of an eye."

"Still, why not throw your ink at her?" the Sea-egg did reply.

"Oh, come now," said the Octopus, "I'll own it is a bore

To find a tiresome girl like this thus littering up our shore,

But a revenge so horrible was never planned before."

'For don't you see," he added, "she's already fond of ink.

And like a thirsty blotting pad would simply lie and drink,

With a consequence so awful that I shudder as I think."

"I understand," the Sea-egg said, "I quite comprehend you,

There'd be sonnets on the ocean, and on each wave a few,

While odes unto the billows continually she'd do.

"And goodness gracious, gracious me, too horrible 'twould be,

If she should make a poem upon you, dear friend, or me,
An 'Ode Unto an Octopus,' or 'Lines to Egg of-Sea.' "

"Oh, Viva," wept the Octopus "you've had a pleasant swim,
Won't you be trotting home again; it's high time you went in?
I dare not angry grow with you, I find 'twould be a sin."

Peeps in Four States. (1906, March 21). *Australian Town and Country Journal* (NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 38. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71528448> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71528448>)

The Jester's Competition.

1. What is a salmon on a gravel path?

Answer: A fish out of water.

2. Why are poultry the most profitable on a farm?-Answer: For every grain they give a peck.

3. If I buy four cakes for a penny, and giveaway one of them, why am I like a telescope? Answer: Because I make a far-thing present.

(Sent by Viva Brock, aged 15, "The Oaks," Mona Vale, via Manly.)

The Jester's Competition. (1907, July 10). *Australian Town and Country Journal* (NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 32. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71593915> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71593915>)

He was soon in dire straights money wise and this item appeared:



"The Oaks," Mr. Brock's residence.



Bongin Bongin Beach.

Brochure advertising sale of land in the Warriewood Estate by Henry F. Halloran & Co showing the entrance to Brock's Folly and Bongin Bongin Beach 1906.

TO HOTELKEEPERS, AMUSEMENT CATERERS, SPORTING CLUB PROPRIETORS. BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES. THE OAKS. MONA VALE.. PITTWATER.

This MAGNIFICENT and UNIQUE PROPERTY comprising about 114 acres, under TORRENS TITLE is situated 10 miles from MANLY, about 500 yards from the Rock Lily Hotel, on the main

road to Pittwater and Newport, rendering it accessible from the city by either MOTOR CARS or COACH, has large FRONTAGES to DARLEY STREET, 'the PITT WATER-ROAD, BASSET STREET, and the PACIFIC OCEAN'!

THE BUILDINGS specially designed for a RESIDENCE of a PERFECT SANATORIUM, with Cottages for families attached, of brick on concrete foundation with Mansard roof with promenade, contain imposing MAIN ENTRANCE and HALL, billiard-room, lounge, smoking-room, 25 bedrooms, extra large dining hall, 6 bathrooms, and most up-to-date domestic arrangements, and servants' quarters.

ADJOINING THE CLUB-HOUSE is a STUDIO MUSIC-ROOM, with artistic lead-light windows and ceilings. LARGE FERNERY. A Short Distance from the main building is an octagonal house of brick and wood, containing in the upper portion BALL-ROOM (12ft x 42ft), -with up-to-date arrangements in basement.

IN the GROUNDS are the THREE BRICK COTTAGES above referred to, also TWO OTHERS in course of construction, and on the far side of the grounds is a six-roomed W.B. Cottage, with tiled roof.

THE GROUNDS are tastefully laid out with ornamental shrubs, lawns, and statues in front of the CLUB-HOUSE, while an area of about 40 acres opposite has been made ready for SPORTING purposes. GOLF, POLO, CRICKET, FOOTBALL, LAWN TENNIS, etc, and a 6-furlong Racecourse.'

THE PROPERTY. DELIGHTFULLY SITUATED on the shores of the PACIFIC OCEAN, embraces large beach Frontage where SURF Bathing can be indulged in without risk. Added to other attractions there is a NATURAL FRESH WATER LAKE in the grounds, enhancing their beauty, and at the same time affording a PERMANENT WATER SUPPLY. '

CONSIDERING the rapid strides in Motoring- as a means of transit, and the unrivalled position of the health and holiday resort, there should be a great future **FOR THE OAKS.**

BATT, RODD, AND PURVES, LTD, have been instructed to sell the above by PUBLIC AUCTION, at their Rooms, 88 Pitt-street. Next TUESDAY, the 7th of MAY, at 11.30 a.m. **MESSRS. Minter, Simpson and Co., solicitors for the Mortgagee.** Advertising. (1907, April 27). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 22. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28153265> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28153265>)

And later in the year, an Auction showing subdivisions is accompanied with a brochure:

THE BROCK ESTATE

**TORRENS
TITLE**

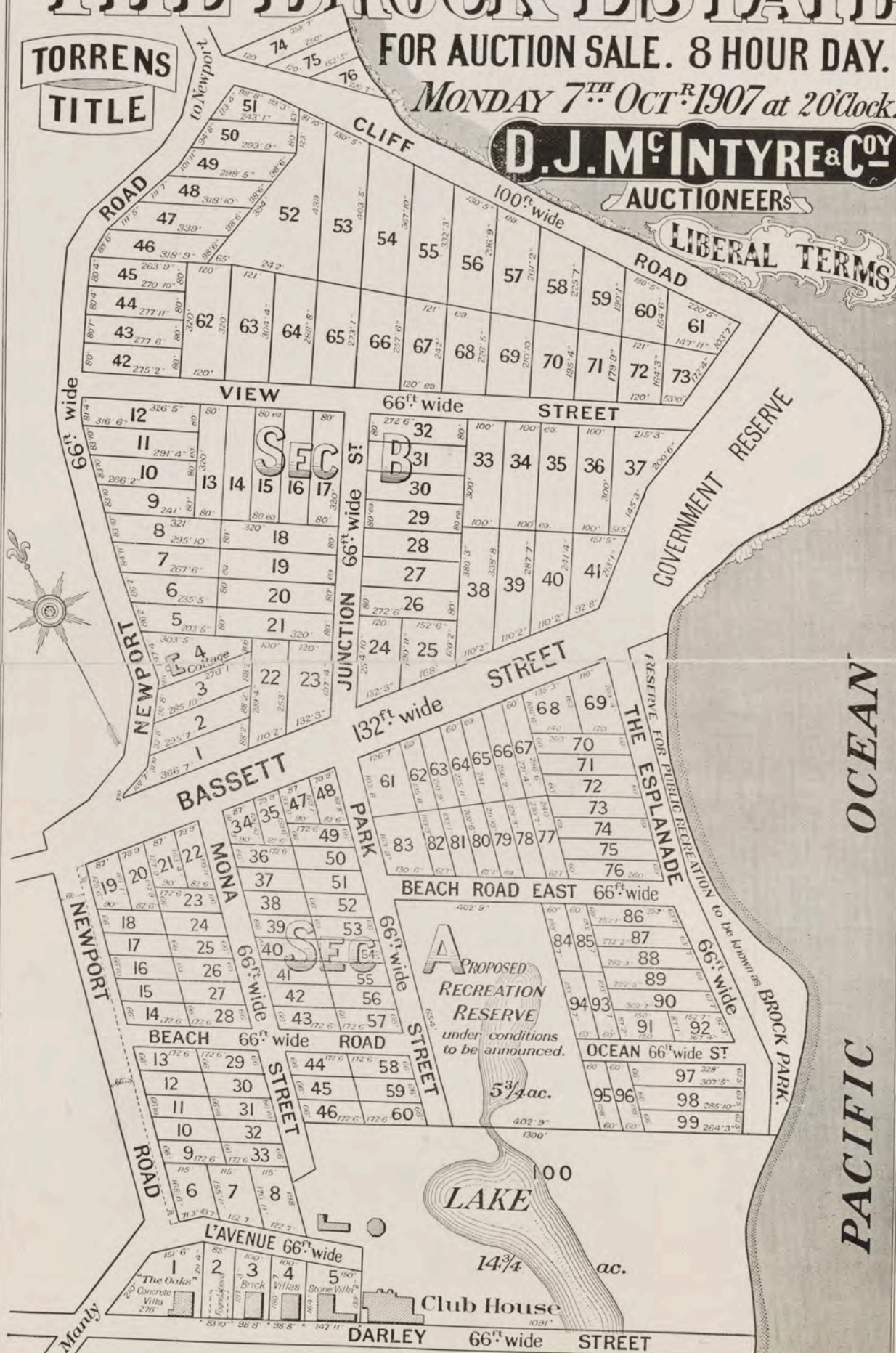
FOR AUCTION SALE. 8 HOUR DAY.

MONDAY 7TH OCT^R 1907 at 2 O'clock.

D. J. MCINTYRE & COY

AUCTIONEERS

LIBERAL TERMS



NOTE. Areas and dimensions subject to Deposited Plan.



The Brock Estate - Cliff Rd, The Esplanade, Darley St, October 7th Newport 1907. Item No.: c046820076 from Mona Vale Subdivisions, courtesy State Library of New South Wales

The ... **BROCK ESTATE**

*The most beautiful spot in
New South Wales.*



THE BROCK MANSION, "KNOWN AS THE CLUB HOUSE."

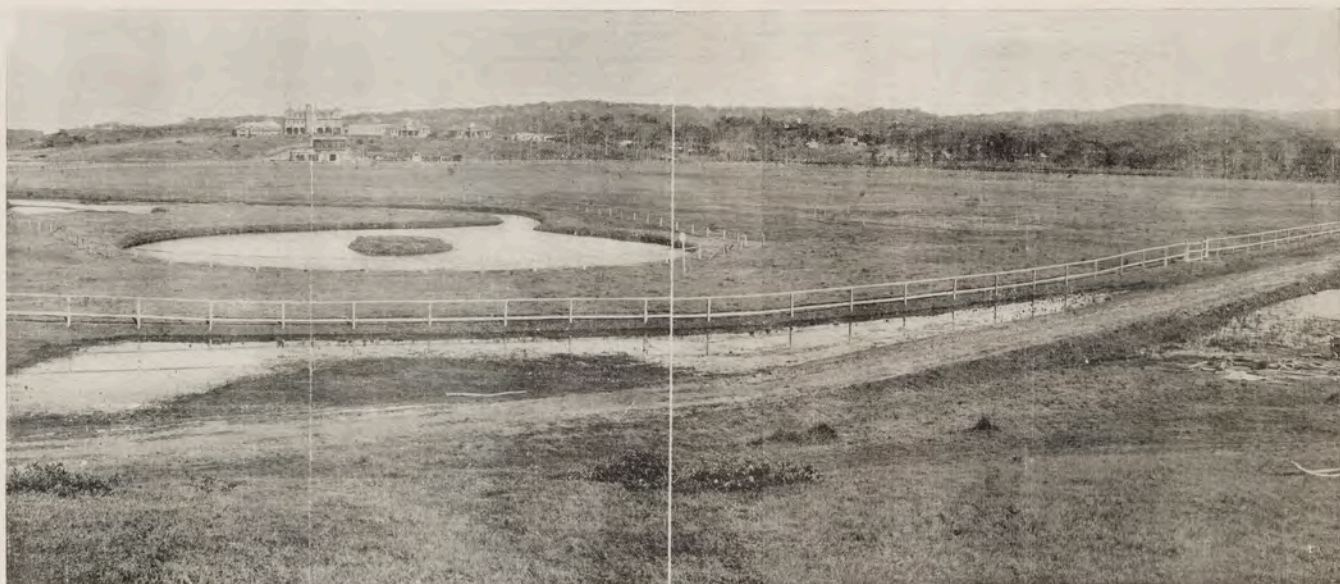
TRAVELLER'S GUIDE AND MAP
OF THE
to Pittwater District
WITH 25 ILLUSTRATIONS.

Beatty, Richardson and Co., General Printers, Paling's Buildings, Sydney.

TP.
No. 238
Brock Estate
Pittwater



The Brock Estate - brochure Front page, **1907** Item No.: c046820078, Mona Vale Subdivisions, Courtesy State Library of NSW



A PANORAMIC VIEW OF A PORTION OF THE BROCK ESTATE.

THE BROCK ESTATE SALE will be held ON THE GROUND,
8-HOUR DAY, Monday, 7th October, 1907, at 2 o'clock.

D. J. McINTYRE and CO., AUCTIONEERS,
30 & 32 Junction Street, North Sydney, and Bull's Chambers, 14 Moore Street, Sydney.



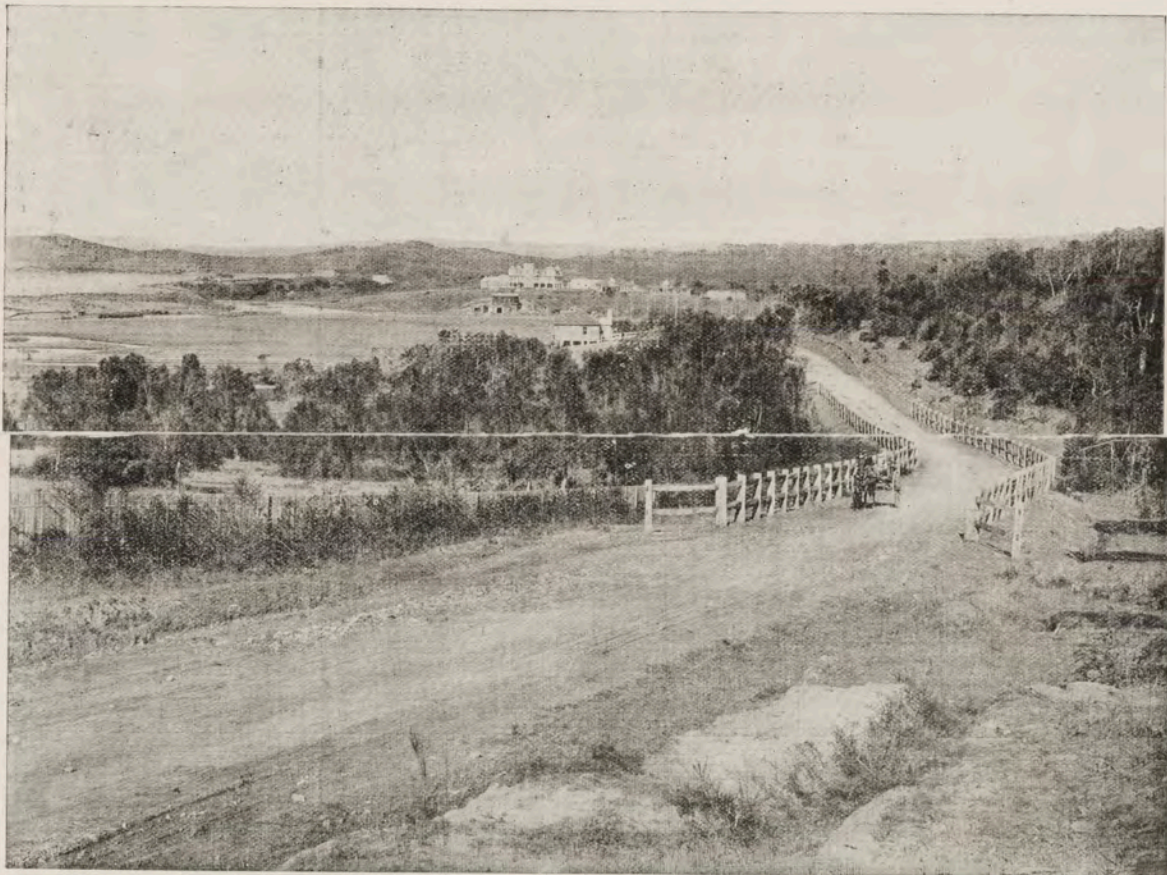
A PANORAMIC VIEW OF A PORTION OF THE BROCK ESTATE.

The Brock Estate - 1907, inner page brochure, Item No.: c046820077, Mona Vale Subdivisions, Courtesy State Library of NSW

THE BROCK ESTATE

The View of the Brock Estate from the Newport Road as given here, is something to be remembered—the numerous buildings to be seen all form part of the property. The balance comprises beautiful undulating hills and grand frontages overlooking the ocean.

A large fortune has been spent on the Estate in making it a model property. Force of circumstances places it on the market for the benefit of the public without regard to the Colossal Sacrifice that may ensue.

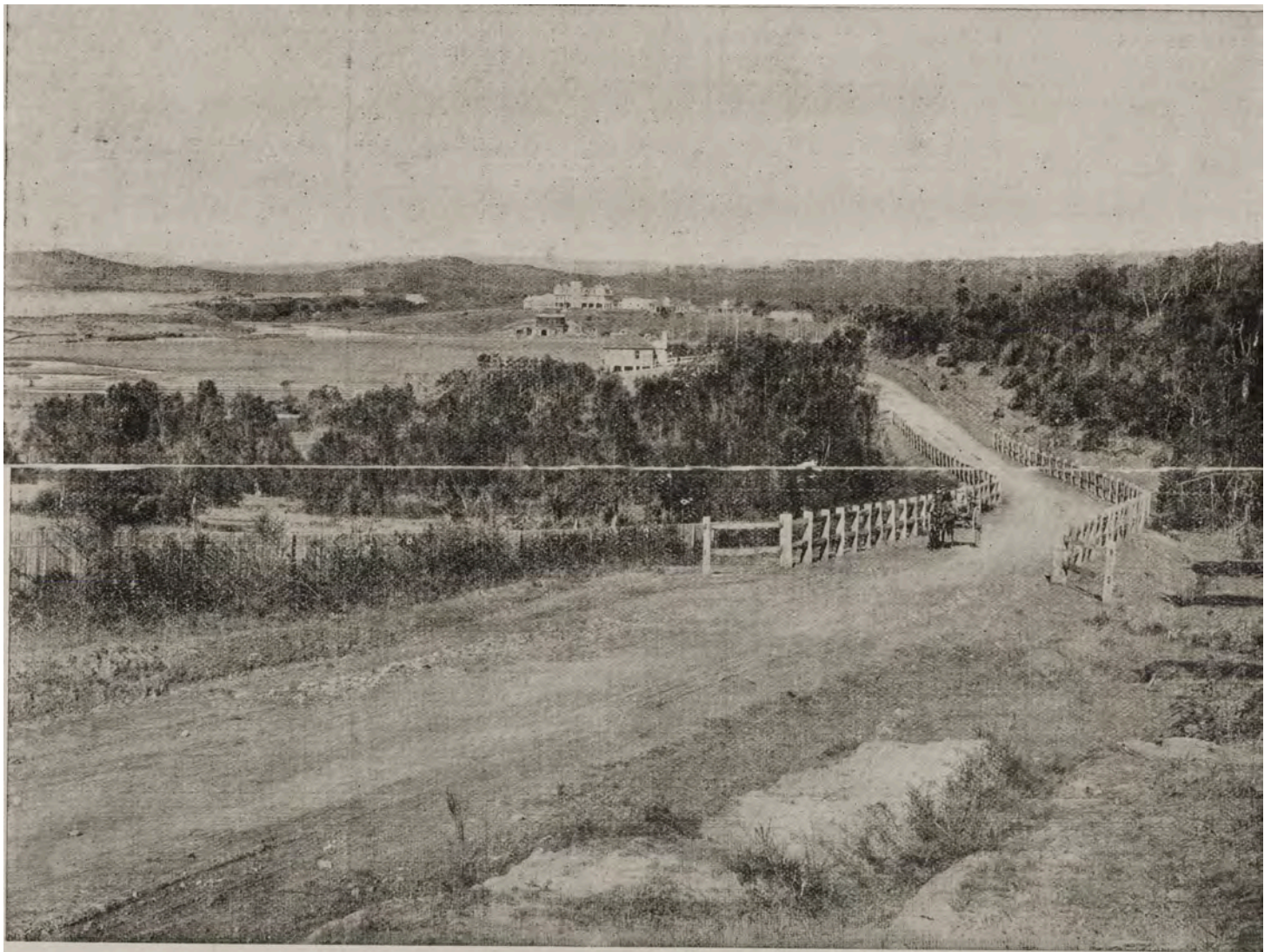


VIEW OF THE BROCK ESTATE LOOKING SOUTH FROM NEWPORT ROAD.

The whole property is unique in character, nothing similar in this State has ever been on the market before.

The buildings have only been recently constructed, in fact in some cases work has been stopped before completion. The premises in that condition will be offered as they stand.

The Plan of the Subdivision on next page will show the liberal provision that has been made for access to Beach and Reserves. The Vendors have also set aside a Fresh Water Lake and surrounding land comprising about 6 acres for Special Recreation purposes under conditions to be named.



VIEW OF THE BROCK ESTATE LOOKING SOUTH FROM NEWPORT ROAD.

The Brock Estate - **1907**, inner page brochure, Item No.: c046820079, Mona Vale Subdivisions, Courtesy State Library of NSW

When Viva moves to 'the city' in 1907, she expresses missing 'the freedom and beautiful air of the country' - Mona Vale!

QUITE A MODEST FIRE.

This little experience happened in one of my old neighborhoods during a stay with some friends. One night, in the middle of winter, it was bitterly cold, and we had just returned home after visiting a country concert some miles away. Our host suggested a fire, and we all agreed it was a welcome plan. Soon a big bundle of firewood was carried in, accompanied by two huge logs, familiar to the country fireplaces. With eager hands the master of the house lighted the wood, and then followed a grand sound of cracking and a big blaze. He continued to pile the wood on with great enthusiasm. The flames grew to an enormous height, and **our hostess, whose name was Mrs. R-**, cried in very alarmed tones "The chimney is sure to catch on fire!" But he assured her it was quite safe, and surveyed the successful fire proudly. Mrs. R- became very nervous, and disappeared through the front door only to come back with a rush and uplifted arms calling loudly

"I knew it, the chimney is on fire!"

Then there was a stir, and we hastened outside to find it was true, for there a great blaze and flying sparks were shooting upward from the top of the chimney. Someone suggested wet bags to be thrown over it; others buckets of water, and so on. I was summoned to "awaken the maids. I banged and called loudly at their door, which was soon opened, and two frightened, ghastly figures appeared.

"Hurry!" I said; "the chimney is on fire; Wrap yourselves in cloaks, and come and help!"

Then the groom was called.

Everyone was hurrying hither and thither with buckets of water when I returned. The groom and two others were on top of the roof in no time throwing water as fast as they could over the blaze.

One girl, who was also a visitor, declared it could not be put out, and the house would be burnt to the ground. She rushed inside to her room, and was soon back with her silver purse and brush clasped preciously within her hands.

She has always been teased ever since, as you may guess.

At last the blaze grew smaller, and after a real good half an hour's work we were relieved to see the fire was out. We were tired of handing buckets of water up to the three men on the roof, and were fairly splashed during the hurry.

When we returned to the drawing-room the fireplace and hearth were covered with water and lumps of soot floating on top of it. Then we all set to and helped straighten things up, which took some time. It was very late, and we talked and laughed a great deal over the exciting little adventure. We then went to bed somewhat dazed and it was not till the beginning of the new day that we drifted away into the land of nod.

I hope,' dear Dame, you have enjoyed this description. You will see by the address I am now living in Sydney at Rushcutter's Bay, and like it immensely, but miss the freedom and beautiful air of the country.

By Viva Brock, 'Aloha', 'Rushcutters Bay' (aged 16 years).

QUITE A MODEST FIRE. (1907, November 13). *Australian Town and Country Journal* (NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 31. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71598500> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71598500>)

Hearing of his problems the then state government, stepped in and purchased the property from the mortgage company, leaving Mr. Brock still in debt (see advertorial below - '*The Story of Brock's Folly*'). Their initial plans were to establish a healing place to be overseen by the then named 'Lunacy Department', which was wholeheartedly embraced by residents:

Mona Vale Estate.-Mr. George Crowley, managing director of the City Mutual Life, writes as follows:-In your Issue of yesterday's date Mr. Brock Bays, "to carry on I had to seek financial assistance. Promises made to me were not fulfilled, and now I find myself left with the debt of the building material to the tune of £1600." **As it is pretty generally known that the society was the vendor of the property to the Government**, this might give rise to misapprehension. Any promises that were made by this society to Mr. Brock were amply fulfilled. INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS. (1909, March 25). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15045735> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15045735>)

There is more on Mr. Crowley in: Pittwater Roads II: Where the Streets Have Your name - Avalon Beach (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/Pittwater-Roads-II-Street-Names-Avalon-Beach.php>)

MONA VALE PURCHASE

At a public meeting convened by Councillor Quirk in Booth's Hall, the recent purchase of Brock's Hall and estate by the Government to establish a convalescent home at Mona Vale was discussed. There was a very large attendance.

Councillor Quirk having explained the position, Mr C P Harrington was voted to the chair.

A motion from Mr Devlin, asking the Government to give a guarantee that the proposed Institution be used for no other purpose than a convalescent branch of the Lunacy Department was moved, but the following amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority - "That this meeting is meeting in accord with the proposition of the Government to occupy Brock's Mansions as a convalescent home, and most unreservedly gives it all support, and without question ". **MONA VALE PURCHASE.** (1909, March 26). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15045857> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15045857>)

A quick escape along the beach may have been cited as one of the reasons this facility never came about, long term - or that the property was quickly onsold to Arthur Rickard, at more profit, who then made a good profit cutting up the paddocks into smaller blocks - for years.

Mr Brock's treasures were also up for grabs:

POLO PONIES AND JERSEYS. SALE OF MR. BROCK'S STUDS.

The polo ponies and Jersey cattle, forming the studs at "The Oaks," Mona Vale, Pitt-water, were dispersed yesterday afternoon under the hammer by Messrs. Maccabe and Dodds, Sydney. **The sale took place along-side the polo ground of the picturesque residence of Mr. G. S. Brock**, and attracted a fair number of buyers from Sydney, as well as a good sprinkling of local residents. The polo ponies catalogued comprised upwards of 37 head, and the Jerseys-including four steers-17 head. Although the ponies figured first in the catalogue they were sold last. The Jerseys were all run into a paddock, and a start was made with the bull Duke of Melbourne, a five-year-old son of the Government-imported bull Melbourne-Kitty, g d, by Favourite-Baronne, Effingham Duke, imported by the late Hon. James White. Buyers' ideas of values were not high, and bidding was not too brisk, except on odd lots. The noble Duke-a real fine Jersey bull-was started at five guineas, and knocked down at ten guineas. A son of the Duke's, out of Rosy, Rosy Dawn III., Boatswain, Bessie Black, Pomonas Dally, imp., realised half the price of his sire. The top price of the cows was nine and a half guineas, and the top price for heifers was eight and a half guineas; while the four young steers went to the local butcher at 39s per head.

The polo ponies were led out in a ring, and the first to appear was Queenie, a bay mare, very good in harness, and all she fetched was six guineas. Another bay mare, Reckless, an excellent polo pony, was knocked down for eight guineas. Pony, foaled a year later than Reckless, namely 1899, also a good polo pony, realised 10 guineas. Carblnesso, a brown mare, with colt at foot, by Souvenir, was passed in at 20 guineas. That grand polo pony stallion Souvenir, out of Annie, by imported Arab, out at Manaroo, Arab mare, was started at 20 guineas, and went trotting along up to 40 guineas. While at that figure Mr. Mackellar remarked that quite recently he sold a sister to Souvenir at 60 guineas. However, as no additional bid was forthcoming the crack pony stallion was passed in.

POLO PONIES AND JERSEYS. (1907, April 11). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14835512> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14835512>)

James Booth also had something to say about the buildings themselves during 1909 and perhaps gives an insight into another reason the government may have had second thoughts about their purchase:

Brocks Mansions.

(To the Editor.)

I read with deep regret the pathetic story of how the loss of £25,000 brought the writer, G. T. Brock, into financial difficulties, if not financial disaster, and as you ask for comments on this great loss, I would like to point out what I consider were the big mistakes made in the construction of these mansions. The first part of the work was good, filling in the swamp, erecting fences, the racecourse, polo grounds, stables and dwelling-house deserve every praise, as it turned an almost useless piece of land into what it is now, one of the most charming little spots on the N.S.W. coast. What Mr. Brock's intentions were for constructing such a large place, I do not know, or anything about tram promises made to him by Mr. Sullivan. I am dealing with the buildings, simply from a mechanics standpoint, and I can only concur with you as you say in "Building" that the want of an architect was severely felt, and it does seem almost incredible that a man with Mr. Brock's great intellectual attainments, and practical knowledge on so many diverse subjects, ever attempted to carry on such a big work without professional assistance.

These buildings are not a common or ordinary structure by any means; their construction required the skill of nearly every class of artisan, and nearly every known design of work, from Ionic masonry to lath and plaster, and naturally called for a man that was well up to all the little niceties of modern architecture. The tradesmen employed were good enough, their work speaks for itself; and the marvel is that they did so well, handicapped, as they were, for want of details. Being a stonemason myself, there are two blunders in the work that show out very conspicuously, and points badly to the want of someone who could use intersecting lines, or had knowledge of geometry. First, is the scroll work at the entrance gates. It is all out of rhythm, and seems to have been scratched on in a "here's luck" sort of way, without any attempt at practical drawing at all. The second is the joints of the ellipses arches, which are all wrong; instead of being struck from a centre of three segments, they are struck from the centre of an ordinary half-circle, so you can see in these two things alone, for want of a draughtsman, what is otherwise a fairly good piece of masonry, is spoilt. I also consider Mr. Brock tried to do too much at once; if he had finished something, got something going, he would have been there to-day; but great slabs of work were started all over the estate, half done, then something else gone on with, till the whole thing was in a perfect state of chaos, from which nothing but disaster could be expected. The site is a good one, and **the Government have done well to purchase it; but the buildings themselves will try the skill of their architectural staff to complete them to suit the requirements of a Government institution.**

Everyone here is really sorry for Mr. Brock. He spent a lot of money, gave Mona Vale a real good start, and now both him and his fortnightly pay is sadly missed.

JAMES BOOTH, Stonemason. Mona Vale. - Published in *Building : the magazine for the architect, builder, property owner and merchant*. Call Number N 690.6 BUI Created/Published [Sydney : Building Publishing Co.] 1907-1942. Issue Vol. 3, No. 23 (**12 July, 1909**)

It wasn't just the fortnightly pay that would be missed. **Robert Daniel Porter, one of the Porter sons of Newport** (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/the-porter-sons-of-newport-in-wwi-true-anzacs.php>), enlisted on July 2nd, 1915, at Liverpool for service during WWII, - listing his age as 28 years and 8 months and stating he had done a 5 year apprenticeship with G S Brock, listing his trade as 'Carpenter'.

The Oaks was now to be called Mona Vale Hydro:

MONA VALE HYDRO.

The ceremony of opening the Mona Vale Hydro formerly known as Brocks Mansion Pittwater took place yesterday afternoon. **The estate which has a frontage to the beach was recently acquired by Mr Arthur Rickard** of this city and he has leased **the house to Mr Fox as a hydro and the polo grounds as golf links.**

Upwards of 80 people accepted invitations and in the unavoidable absence of the Minister for Works the ceremony of opening the hydro was performed by Mrs Griffith.

A dinner presided over by Mr Arthur Rickard followed, among those present being Mrs Griffith, Mr G B Edwards MP and Mrs Edwards, Dr Arthur M L A Mil Mrs Arthur, Mr E W Quirk (president of the Warringah Shire Council) Mr D Hogan (town clerk Manly) Mr P J Carew (Warringah Shire clerk) Mr J J Mulligan, Mr Jas. Rickard, Mr G Crowley, Mr J W Duesbury, Mr Robey, Mr G Morgan, Mr Scott Fell and Mr Robey.

Mr Quirk proposed the toast of the Federal and State Parliaments coupled with the names of Mr G P Edwards M P and Dr Aithur MLA both of whom responded.

Dr Arthur M L A submitted Success to the Hydro which was acknowledged by Mr Arthur Rickard (who said that the surfing beach on the estate was one of the safest in the State) and by Mr Fox the lessee. **MONA VALE HYDRO. (1910, December 23).** *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 8. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15190827> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15190827>)

GOLF - OPENING AT MONA VALE.

The new course at Mona Vale will be opened on Saturday next, with open amateur and professional events. For amateurs there will be an open 18 holes stroke handicap for three trophies; while the professionals will compete in a scratch medal handicap, for substantial cash prizes. **Entries, accompanied with club handicaps, close with O. H. O'Brien, 83. Pitt-street, not later than Wednesday next.** **OPENING AT MONA VALE. (1911, February 18 - Saturday).** *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), p. 20. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article238724181> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article238724181>)

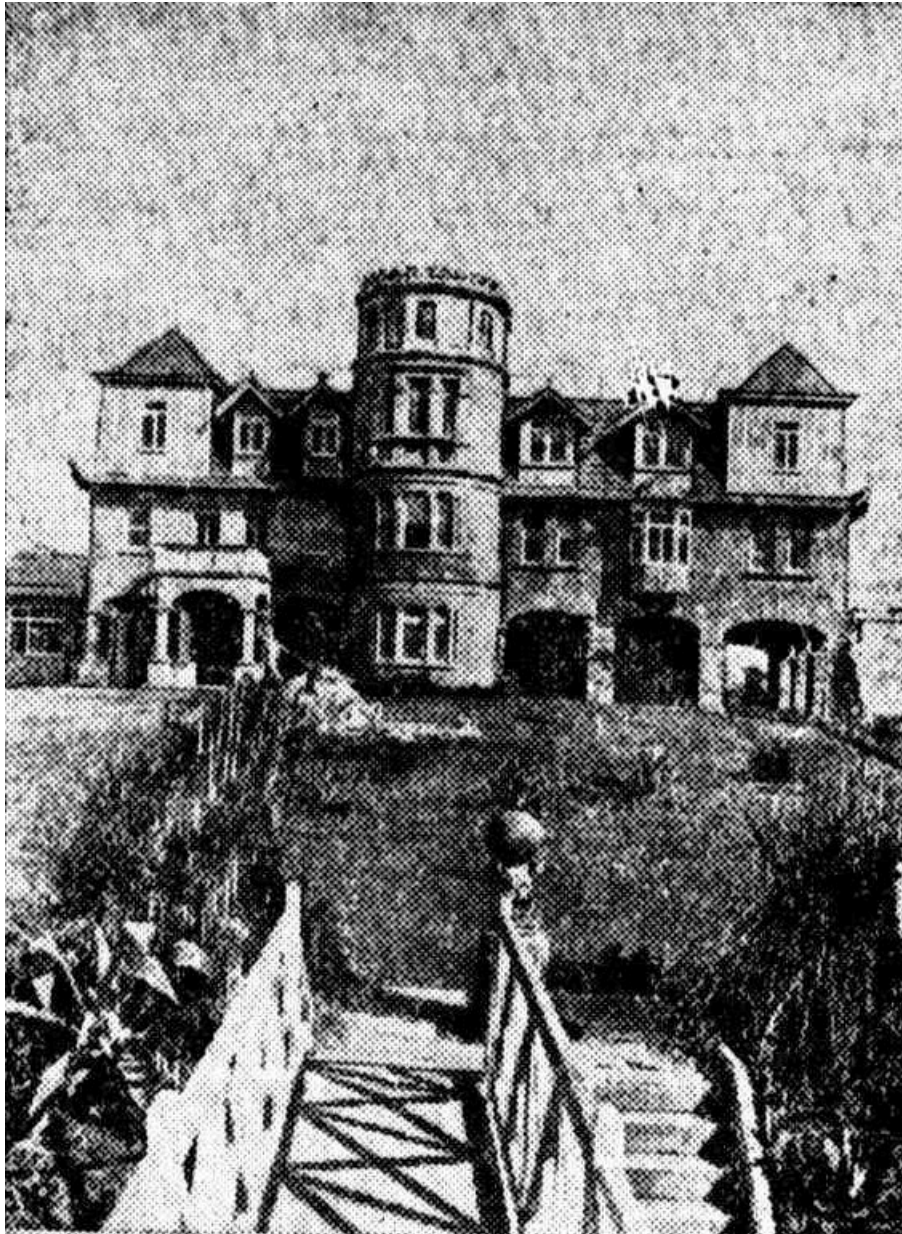
The three storey house had 37 rooms consisting of 25 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, kitchens, a ladies lounge, ballroom, billiards room and servants quarters. The grounds had ornate fountains, stables, statues and a polo field now converted to a golf course. Smaller villas were built beside the main house and the grounds around them stretched from Bassett to Darley Street. One of these villas was owned by Scott Fell, MP.

An in depth advertorial tells more of how Mr. Brock lost his enterprise and who took it over after him and what his idea originally was:

WHERE TO SPEND THE WEEK END. MONA VALE

(BY MARCUS SUBURBUS.)

THE STORY OF BROCK'S FOLLY.



THE MONA VALE HYDRO.

Sydney Is indebted to the misdirected and inspired energy and enterprise of a man of whom, perhaps not one In five hundred knows anything at all for one of the most magnificent examples of palatial architecture that grace the outer circle of its environs. This beautiful and stately pile of buildings represents a great— a masterly— idea, which cost its unfortunate originator £25,000, and left him practically beggared. Sixteen or so years ago this man with an idea noted the great unclaimed swamp at 'Mona Vale— a stagnant lagoon, the only point in its favor being its proximity to a fine ocean beach, one of the many that enrich that much-favored stretch of coast from Manly up to Pittwater, and beyond. It occurred to him that if this useless blot upon the landscape could be drained an excellent seaside estate should result. And then the idea germinated. The unpromising-looking land was purchased for £600, and then the New South Wales Government was approached with the proposition that the buyer was prepared to spend £25,000 upon this site, providing a start was made upon the Pittwater tramway that had so long hovered mirage-like before the inhabitants of the district. The Man with the Idea even offered to build the line' himself, should the Government withhold its hand, and called on the Minister for Works with a cash deposit of £10,000 to prove his sincerity. But the Government, apparently satisfied by these representations that the need of the district was pressing and genuine, promised to undertake the construction of the line a once. And the buyer, secure in the Government's promise, allowed his great idea to blossom instantly into the concrete expression of bricks and tiles and timber.

THE GREAT IDEA. And **the idea was this: To build a huge village upon the drained lands of the estate, dominated by a magnificent clubhouse, and to sink £25,000 in the realisation of this immense scheme.** To prove a financial success, access by tram to the estate was the one thing absolutely necessary. And this the Government had promised. The Man with the Idea set about the carrying out of his purpose on a splendid scale. **On the site he erected his own brickworks for the manufacture of the bricks and tiles: he bought a timber area at Erina Creek, on the Hawkesbury River, installed a timber mill and a planing machine as well,** and so cut, freighted, and treated his own timber on the spot. He worked his own quarry, drawing from it all the needful stone, drained the swamp, obtained a regular water supply by the construction of a great brick and cement tank, 20Ct. wide and 14ft. deep, and installed a complete sewerage system. And all the while the promised tram was creeping out from Manly, slowly but surely. By the time it had reached Curl Curl, 12 months after its start, the walls of a mansion, or rather of a group of mansions, at Mona Vale were roof high, and the great idea was flowering in wood and stone and brick towards completion and perfection. The sum of £10,000 had already been sunk in initial expenses, and a further £15,000 borrowed to complete the work, and that work promised to be indeed a "thing of beauty and a joy forever." Forever, for the floors of the main building were built on a layer of concrete covered with a layer of bitumen and sawdust, upon which were laid 5000 hardwood sleepers, and upon them another layer of sawdust and bitumen, and then the parquet flooring—a foundation impervious to white ants, and for all practical purposes everlasting. A hundred carpenters were at work, as well as a great host of other mechanics, and the loud ringing music of labor, which is the voice of progress, echoed and re-echoed throughout Mona Vale. And the setting of the picture was as beautiful as the immense building rising under trowel and mallet and hammer. In the foreground two crescent-curves of hard, fine, sand, fronting the sea; beautiful green seaward sloping lands, and green embracing bills. Meanwhile the grounds about the mansion were being decorated with statues and playing fountains, and among other costly and artistic fittings a great majolica mantel, that had originally cost £720, was installed in the entrance hall of the palatial place. It was plain that the Man with the Idea had invested more than his mere capital in this sumptuous scheme. Something must have stirred in him that was akin to the emotions of all great builders, from Solomon of old and Darius the Persian, down to Christopher Wren and the designer of the Flatiron building in New York. And Mona Vale on the New South Wales coast was in touch with the same spirit that reared the pyramids and built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

THE FATE OF THE SCHEME.

And it is just here in the story that the fateful tram stopped. It had reached Curl Curl, one mile out from Manly, and there it stayed, just 10 miles short of Mona Vale, and its waiting palace. Perhaps the authorities judged that a pleasant ten-mile tramp, bag in hand, would be just the thing for intending guests, considering the invigorating air of the locality. Perhaps not. Anyhow, the mortgagors who had loaned their £15,000 in expectation of a tramline that would go a good deal further than Curl Curl Lagoon began to look dubious. Then, "at this psycho logical moment," as the novelists say, the Government that had guaranteed the tram bore tragic testimony to the instability of all human institutions, by going the way of all flesh. In short, it went out of office, and its tramline promise passed into the limbo of forgotten things, together with a variety of other departmental lumber. Matters began to look exceedingly serious. The £25,003 was gone, and although £5300 had been paid off the borrowed £15,000, a balance of £1000, which included interest, remained, and there was no immediate prospect of the property returning it. But the Man with the Idea was not wholly beaten yet: surmising that perhaps if a ready-made population were provided first, the tardy tram might reasonably be expected to follow them, he determined to sacrifice practically the whole of the area, including the recreation reserve, and the grounds surrounding the house, to pay the balance of the mortgage. The site had been actually surveyed for subdivision, when the wheel of his enterprise was effectually spiked again. The shire refused to approve of the plan until £1500 was deposited for the construction of the streets, and so, operations were again brought to a stand still. At this point the unfortunate successor of Darius, Barneses', and Christopher Wren was informed that the Government wished to purchase the entire property as it stood, and desired to know his price. He named the comparatively utterly insignificant sum of £7500, explaining that he needed £6500 to pay off the mortgagors, and £1000 to wipe off money owing for material supplied. He did not ask for one sixpence for himself; only for sufficient to clear him of his obligations. He had failed, losing everything; but he wished to face the world with a clean sheet. **However, the Government's emissary, after hearing the story, went to the mortgagors to negotiate. Naturally all they asked for was their £6500,** and the Government, falling in with this request, took over the entire concern for that sum. **So the Man with the Idea was turned adrift with £1000 worth of debts upon his shoulders, and not a penny saved from the wreck: while his £25,000 palace had been sold for £6500** Such is the story of Brock's Mansion at Mona Vale, and surely the misfortune of the unlucky builder from whom it takes its name is almost unique.

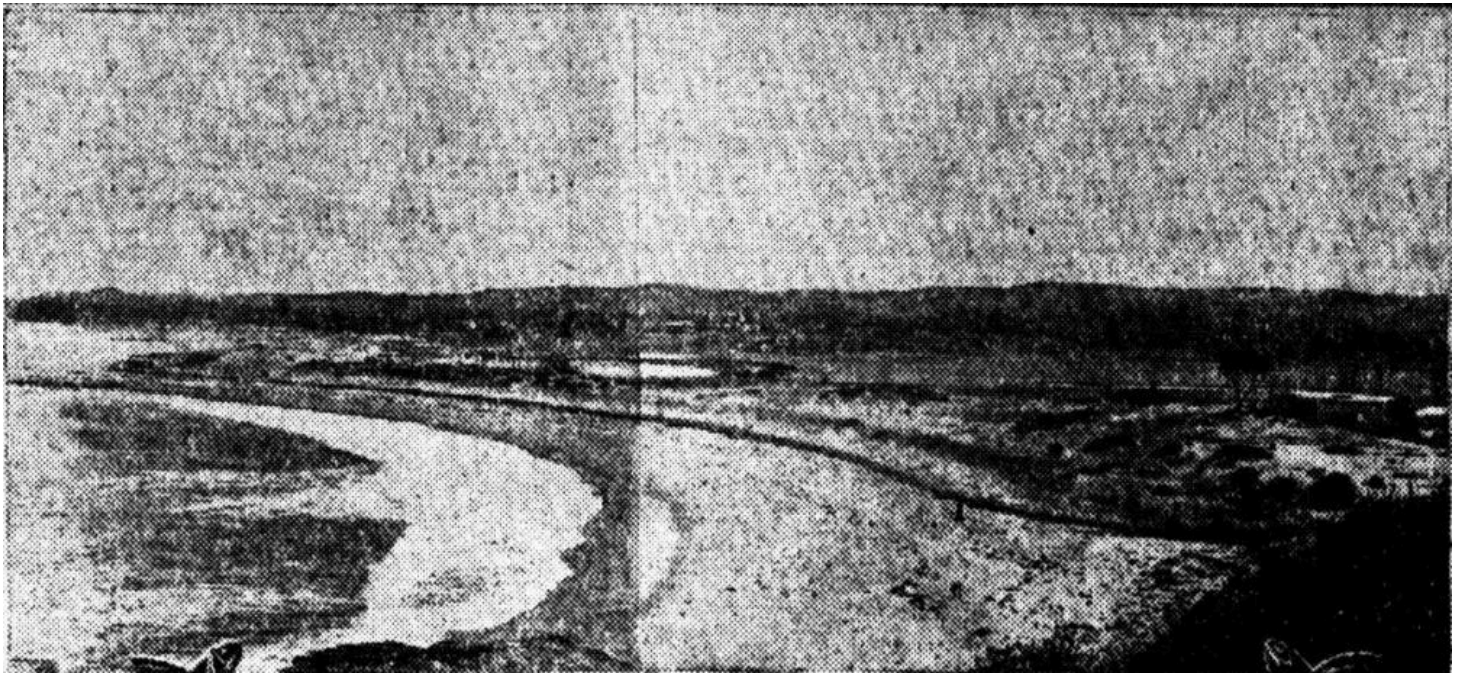


BROCK'S ESTATE FROM THE HYDRO.

BROCK'S ESTATE TO BE SOLD.

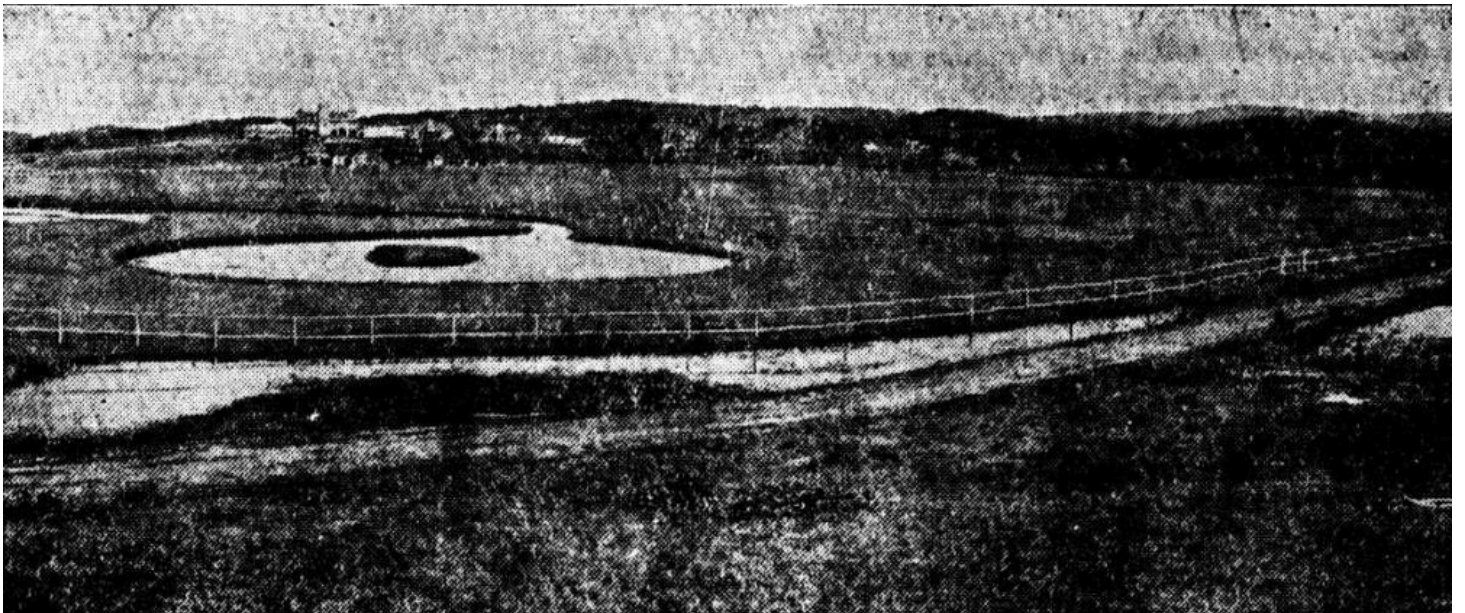
The sequel to the story of what has come to be known as "Brock's' Folly" promises to be good reading. It will doubtless prove a tale of pioneering such as all Australians delight in. There is every indication that in a few years the magnificent estate which was intended for the mansion grounds will become the scene of one of the most beautiful seaside settlements in the State. Mona Vale might have been designed by Nature as a resort of rest and delicious peace. Brock's Estate fronts two horseshoe-shaped beaches of hard yellow sand, on which the surf breaks soothingly, for the formation of the beaches provides splendid shelter against the occasional fierceness of the ocean's ebb and flow. 'Surf-bathing may therefore be indulged in with the greatest possible safety. All the pleasures of surfing are to be gained there without any of its discomforts. The coastline thus shaped is extremely pretty. Far away to Barranjoey is a succession of delightful little bays, forming a 'seascape' of quiet beauty.

SEASHORE JEWELS. ; The magnificent coastline that encompasses the Hole in the Wall, The Cave and Little Head is only just beginning to be known and appreciated. Between the Brock Estate and Manly the coast is better known, and is as picturesque as anywhere around the continent. About three miles to the south are the Narrabeen Lakes fronted by that long stretch of beach that has made Narrabeen such a famous resort. Farther south still are Long Reef, Deewhy, Fresh water, and Curl Curl. The entire coastline, therefore, for miles in each direction forms a rich necklace of seashore jewels that grow in value as years go on. It will be very surprising if the whole of the 18 miles of coast between Manly and Barranjoey does not attract a large population and become a famous pleasure zone.



THE BEACH FRONTING BROCK'S ESTATE.

MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPES. Some of the landscapes surrounding this Brock Estate would be worthy 'subjects for the brush of a Turner or a Corot. As one approaches it from the Newport-road, for in stance, an entrancing view is met with, the road winding prettily through undulating country, magnificently timbered and clad- with wild flowers. The property itself lies in a hollow of a cup like appearance, and on every side save the east it is protected by glorious hills. One can therefore enjoy all the benefits of the sea, air without the discomforts of the gales. The large fortune spent originally on this estate has made it a model site for fine homes. What Mr. Brock left undone Mr. Arthur Rickard has accomplished, and I see that next Anniversary Day that enterprising gentleman will offer those fine allotments to the public. Truly, they are very tempting morsels of the earth's surface, and especially so because the estate is splendidly subdivided and good wide streets, made throughout. The allotments are exceptionally large, and as the soil is excellent, the week-ender who purchases one of them may have a perfect orgie of flower and fruit-growing. If example goes for anything this estate should be the scene of some beautiful homos in the near future, for not only the mansion but several adjacent buildings have set a high architectural standard. 'Since Pott Pointing, has given way to week-ending It is quite likely that palatial residences will adorn this spot, especially as there is no other land with ocean frontages for sale near there.



A SECTION OF BROCK'S ESTATE.

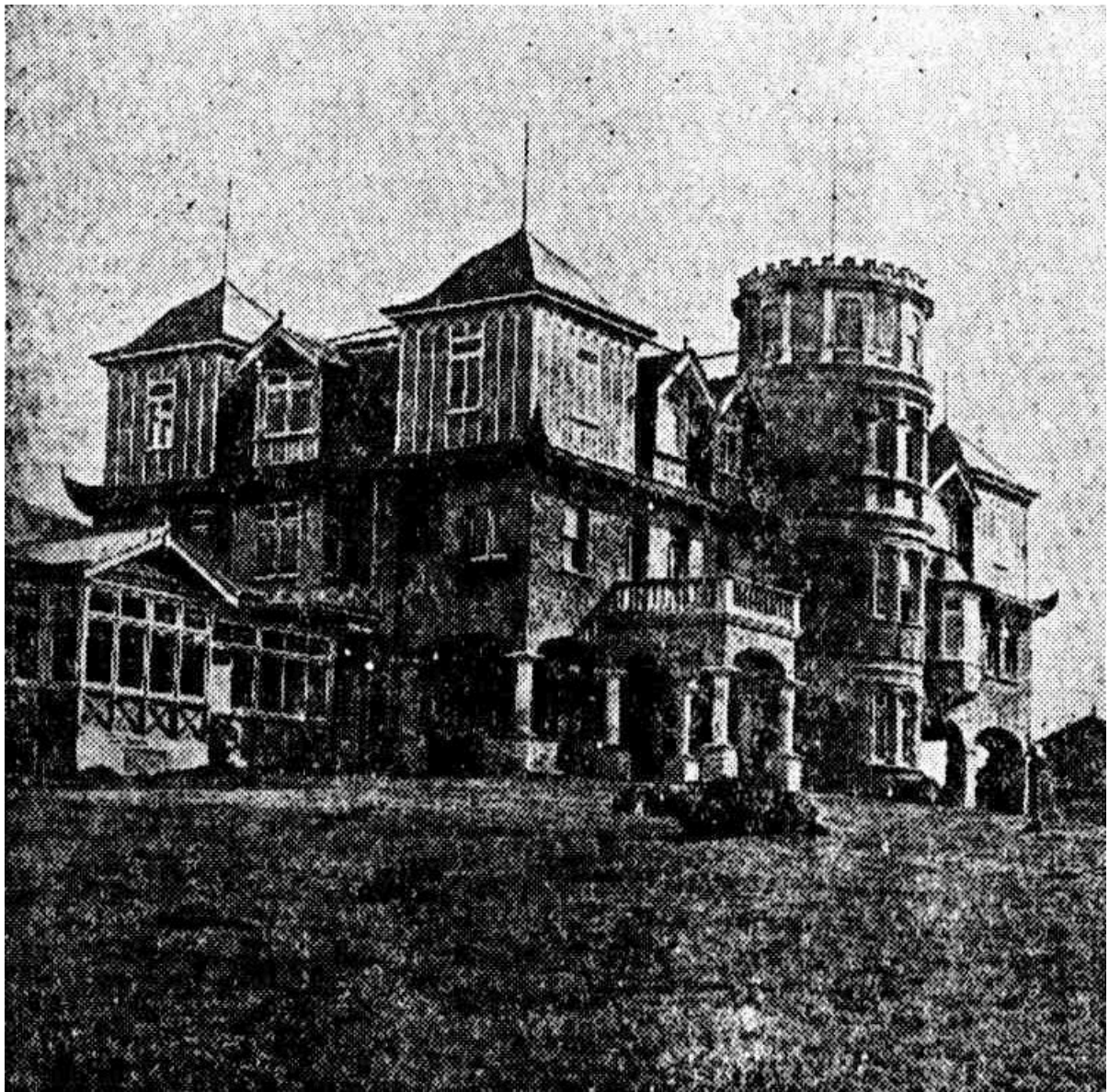
A GOOD INVESTMENT. The only need for the development of this fine area of country is the tram, but the Newport extension may be regarded as a certainty and only a matter of time. The surveyed route, I am informed, is along the road which fronts Brock's Estate. Although no definite promise has been given, it is generally understood that the tramline will shortly be proceeded with. When this is accomplished the estate will be within a comparatively short tram ride of Manly, and therefore within easy reach of the city. In these days of rapid transit and, a growing inclination, to plant homes in broad spaces, Mona Vale need not be considered too distant. The trip all the way from the city is such a glorious one that the travel-loving Sydney man will doubtless regard the distance as more of an advantage than otherwise. As an investment, of course, property in this

locality is a particularly good thing at present, for when the work on the tramline does start values are bound to take a leap 'upwards, and - there is no likelihood of them ever coming down again. Week-end holiday makers would do well to wait for Anniversary Day, as there might be a chance of getting in on this excellent proposition at bargain prices.

THE MANSION AS A HYDRO. On Thursday, last Brock's Mansion came into its own when it was opened by Mrs. - Arthur Griffith, wife of the Minister for Public Works, as a hydro. At the invitation of Mr. Arthur Rickard (lessor) and Mr. F. W. Fox (lessee) a large number of people attended, and the ceremony, which has already been reported in "The Sun", was a complete success. No better idea could have been conceived than to convert this magnificent building into a hydro. **Mr. F. W. Fox, who is a well-known gentleman, and has been long and honorably identified with city business life, and his good lady, Mrs. Foy (who has large and fashionable guest establishments at Neutral Bay), are to be complimented upon their enterprise in undertaking this venture,** and deserve every possible success. For several years past, and particularly since surf-bathing became popular, the need has been felt of a really first-class accommodation house near the seashore. The hotels and boarding-houses at the beaches have proved, inadequate to accommodate, in the best style the great and growing number of families who desire to spend their summer vacation at the seaside. Taking a furnished cottage is the only other, alternative, and this has decided disadvantages. In the first place, the majority of people cannot afford a sufficiently long vacation to make it worth while. Again, the responsibility of house keeping greatly detracts from the pleasure of a holiday. Is it any wonder then that the question is asked again and again: "Where is there a really first-class place to stay, at the sea side, where one may enjoy every comfort and have absolute peace and quiet—a place equal to the resorts of Europe and America?" We now have the answer: in the Mona Vale Hydro. The building alone is a source of never-ending delight. It is as the pictures denote, a palatial structure, and an architectural triumph. The decorations, both externally and internally, are extremely artistic, and a constant pleasure to the eye. This octagonal building is constructed of brick and wood. The upper portion contains a ballroom 42 x 42, with a specially-constructed floor. The main entrance hall is lavish, and the mansion contains, all beautifully designed, a -billiard-room, ladies' lounge, promenade roof, smoke-room, ballroom, and theatre. The dining hall, which, is about 36'x 72 feet, is very large, and imposing. The sights of the building alone should prove a continual joy to those who are fortunate enough to secure apartments there. It is quite a pleasure to roam around the mansion with its great staircases, its stained glass windows, its huge columns, its beautiful mantels, and the general ornateness of its spacious rooms. There are 25 bedrooms and six bathrooms in the main building, though there are adjacent cottages where there is more accommodation. One of these, for example, is extremely handsome with its tiled roof and its large crescent-shaped tiled verandah with bay windows on each side. The front door of this villa gives entrance to a very large reception room, and attached to the premises there is a studio and music saloon, built of brick, with large lead-light, windows and wood-panelled ceilings. Both from, the Mansion and the adjoining buildings glorious views are to be obtained. For miles the coast, broken into enchanting bays and coves, yields a panorama of great beauty, and the charming undulating character of the back country reveals some exquisite landscapes. Here, then, is delicious peacefulness and rest with nature smiling all around one. Everything has been done by Mr. Fox to ensure the comfort of his guests. He has arranged a cuisine of the highest standard; hot and cold baths are to be obtained in plenty; every room is handsomely furnished; there is a large motor garage and accessories.

The hydro is particularly well suited to business men who desire to get away from the city for a few weeks and recuperate their physical and mental faculties, or for country people who need a change at the seaside. No better place than this could be found for the enjoyment of all healthy natural pleasures. What was intended as a racecourse and polo ground now makes ideal golf links, and devotees of this sport could not be better provided for.

As already pointed out, surf-bathing may be enjoyed with every degree of comfort and safety. There are also facilities for tennis and cricket, and plenty of good fishing may be obtained. The hydro is, therefore, not only a magnificent structure sumptuously furnished—it is the home site of all those pleasures that do most to make life worth living. A convenient motor service to and from Manly has been established, and the business man who must attend the city daily is thoroughly provided for in the timetable. For the benefit of the touring -motorist; equestrians, and others, Mr. Fox has arranged to cater for lunches, dinners, and afternoon teas, and can provide for parties or picnics of any description by previous notice.



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE HYDRO.

WHERE TO SPEND THE WEEK END. (1910, December 25). *The Sun : Sunday Edition* (Sydney, NSW : 1910), p. 11. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article231015197> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article231015197>)

The Fox-Foy 'Hydro' didn't last long. Sources state the building was renamed 'La Corniche' by Rainaud, a French Restaurateur who originally ran a successful tea room, restaurant and boarding house at Church Point (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/la-corniche-teashop.php>)-Bayview until a tragedy. He brought the name with him when taking over these premises. Visit: **La Corniche, Bayview** (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/la-corniche-teashop.php>)

Advertising. (1911, September 9). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 18. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15272695> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15272695>)



LA CORNICHE.

Patrons of "La Corniche," Pittwater, are informed that the business having outgrown the accommodation afforded by the old building, Monsieur and Madame Hamand have taken over the beautiful and commodious mansion at Mona Vale known as Brock's, which is being altered and fitted to suit their requirements, and which will be known henceforth under the name of "La Corniche."

In addition to the excellent cuisine that made their old business famous, Monsieur and Madame Hamand can now offer their guests the added attractions for a fine golf links and a glorious surfing beach, fishing, tennis, and every facility for outdoor enjoyment.

The new La Corniche affords all kinds of indoor comforts. Billiard-room, ballroom, private dining-room, suites of apartments, single and double rooms, all furnished in the best style and complete with every modern convenience. MOTOR GARAGE, STABLES, FURNISHED COTTAGES.

Terms, etc., on application.

Tel., Manly 236.

Above: P G Taylor's father P T Taylor on balcony of La Corniche, Mona Vale (where blocks of units are now) in 1911. Picture a3289053h from the Allen Family Album, image courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW.



FROM: Album 57: Photographs of the Allen family, 2 May 1911 - 7 October 1911 Digital Order No. a3289055; 'Top: Enlargement of view taken looking over the Polo Grounds. *The road up the hill leads to Barrenjoey*' and Digital Order No. a3289054; 'Below Enlargement of view taken from Brock's house, **3rd of September, 1911**'. Both Courtesy State Library of NSW. Shows the 'lake' verges of the Black Swamp were still present on Brock's former land holding in 1911.





La Corniche, when under Rainauds



La Corniche circa 1911

Brock's Estate - Mona Vale - Waterview St, Newport Rd, Darley street Rickards private sale. Bongin Bongin Beach. Item No.: c046820030, from Mona Vale Subdivisions, courtesy State Library of New South Wales

BROCK'S SURF BEACH ESTATE

MONA
VALE
MANLY

Choice Residential lots.
Weekend lots with grand views.

For Auction Sale on the Ground at 2.30 p.m.
26TH JANUARY 1911.

Anniversary Day
BY
ARTHUR RICKARD & CO
LIMITED.
Auctioneers and Realty Specialists--
84^B PITT ST, SYDNEY.

TERMS -

£1 deposit and 10/- per month for every £30 of Purchase money.
Interest 5% calculated on Quarterly balances and payable quarterly.

**TORRENS
TITLE**



NOTE Building Restriction.

Buyers need not build or fence, but any dwelling erected on lots fronting the Beach and the Golf Links must be of a value of least £200 and on any other lot on the Estate of a value of at least £150, any lot when built on must be fenced.

R.W. Lenehan
Solicitor &c.
Hunter Street, Sydney.

FISHER AND NOTT.
Surveyors under R.P. Act.
Pitt St, Sydney.

This lithograph is subject to Deposited Plan.

JOHN SANDS LTD.

Brock's Surf Beach Estate - Mona Vale - Manly - Waterview St, Grandview Parade, Rickard Road, placement of 'The Hydro' Building and Golf Club House and 'The Oakes' shown. Beach still called Bongin Bongin Beach. Bathing Sheds shown., **January 24th 1911** Auction on the grounds. Item No.: c046820029, from Mona Vale Subdivisions, courtesy State Library of New South Wales

On January 8th 1912 the building was burned;

BROCK'S MANSION BURNED.
BIG BLAZE AT MONA VALE. beautiful landmark destroyed.
Damage estimated at £12,000.
No fire-fighting appliances available.

"La Corniche," a mansion at Mona Vale, which occupied a commanding position on the road between Manly and Newport, was destroyed by fire early this morning. Flames were discovered at 10 minutes to 1. At half-past 2 only portions of the walls, and they rickety, were standing.

The building was palatial in its dimensions and appointments, and **contained in all 38 rooms, 28 of which were bedrooms.** It was **originally designed for The Oaks Polo Club, and was built by Mr. G. S. Brock at a cost which has been set down at £32,000. Before the building was completed, however, it was acquired by Mr. Arthur Rickard,** who brought it up to date and then let it to M. and Mme. Rainaud, at one time chef to Sir Harry Rawson. Instead of being used as a polo club it became a fashionable boardinghouse, and on account of its situation and its surroundings, including surfing and golf, it became exceedingly popular. There were 30 boarders in the place at the time of the fire.

The fire started in the large dining hall, and was discovered before it had a very strong hold of the room, but not in time to be beaten out. There was a hue and cry raised throughout the building, and boarders were running to and fro to ascertain the extent of, their danger and the possibilities of saving their effects. The flames spread with great rapidity, but happily not in the direction of the staircase, and many of the people were, therefore, able to dash about and get their property outside.

Those on the second and third floors, however, did not take the risk which running up and down the stairs involved, and threw most of their belongings out of the windows. In ten minutes the flames -had begun to light up the hills on either side, and to throw long reflections out to sea. The boarders were all out of the building by ' this .time, and the menfolk were assisting the staff (numbering 20) to remove the furniture. They continued in this until the flames drove them back, and were successful in getting out a piano and other big stuff. But What was saved was a mere fraction of what was lost.

All that the people could do was to stand by and watch. There was water—the sea could be heard roaring in to shore all the time — but there was no means of pumping it into the building. No fire-fighting appliances which would avail anything were kept on the premises, there is no depot in the vicinity, and though a boarder motored to Manly post haste and reported the blaze the firemen did not go out, because they could have done nothing if they had.

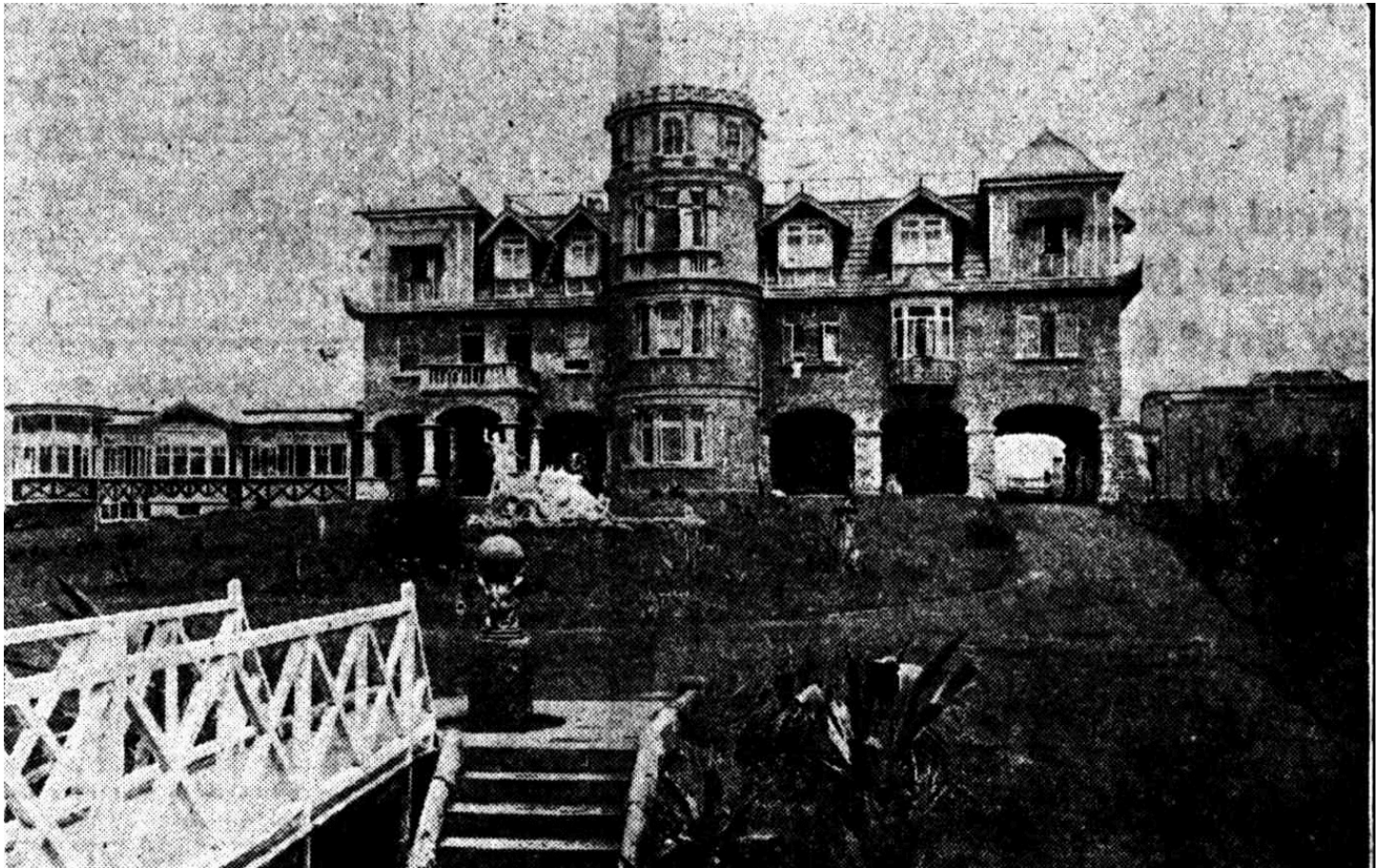
There were very few incidents in connection with the fire. Everybody was got out expeditiously, and though there were several cases where ladies fainted they were never in danger. Even the pets of the house were saved, though one had a narrow escape. It was a little white pussy, and it mewed and mewed pitifully on the window sill of a room from which smoke was already issuing. One of the girls attached to the staff saw its plight and darted into the building and out again with her charge in a few seconds.

Mr. Scott Fell, who has a house in the grounds of La Corniche, provided accommodation for the boarders for the rest of the night. As bad as the consequences were they might have been worse. If the blaze, for instance, had started nearer to the stairway than it did, it is quite possible that the escape of the boarders would have been cut off, and the only exit would have been through the windows, a course . of action which would practically have endangered limbs if not life. Then, again, the wind was blowing out to sea. Had it blown from the sea, it is not unlikely that two cottages and the Casino, nearer the roadway, would have gone, while the motor garage, where four motor-cars were kept, would almost certainly have been gutted.

The most remarkable circumstance in connection with the fire was associated with the telephone. When the blaze was found to be so serious Mr. A. Davis tore the 'phone from the wall and carried it outside. Later in the morning an electrician fitted it up on to the fence—the only piece of the fence which escaped the flames—and a trial showed that though the wires had been through the heat of the flames, the 'phone was still in order, and the Manly exchange could be distinctly heard. The boarders relished the good fortune, because it enabled them to send reassuring messages to their friends.

Mr. Rickard stated this morning that the building and furniture was insured in the New Zealand Insurance Co. for £6000, and that he was therefore a fairly heavy loser, seeing that **his estimate of the value of the building was £10,000.** The furniture was valued at £2000. Mrs. Mueller (wife of Dr. Mueller, of Macquarie-street), Messrs. Harvey, A-. Davis Earle Hermann, Toohey, L. A. and R. V. Minnett, Lotrois, and others of the boarders, were also sufferers by the fire. Mr. Rainaud lost silver, linen, &c., to the value of £250, which was uninsured.

The origin of the fire cannot be determined, but it is believed that it was caused by a lighted match or cigar butt carelessly thrown on to the carpet in the dining-room. Mrs. Rainaud heard a noise in the dining-room, which she attributed to burglars, and on getting out of bed found the place ablaze.



Mona Vale Hydro, the scene of a disastrous fire which occurred in the early hours of this morning. BROCK'S MANSION BURNED. (1912, January 8). *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222004219> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222004219>)

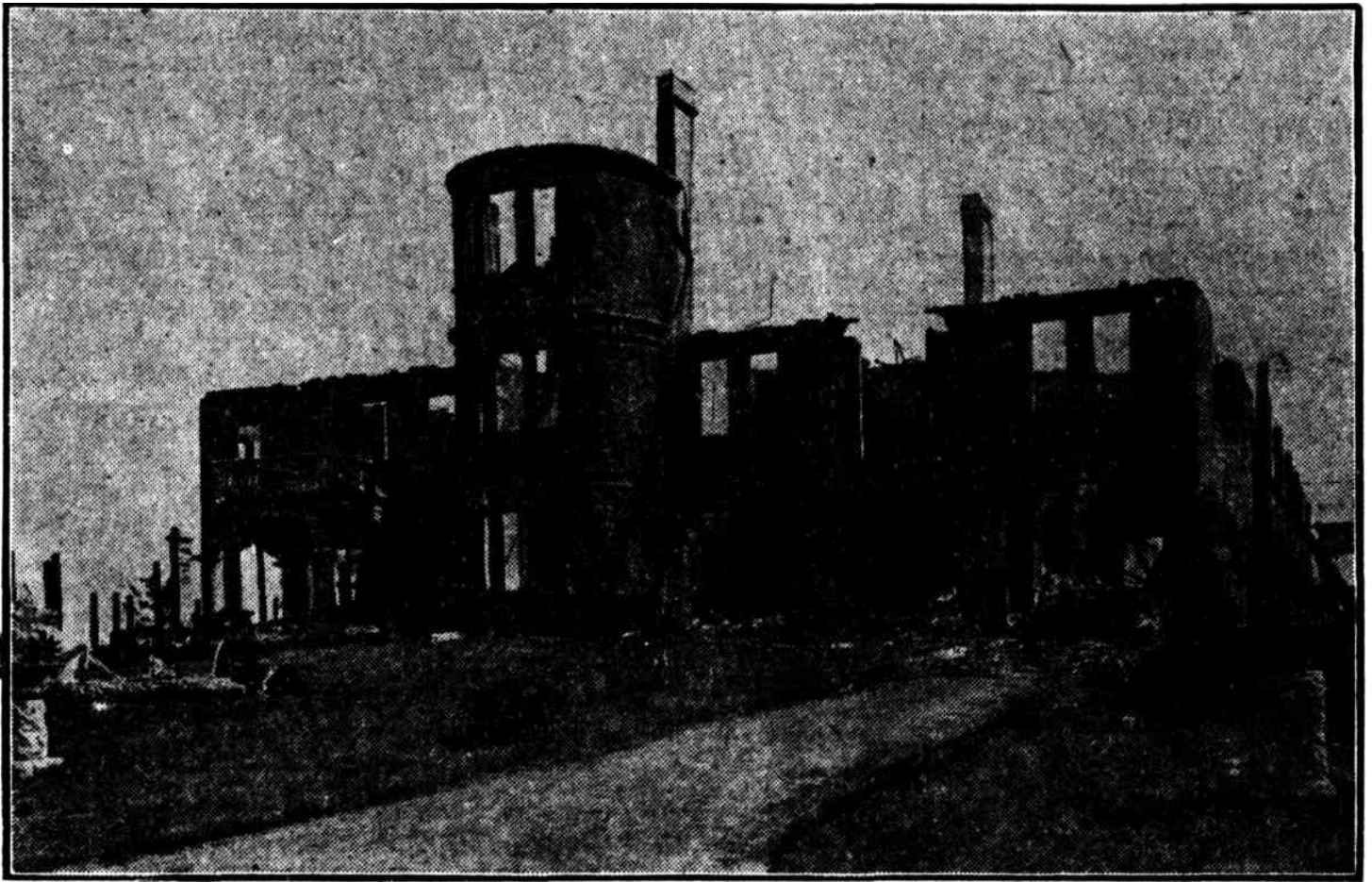
AN UNLUCKY BUILDER.

man who was before his time.

The total destruction of the beautiful "La Corniche," better known as Brock's Mansion', at Mona Vale, in the early hours of this morning robs the naturally beautiful tourist journey from Manly to Pittwater of one of its, leading attractions. This magnificent pile of buildings, with its charming surroundings, has always excited the admiration of the traveller, and the story of its building by Mr. Brock, and its passing out of his hands after all his Napoleonic' work, has, always won- the stranger's keen sympathy. Mr. Brock gave the best years of his life to the realisation of his idea to provide a high-class hotel on the lines of a great country home on this unrivalled site, which provides all the delights of ocean, lagoon, and green hills. His-choice of a spot could not have been improved on with its glorious ocean views, and after great work in levelling and draining what was a great swamp he evolved a fine polo ground and racecourse on the flat. Six years ago there were no less than 44 polo ponies on the ground.

When Mr. Brock started the buildings he set up his own brickyards and sawmills. Everything he used came from his district. In this connection he showed his patriotism by employing only local labor, and for several years he was a benefactor to the neighborhood, his expenditure going into many thousands.

It may be said that before Mr. Brock started his great undertaking he had the assurance of the Government then in power that the tram to Pittwater would be constructed at once. He went on with his work, spent many thousands, and just when he was within reach of his goal his money ran out, and he lost all his claims to the property, and the results of his labor for years. AN UNLUCKY BUILDER. (1912, January 8). *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222004175>



Ruins of "Brock's Mansions," at Mona Vale, destroyed by fire on Monday morning. The fate of the handsome pile of buildings is a grim finale to the financial tragedy that overtook the plucky builder, Mr. G. S. Brock, in its erection. No title (1912, January 10 - Wednesday). *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 1 (FINAL EXTRA). Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222002216> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222002216>)

MANSION DESTROYED. NEWPORT BOARDERS' ESCAPE. BUILDING WITH A HISTORY.

A disastrous fire, which happily did not result, as might easily have been the case, in loss of life, took place at an early hour yesterday morning. It occurred in a large boarding establishment at Mona Vale, Newport, known formerly as "Brock's Mansion," and latterly as "La Corniche," which was completely destroyed. The property is that of Mr. Arthur Rickard.

The cause of the fire is as yet unknown, but at about 5 minutes to 1 a.m. some of the occupants of the house were aroused to a sense of danger by a strong smell of smoke. On investigation the fire was located in the dining-room, and it was at once seen that any efforts to check the flames would be hopeless, and the inmates were simply got out of the house as quickly as possible. Fortunately there were no signs of panic, and in a few minutes everybody was safely outside-watching the flames eating up the large building with a blaze that illuminated the landscape for a considerable distance.

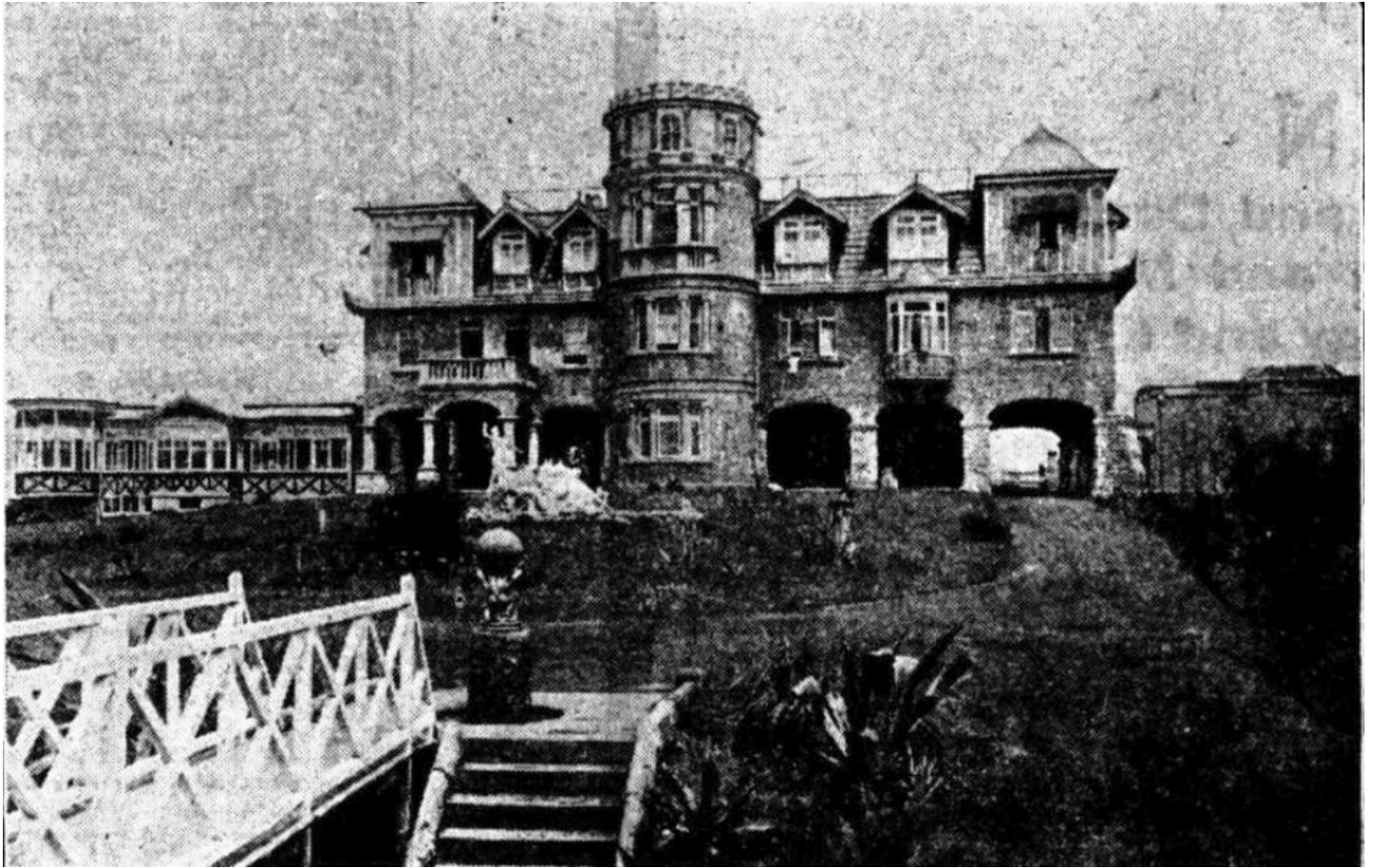
Owing to the inaccessibility of the locality no fire-engines, or, indeed, means of any water for fighting the fire, were available, and soon the whole building was reduced to ruins. The place, which is said to have cost its builder £30,000, was insured for £6000 in the New Zealand Insurance Company; but the loss to the present owner is estimated at about £10,000. Something like £250 worth of books, silver, and linen was not insured at all, and was totally destroyed. The building, which was a large one, contained 37 rooms. There were about 30 boarders in the house when the outbreak occurred.

A rather pathetic history attaches to the now smouldering building. **Some years ago Mr. Brock, of Enmore, a gentleman with an enterprising idea, was so struck by the beauty and natural advantages of Mona Vale district that he originated a plan to establish and conduct an elaborate tourist home and sanatorium there, similar to Medlow Bath.** Mr. Brock approached the Government of the day and laid his scheme before the Minister having charge of the railway and tramway construction branch, with a view to securing tramway communication to the spot. The scheme appeared so genuine and sound that Mr. Brock was given the assurance that, if the work was commenced, the tramway would be considered. He then set to work and laid out the grounds, and brought along his building material, establishing brickworks and a saw mill.

The tramway proposal from Manly was also favourably considered, and surveyors were sent to Manly. **£30,000 was spent on the building by Mr. Brock. It assumed gigantic proportions, and when nearing completion formed one of the principal landmarks along the coast. The grounds were laid out to perfection, and included a racecourse, golf-links, and polo grounds.** A fine surf-bathing beach also formed part of the establishment.

The tram meanwhile was constructed only as far as North Manly, a distance of one mile. The Minister for Works, Mr. E. W. O'Sullivan, who had worked hard for the extension, left office. The non-completion of the tramway was disastrous to Mr. Brock, as the financial success of the enterprise depended largely on tramway facilities being given to the sanatorium. The premises soon changed hands, Mr. Brock being a heavy loser.

Recently the greater part of the property was put up for auction sale by Mr. Arthur Rickard and sold at a good figure. **The name of the building was changed to "La Corniche,"** and was utilised as a boarding establishment by the proprietor, who has now sustained a great loss by the fire.



MANSION DESTROYED. (1912, January 9). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15301090> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15301090>)

After the fire at La Corniche Mona Vale, in January 1912, the Rainauds started a new venture in town:

About 10 years ago there arrived In Sydney Monsieur Rainaud, a French genius in the art of cooking, with a knowledge of the needs of the inner man and woman that was (second to none as far as Continental training) and experience were concerned. He conceived the idea of opening a Rotisserie Parisienne in the centre of the city to supply meals to people living at any reasonable distance from his establishment. But the tremendous possibilities of the thing did not appear to "grip" at the moment. The people were only just awakening to the problems of home life. Now they are fully awake. To get a decent meal in Sydney at a reasonable price, hot and hasty and tasty from the fire, is sometimes difficult. In August it will be easy. Sydney is to have its Rotisserie Parisienne. M. Rainaud has gradually been evolving his plan.



During his period of service as head chef to Governor Sir Harry Rawson, and later when he was presiding over the culinary delights of La Corniche at Bayview, this French artist in food was thinking out the details of his scheme, and now it is almost an accomplished fact. An elegant shop in Culwulla-chambers, at the corner of King and Castlereagh streets, will be the distributing centre. This shop will be fitted up as a palatial, comfortably-furnished lounge. No meals will be served on the premises but ladies will be able to go there, see the menus, and order what they will need in their households day by day. There will be a wide range from which to make choice. All that, is best and, most inexpensive will be there. All that is reasonable in price will be there. Dainties from all parts of the world will be available as the liners bring them into Port Jackson, and all Australia's delightful products In meats, and game, and vegetables, and fruit, as well as the confections in pastry and ices that the best French chefs and experts can devise, will be procurable in a bewildering variety. A feature of the new Rotisserie Parisienne will be the old English spit, where the game and joints will be roasted in full view of the public. M. and Mme. Rainaud guarantee that the appetising odors that this branch of the business will give off will be the finest advertisement possible. Special boxes have been constructed to contain the, hot viands and to retain all their spiciness and tastiness. FEED THE BRUTE (1913, July 13). *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 20. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article229686457> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article229686457>)

This Auction and land sale just a little over a year after the fire shows what buildings weren't destroyed and the location of Mr. William Scot-Fell's property. There is more information about him in **Roads To Pittwater: The Sandspit Punt and Spit Bridge** (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/Roads-to-Pittwater-Sandspit-Punt-and-Spit-Bridge.php>)

BROCK'S SURF ESTATE 2nd Subdivision

MONA VALE MANLY BEACH

Auction Sale on the Ground at 3 p.m.

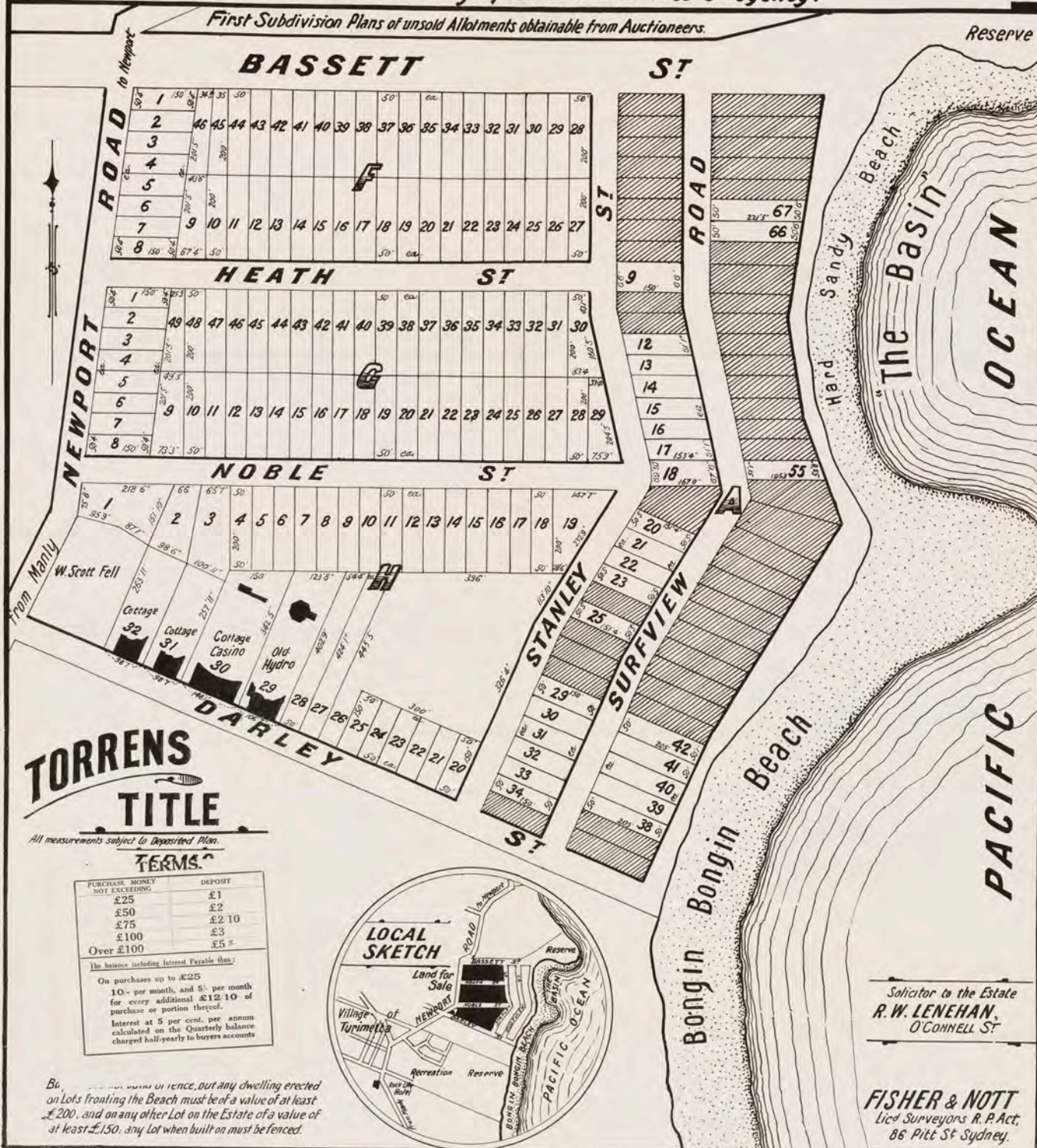
SATURDAY 25th JANUARY 1913

ARTHUR RICKARD & CO. LTD.

Auctioneers & Realty Specialists 84^B Pitt St Sydney.

First Subdivision Plans of unsold Allotments obtainable from Auctioneers.

Reserve



TORRENS TITLE

All measurements subject to Deposited Plan.

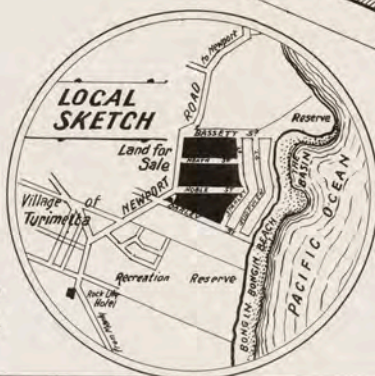
TERMS.

PURCHASE MONEY NOT EXCEEDING	DEPOSIT
£25	£1
£50	£2
£75	£2 10
£100	£3
Over £100	£5

The balance including interest payable thus:

On purchases up to £25 10/- per month, and 5/- per month for every additional £12 10/- of purchase or portion thereof.

Interest at 5 per cent. per annum calculated on the Quarterly balance charged half-yearly to buyers accounts



Solicitor to the Estate
R. W. LENEHAN,
O'Connell St

FISHER & NOTT
Licd Surveyors R. P. Act,
86 Pitt St Sydney.

LIKE A PHOENIX FROM ITS ASHES THE RESURRECTION OF "LA CORNICHE" AT MONA VALE

THOSE who remember the La Corniche of old—its spacious comfort—its magnificent outlook—its wonderful cuisine—its numerous facilities for outdoor sport and enjoyment, will hail with delight the re-opening of its hospitable doors under the management of its former lessees, Monsieur and Madame Rainaud. Those who do not have yet another treasure to add to their store of pleasurable and happy experiences.

Date	Time	Name
11/14/24	7:00	Frank
		Paula
		John
		Robert
		William
		Charles
		Edward
		George
		Henry
		James
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		James
		John
		Robert
		William
		Charles
		Edward
		George
		Henry
		James
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		Edward
		George
		Henry
		James
		John
		Robert
		William
		Charles
	</	

LIKE A PHOENIX FROM ITS ASHES THE RESURRECTION OF "LA CORNICHE" AT MONA VALE

THOSE who remember the La Corniche of old—its spacious comfort—its magnificent outlook—its wonderful cuisine—its numerous facilities for outdoor sport and enjoyment, will hail with delight the re-opening of its hospitable doors under the management of its former lessees, Monsieur and Madame Rainaud. Those who do not have yet another treasure to add to their store of pleasurable and happy experiences.



In 1912 "La Corniche" had earned a reputation as the most select holiday and pleasure resort around Sydney. Formerly known as "Brooks," this stately edifice had for some years been a landmark on the Manly-Narrabeen coastline. It numbered amongst its patrons Governors, Premiers, the stars of the theatrical world (it was Melba's favorite holiday haunt), and the leading professional and business men of Australia. It had become, in short, the recognised resort of those to whom refinement, comfort, excellent cooking, and many forms of healthful recreation, under most picturesque conditions, constituted the essentials of the perfect holiday. . . . Then came the devastating Fire, to be followed by the outbreak of War, and "La Corniche" for a time was allowed to slumber amidst its ruins.

Situated on a commanding height, "La Corniche" is indeed the eye of the "beauty land" that lies between Narrabeen and Newport. Seaward extends a magnificent line of surfing beach of firm, clean, silvery sand, opening up wonderful possibilities for those who love the freedom of the beach and the breakers. An enormous swimming pool, hewn from the

solid rock, shallow enough in part for the youngsters to enjoy themselves in perfect safety, and deep enough to suit the most ambitious swimmer, is just a few moments walk from the portals of "La Corniche." Bathing-sheds for ladies and gentlemen are provided, both for the surf and the swimming pool. From the rocks gopher, bream, rock cod, and other fish can be caught in abundance.

Inland lies a vista of unsurpassed beauty—a blending of hill and vale, of lake and bushland—a medley of verdant foliage, grassy slopes, and a profusion of wild flowers. Every mile traversed opens up fresh scenes of Nature's bounty, for Nature has been indeed generous to this fairyland of the coast. "La Corniche" itself is but 12 miles from Manly, the Narrabeen-Newport coaches pass its gate at frequent intervals. The building consists of a spacious, artistic, fireproof edifice, in which every modern necessity and convenience is featured. The apartments are lofty, large, and roomy, and luxuriously furnished. The Lounge and Dining Rooms are in keeping with the generous scheme of the whole building. Nothing is cramped, and everything is provided with a view to comfort and absolute relaxation. The interior architecture

is of semi-Moorish design, with cool, spreading arches and tasteful, harmonious mural decorations that are at once pleasing to the eye and restful to the spirit. Well-kept lawns, shady arbors, and groups of natural bush, all help to give that relaxation and ease which form part of a holiday's requirements. Excellent golf links and tennis courts will be provided for devotees of these popular sports.

In addition to the main buildings are four large cottages, each one a gem of artistic construction and roomy comfort. The rooms are available singly, or a whole cottage may be engaged by a family or party. Each cottage has its own large lounge and music-room; entirely independent of the main building. The house and the cottages are all electrically lighted, equipped with hot and cold showers, baths, and modern sewerage. Nothing that the architects or the management could think of for the comfort or convenience of the guests has been overlooked.

Special attention has been given to the requirements of the Dining Room and the Kitchens. The culinary department, in fact, has been treated on a lavish scale, every modern appliance having been pressed into service

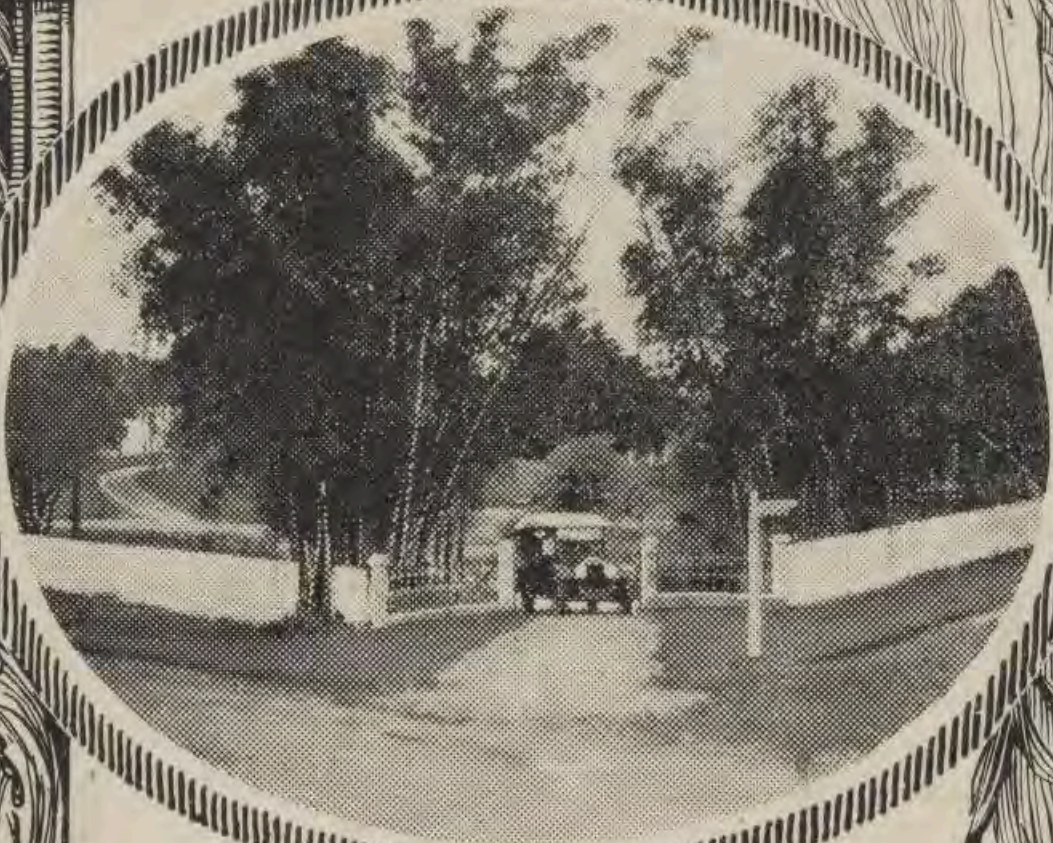
that would contribute to its efficiency or cleanliness. And ever all is the presiding genius of Monsieur Rainaud, the perfection of whose culinary efforts are known throughout Australia, to those best able to appreciate it.

A tariff reasonably in keeping with the high standard of the establishment is one of the inducements to those who wish to patronise it either for a single meal or for an extended period.

It may be mentioned here that the Governor-General and his staff were recently entertained at "La Corniche," as can be seen by reference to the photo. on this page.

Those desiring fuller information are requested to ring up Mona Vale 12.





**La Corniche opens To-morrow
(Saturday), 22nd inst.**

Please Ring Mona Vale No. 12 to
make your Reservation for a Table
or Rooms. If after 6 p.m. or on
Sundays ring up Manly 510.



**La Corniche opens To-morrow
(Saturday), 22nd inst.**

Please Ring Mona Vale No. 12 to
make your Reservation for a Table
or Rooms. If after 6 p.m. or on
Sundays ring up Manly 510.

Pearce, G. C. (1920). *Like a phoenix from its ashes, the resurrection of "La Corniche" at Mona Vale* - and sections from to show details. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-67694921> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-67694921>)

The sales continued:

REAL ESTATE AUCTION SALES.

BEAUTIFUL PITTWATER,
BEAUTIFUL PITTWATER,
between
BAYVIEW and CHURCH POINT,
BAYVIEW and CHURCH POINT,
the well-known
ESTATE OF LA CORNICHE,
ESTATE OF LA CORNICHE,
ESTATE OF LA CORNICHE,
for

AUCTION SALE, ON THE GROUND, AT 2.30 P.M.,
SATURDAY, 15th JANUARY, 1921.

This choice Subdivision comprises
TWENTY-SIX EXCELLENT BUILDING SITES,
together with THREE COTTAGES,

LA CORNICHE, on Lot 1, with very wide verandahs,
4 large rooms, kitchen, etc.

KILLARNEY, on Lot 3, having verandahs on three sides,
TWO ROOMS, kitchen, bathroom, etc.

A SMALL W.B. COTTAGE on Lot 2, containing TWO
ROOMS, with verandah.

THE ESTATE OF LA CORNICHE
is well sheltered, and commands unsurpassed
views of PITTWATER. A good Motor 'Bus
Service connects with the Tram at NARRA-
BEEN.

EASTERLY ASPECT,
EASTERLY ASPECT,
with unrivalled facilities
FOR WEEK-ENDERS.
FOR WEEK-ENDERS.

TITLE TORRENS,
TITLE TORRENS,

EASY TERMS.
EASY TERMS.

Call for Lithograph.

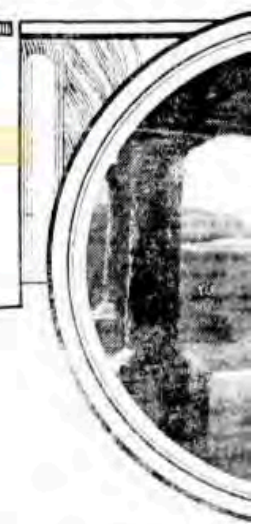
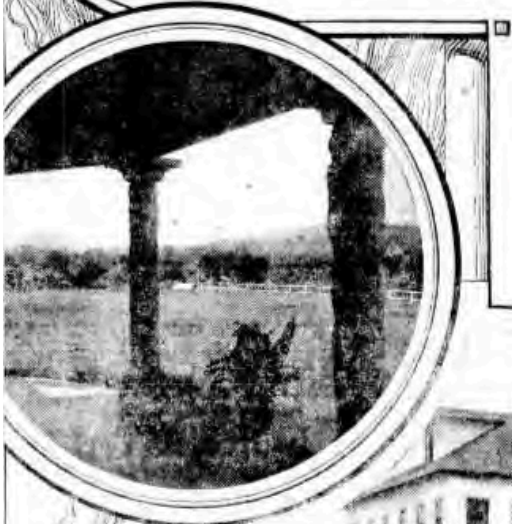
RAINE,

AND
.70 PITT-STREET,
AUCTIONEERS.

HORNE,
(477)

LIKE A PHOENIX FROM ITS ASHES
THE RESURRECTION OF "LA CORN
AT MONA VALE

THOSE who remember the La Corniche of old—its spacious comfort—its magnificent outlook—its wonderful cuisine—its numerous facilities for outdoor sport and enjoyment, will hail with delight the re-opening of its hospitable doors under the management of its former lessees, Monsieur and Madame Rainaud. Those who do not, have yet another treasure to add to their store of pleasurable and happy experiences.

[illegible]

Squid on a shimmering night
"The *Calculus*" is back on the scene.
The beach and the bay have been
Narrowed and Nippon's beach
is a beautiful, beautiful
beach. The clear, silver sand
is a wonderful possibility for
those who love the beach and
the beach. The beach is a
great swimming pool, from the
top. And so, the beach is
the perfect of the beach.
A beautiful beach.

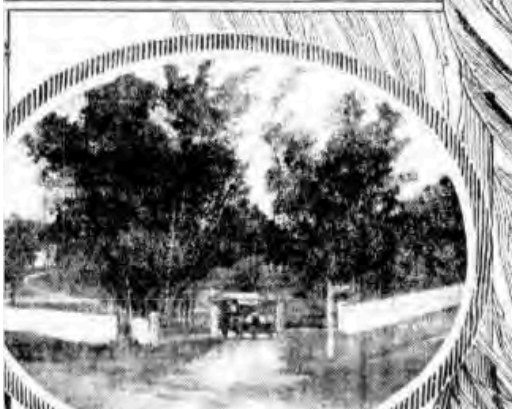
that it is not uncommon to find in the literature that, while the use of the product is generally well accepted, it is not always well understood. This is particularly true in the case of the use of the product in the field of the study of the product. The use of the product in the field of the study of the product is not always well understood. This is particularly true in the case of the use of the product in the field of the study of the product.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a Hilbert space, and let $\mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H}_2$ be subspaces of $\mathcal{H}$. Then $\mathcal{H}_1 \perp \mathcal{H}_2$ if and only if $\mathcal{H}_1 \subset \mathcal{H}_2^\perp$. This is a well-known result in functional analysis.

being in fact, under 1941, the President himself and his staff were actually members of "The Christian," he said he used to refer to it as the bible for his group.

These drawing folder information are requested to copy up
 (Para. Vols 14)





Advertising (1921, January 21). *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 9 (FINAL EXTRA). Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221436292> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221436292>) - same advertisement as NLA material above

In the Estate of the
Late R.J. Forsyth.

BROCK'S SURF BEACH ESTATE

MONA VALE MANLY

*34 Choice Residential & Week End Lots
With Glorious Views.*

For Auction Sale On the Ground
SATURDAY
12TH MARCH 1921
AT 3.30 P.M.

VERY EASY TERMS

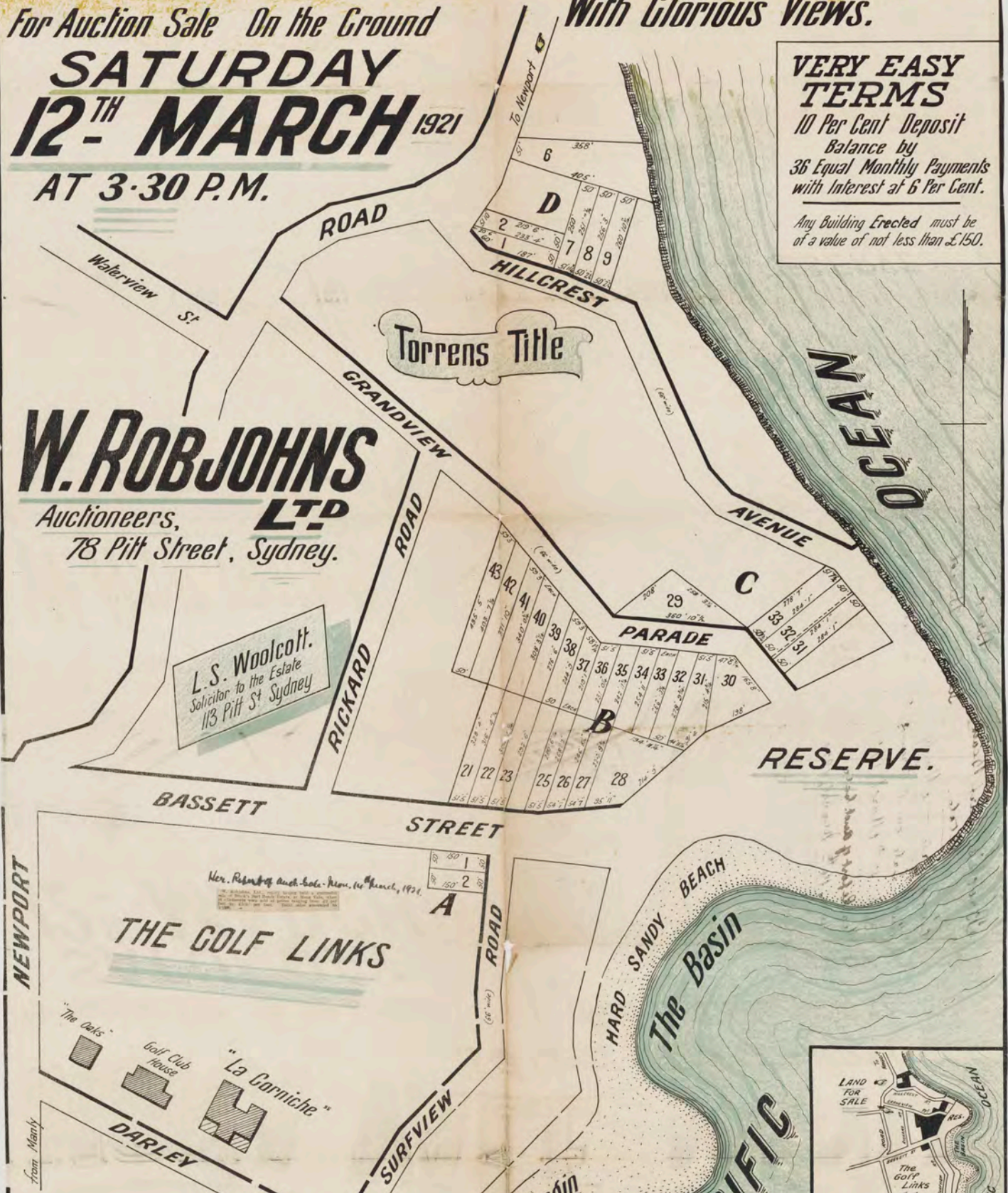
*10 Per Cent Deposit
Balance by
36 Equal Monthly Payments
with Interest at 6 Per Cent.*

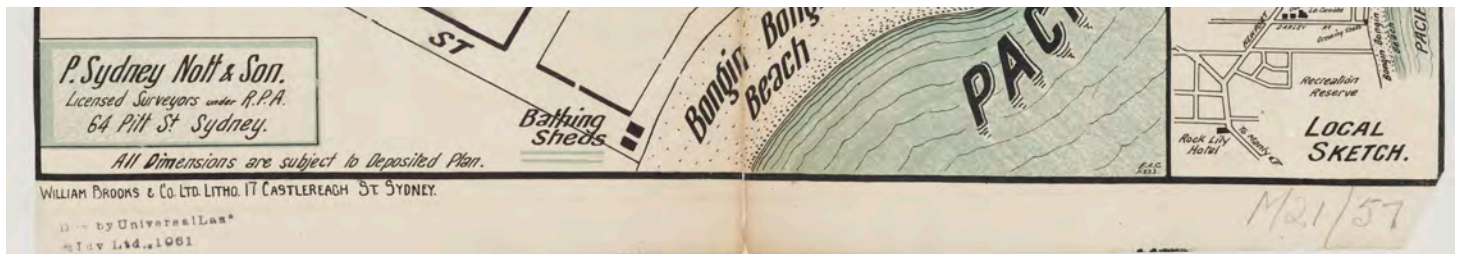
*Any Building Erected must be
of a value of not less than £150.*

W. ROBJOHNS

Auctioneers, LTD
78 Pitt Street, Sydney.

L.S. Woolcott.
Solicitor to the Estate
113 Pitt St Sydney





Brocks Surf Beach Estate - Mona Vale - Manly - Waterview St Robjohns Forsyth Estate, 1921. Item No.c046820037, from Mona Vale Subdivisions folder, courtesy State Library of NSW.

R J Forsyth

Robert James Forsyth was born in 1861 to Archibald Forsyth and Annie (nee Corbett). He was a member of the prominent rope making company, named Archibald Forsyth & Co. after his father Archibald. Annie Forsyth Wyatt (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/Annie-Wyatt-Reserve-Palm-Beach-History.php>), after whom we have a Palm Beach Reserve named and who was a visitor to our area during tree planting days through local schools, was a niece. George Alfred Forsyth of Bayview, Gentleman, who once owned Waiwera, the cottage (before it became Hopton Lodge), was also a relative of (uncle) of Annie Forsyth Wyatt (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/Annie-Wyatt-Reserve-Palm-Beach-History.php>)



Ald. Robert J Forsyth City of Canterbury, 1901

Children:

Robert Archibald Forsyth, b. About 1892-1893, to Robert James and Agnes Christina d. 6 May 1918, Rouen, France.

Certified Copy
Reattested

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2367

Name

Unit

Joined on

FORSYTH Robert Archibald
5th Kilt 18th Battalion
23rd July 1915

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Robert Archibald Forsyth
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...
In the Parish of Newtown in or
near the Town of ...
in the County of Cumberland N.S.W.
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a
Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the
latter, papers to be shown.) ... Natural born
4. What is your age? ... 22 1/2 years
5. What is your trade or calling? ... Farmer & grazier
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so,
where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ...
Archibald Robert James Forsyth
Maybrook
Karramire N.S.W.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His
Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incor-
rigible and Worthless, or on account of Convic-
tion of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servi-
tude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace
from the Navy? ... No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His
Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the
Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy,
or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not
now serving, state cause of discharge ...
British Army ... A.L.F. 3 years
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous
service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's
Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will
be issued in respect of your service beyond an
amount which together with Pay would reach
eight shillings per day. ... Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox
and enteric fever? ... Yes

I, Robert Archibald Forsyth do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

*And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children three-fifths

Date 4/10/18

Signature of person enlisted.

*This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

E. McK.

15th October, 1918.

DESPATCHED

Dear Sir,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 2367, Sergeant R. A. Forsyth, 18th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 15th April, 1918, and was transferred on 17th idem to the 9th General Hospital, Rouen, France, from the 41st Casualty Clearing Station. suffering from gunshot wound left thigh and fracture of the femur. He was operated on and progressed well until 6th May, 1918, when he became suddenly worse and died the following day, cause of death being blood poisoning. He was buried in the British Military Cemetery at Rouen, France.

The utmost care and attention is being devoted where possible to the graves of our soldiers. It is understood that photographs are being taken as soon as is possible and these will be transmitted to next-of-kin when available.

These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. R. J. Forsyth,
"Maybrook",
NARROMINE,
New South Wales.

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records.

Essie A Forsyth, b. 1895, NSW, to Robert James and Agnes Christina d. 20 Apr 1981, Surfers Paradise, NSW, Australia. Formerly of Cammeray

The family lived in The Towers until Robert James' death in 1920, when most of the thirteen hectares of land adjoining The Towers was purchased by the War Service Homes Commission. When the War Service Homes Commission subdivided the area, four streets (Robert, Archibald, Roy, Forsyth) were named after Robert James' son, Robert Archibald (known as Roy) Forsyth.

The Commission built houses on this land for soldiers returning from World War I and their families. Councillor Kayee Griffin unveiled a series of nameplates commemorating these street names on 11th November, 2000. Robert James Forsyth was an Alderman on Canterbury City Council from 1899-1902.

FORSYTH ROBERT J 818/1920 Parents ARCHIBALD SARAH Registered at: CANTERBURY - NSW BDM's

FORSYTH - The Funeral of the late Mr ROBERT JAMES FORSYTH will leave his late residence, The Towers, Belmore, THIS THURSDAY, at 1.30 p m , by motor service, for Randwick General Cemetery, Long Bay road. Coogee Interment 3 o'clock. WOOD COFFILL and COMPANY, LTD. Family Notices (1920, April 1). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 7. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15875009> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15875009>)

Mr. R. J. Forsythe, of 'Maybrook,' Narromine, died last week in Sydney. It is understood that Mr. Forsythe underwent an operation for a growth in the neck and subsequently collapsed. He was well known and respected through out the district. His only son, Roy, was killed at the war, and the late Mr. Forsythe was arranging the disposal of his Narromine property which he had purchased for him. District News (1920, April 8). *Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative* (NSW : 1890 - 1954), p. 29. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article157043384> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article157043384>)

RETURN THANKS.

Mrs R. J. and Miss FORSYTH, of "The Towers." Belmore and Narromine, return sincere THANKS to relatives and friends for telegrams, letters, floral tributes, and messages of sympathy received in their late sad bereavement.

Mrs EVANS and FAMILY, **of Manly**, return sincere THANKS to relatives and friends for kind expressions of sympathy received on the death of her brother, the late Robert J. Forsyth.

Mr and Mrs. T. B. WYATT. and FAMILY, **of Manly**, return sincere THANKS to relatives and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy received on the death of their uncle, the late Robert J. Forsyth. Family Notices (**1920, April 7**). *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), p. 8. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239632538> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239632538>)

Agnes passed away in 1957 at Double Bay, her parents are listed in NSW BDM's as JOHAN LUDIWIC and BELINDA.

Reginald James Thomas Forsyth, born at 39 Hayberry Street, Crow's Nest, Sydney, in early 1893 to parents John Lile Lewis Forsyth and Elizabeth Christina Forsyth (**nee Crowley** - daughter of Michael Crowley, died 1884 in Gundagai and Sarah, nee Breadmore). A letter penned by Michael Crowley, under Extras, pertains to Land Grants. John Lile Lewis Forsyth was a son of James Forsyth (1818-1907) and Margaret Todd, of the Forsyth family that did so much for Willoughby (<https://abc17603.wordpress.com/history/people/forsyth/>). He too was lost in this conflict.

ROLL OF HONOR.

FORSYTH.— In loving, remembrance of Lieut . R. J. T. Forsyth (Reg.), 68th A.F.C., late 1st A.L.H., died of Injuries received in aeroplane accident, February 16th, 1918; dearly loved eldest son and brother of Mr. and Mrs. J. Forsyth, 39 Hayberry Street, Crows Nest.

FORSYTH.— In loving memory of our dearly loved nephew, Second-Lieut. Reg. Forsyth,; who died February 16th, 1918, result of aeroplane accident. Regretted by his loving aunt and uncle, O. and Amy Knight- (One of the best). Family Notices (**1920, February 16**). *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239664906> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239664906>)

FORSYTH.-In loving remembrance of Lieut R. J. T. Forsyth (Reg), 68th A.F.C. late 1st A.L.H.. died of injuries received in aeroplane accident, February 16 1918, dearly loved eldest son and brother of Mr. and Mrs. J. Forsyth, Mm. J. Forsyth and family. 30 Hayberry-street, Crow's Nest. A young life nobly ended. Family Notices (**1920, February 16**). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15879688> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15879688>)

FORSYTH.— March 30th, 1920, at his residence, 'The Towers,' Belmore, Robert James Forsyth (also of Narromine), eldest son of the late Archibald Forsyth, in his 60th year. Family Notices (**1920, April 1**). *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239625466> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239625466>)

Although not directly related to Robert James Forsyth, son of Archibald, R J T's uncle, Robert Todd Forsyth (1877-1939), Mayor of Willoughby on four occasions, and seventh child of Thomas Todd Forsyth (1840-1921 - father of John L L as well) is worth noting here due to his own interest in developing paddocks into home lots. They are all descendants of the Scottish Forsyth clan. Just as the Crowley clan, of Ireland, (see Avalon Roads (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/Pittwater-Roads-II-Street-Names-Avalon-Beach.php>)), are all from Cork.

Mr. R. T. Forsyth, who is figuring prominently in subdivisional work this season, is a born suburb builder, and to his enterprise has been largely due the rapid growth of the Willoughby and Chatswood districts. Starting as a real estate agent at Willoughby in 1898 before he was 21 years of age, Mr. Forsyth for some time devoted his energies chiefly to the Willoughby district, but of recent years he has directed his activities to a number of other places, particularly Northbridge, which he was responsible for opening up in 1913. He has also played an important part in the progress of Longueville, where he developed about 20 subdivisions. Several of the leading, banks have at different times entrusted properties to his hands, representing in value many hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Mr. Forsyth, who began his connection with the Willoughby Municipal Council as auditor at the age of 21, has since been mayor of that suburb on nine different occasions. He is a well-known valuator, and has acted in that capacity for the Lane Cove Council. While he was Mayor of Willoughby, that district gained the reputation for its responsiveness to patriotic appeals, and on one occasion when the quota of the district was £60,000, Willoughby returned the handsome total of £117,000. Mr. Forsyth is now interesting himself in the community principle as applied to suburban development, and the Castlecrag Estate, which was recently opened up by him, now has his special attention in the direction indicated.

Mr. W. Robjohns will offer the Rothwell Estate, at Longueville, for auction on Saturday next. There are 49 building sites on the estate, which is in a picturesque locality, and is only a few minutes from the shopping centre and tram terminus.

Cronulla was, Palm Beach is, and Avalon Beach will be. This is the catch slogan which has been adopted by the vendor of the Palmgrove Estate at Avalon, which is to be sold by Messrs. H. W. Horning and Co., on Boxing Day. Judging by the beautiful panoramic views which appear in an attractive booklet, and which also occupy a conspicuous position in Messrs. Horning and Co.'s windows, Martin-place, the scenery surrounding the estate must be exceptionally beautiful. Avalon is the new seaside resort between Newport and Palm Beach.

The Palmgrove Estate is on the main Barrenjoey-road, and is right at the beach.

The owner has evidently had the public good in mind, as the estate has been well planted with Ornamental shade trees, while a section of it known as the Palm Grove, has been presented as a park. This is a remarkable beauty spot, with a wealth of graceful palms, maidenhair, burrawang, and other flora. The estate is in every respect a most attractive proposition to those looking for week-end and holiday sites. **REAL ESTATE NEWS (1921, December 11)**. *Sunday Times* (Sydney, NSW : 1895 - 1930), p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article123241058> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article123241058>)

An earlier form of Mona Vale SLSC, when it was Mona Vale Alumni during 1930-31, used this premises as their weekend base. As can be seen below, the place was still used as a resort for visitors:



AT LA CORNICHE under entirely new management-Tariff from £2/2/ per week 10/6 per day Phone Mona Vale 50. Advertising (1932, February 27). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 5. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16843745> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16843745>)

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES. MONA VALE. ONLY A FEW MINUTES FROM THE BEACH AND GOLF LINKS. That well-known SEASIDE ESTABLISHMENT Known as LA CORNICHE, now conducted as a Tourist Boarding-house, and which is also eminently suitable for a REST HOME, SCHOLASTIC, or ECCLESIASTICAL INSTITUTION.

The building is constructed of brick, cemented, with Iron roof, and comprises ground and two upper floors. On the ground floor are wide verandahs, hall, office, double lounge-rooms, large dining-room, smokers room, kitchens, scullery, pantries, store and engine room. On the two upper floors: 20 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Detached is ballroom (18 x 60), with special floor. In addition to the above are FOUR COMMODIOUS COTTAGES, built of stone and of brick, with tiled and iron roofs, each having verandahs, and about 7 large rooms, kitchen, and offices. Two motor garages. Tennis court. The buildings are connected by electric light (own plant) and septic sewerage.

THE SITE is a most PROMINENT ONE having a frontage of approximately 335ft to the MAIN NEWPORT-ROAD, together with frontages of about 795ft to Darley-street, 350ft to Noble-street, and 440ft to Stanley-street (an unformed street), and is suitable for subdivision. (Plan on view at the Auctioneers). TORRENS TITLE. EASY TERMS CAN BE ARRANGED. RICHARDSON and WRENCH, LTD., will submit above to PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Rooms, 92 PITT-STREET, on FRIDAY, 19th FEBRUARY, at 11 a.m. Advertising. (1932, February 6). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 20. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28035038> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28035038>)

During World War II La Corniche was used as a Red Cross centre for wounded soldiers. In World War II "La Corniche" was commandeered by the Air Force during and used as training ground for recruits. Some sources state it was also used by the Army as an Infantry Training School for NCO's. La Corniche - [Occupation by Australian Military Forces of premises known as 'La Corniche' in Mona Vale, the property of Mr GJ McPhee. Includes claim for compensation] Australian Archives Military Records. Property files for sites in NSW hired or acquired for the Department of Defence during World War II

Of then:

I was ordained in 1941, the beginning of '41, and appointed as a curate in the parish of St Faith's, Narrabeen. I was then just two days beyond my twenty-third birthday. The war had commenced, and, during my first appointment at Narrabeen, army camps were being formed in the area, because the threat of invasion was feared. I can recall fences being erected along the sides of the road, so that places like Palm Beach or Bayview could be shut off if need be, and then, when the threat of the Japanese came, the more intense development of army troops in that area. And Canon Tugwell then asked me to become a part-time chaplain to those troops in that area.

The parish of Narrabeen in those days went from Collaroy down to Palm Beach. There were main residential settlements at Collaroy, Narrabeen, but when you went out beyond that to Mona Vale you had mainly twenty-five acre small farms, many glasshouse tomato producers. Beyond Mona Vale, Newport was ... just one hotel in Newport, and mainly accommodation for people coming down to holiday use. Beyond Newport, at Bilgola and at Avalon, and then at Palm Beach, there were just mainly holiday homes, very few permanent residents.

My appointment was to help commence a ministry in that northern part. So I boarded with an old Boer war veteran and his wife, a Mr and Mrs Wilson, who lived in Fermoy Avenue, Bayview. And from there would conduct services in the store at Avalon, where there was little tea-rooms behind the store, and in an estate agent's office at Palm Beach. Subsequently a family by the name of **Byle (marie-byles-history.php)** lent us their home for the service at Palm Beach. And my other ministry there was to the **troops, which were then being trained by the army**, and they had an **officers' training unit in a big home at Mona Vale**, and my responsibility was to conduct services, and then to have discussions or what they called padre's hours with the intake of recruits.

Canon Charles Henry Sherlock, Chaplain RAAF, interviewed by Gail Winkworth for the Keith Murdoch Sound Archives of Australia in the War of 1939-45

From: http://www.awm.gov.au/transcripts/kmsa/s00572_tran.htm (http://www.awm.gov.au/transcripts/kmsa/s00572_tran.htm)

Another use was made of these huge structure and its many rooms:

Director of Physical Education, 7/1/43, advising that the National Fitness Council is now using "La Corniche", Mona Vale, as a training centre for boys and girls, of whom some hundreds will be accommodated from time to time throughout the year, and Mona Vale extensive use will be made by these children of the swimming Rockbaths pool at the beach, requesting Council to provide a rope across the pool which would be of great use to children who are non-swimmers, and serve as a safeguard in the event of waves sweeping into the pool. The Shire Engineer reported that a wire had been substituted, and that this should be sufficient. Resolved, - That a reply in the terms of the Engineer's report be sent. - **19/01/1943 Warringah Council Minutes**

There were a number of submarine sightings during World War II in Pittwater and barbed wire along every beach except Newport. The Green Hornets of the 7th Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps camped in Warriewood Valley during this period and Mona Vale, south of La Corniche, was a camp for trainee machine gunners. Ruskin Rowe at Avalon hosted the Sundown RAAF Camp, who were trained by Nancy Bird Walton.

Part of the building was utilised after the war as a clubhouse by what became the Mona Vale SLSC (monavalesurf-life-saving-club-history-by-skye-rose.php).

The building was demolished to build home units after 1953. Bert King OAM (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/bert-king-profile.php>), of Narrabeen and Newport, late Bayview, as Bert King Constructions, built the first ever units in Mona Vale in Darley Street East on the crest of the hill where the old La Corniche used to be, explaining during his Profile interview; "(I) pulled it down and everyone complained about it being pulled down but the building was a heap of rubbish (by then)".

Further Reading:

Mona Vale Training Grounds - From Lancers on Horses to Lasses on Transport Courses (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/monavaletraininggroundslancershorseslassesdrivin.php>)

Mona Vale Library History of Brock's Folly: http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history/Pittwaters_past/brocks_folly
(http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history/Pittwaters_past/brocks_folly)

WAAAF: www.defence.gov.au/news/raafnews/editions/4404/story10.htm
(<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/raafnews/editions/4404/story10.htm>) &: <http://home.st.net.au/~dunn/waaaf/waaaf.htm>
(<http://home.st.net.au/~dunn/waaaf/waaaf.htm>)

More use as a training ground:

NATIONAL RESERVE RIFLE CLUB. THE CAMP AT MONA VALE.

This was attended last week by 146 men, representing infantry, light horse, engineers, army medical corps, transport, nursing, and cyclist corps. A number of them had seen service in South Africa.

Colonel Wallack, the State Commandant, taking the salute in the march past. **NATIONAL RESERVE RIFLE CLUB. (1915, January 31).** *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 14 (SUNDAY EDITION). Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article229338874> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article229338874>)

NATIONAL RESERVE RIFLE CLUB.



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A Sydney-side Artist

In a recent "Smith's" you speak of "Ossie," the artist son of "Brock of Brock's Beach." "Ossie." is both a painter and a sculptor, and has wandered far afield in the course of his studies. He has pursued "line" under Dalia Gibson in America, painting on silk in which he excels, in Japan, and sculpture in Italy. The group which is in front of the Mona Vale mansion is his. His gifts and instincts are derived from two generations of the maternal side, His mother was a charming painter, and so was her mother before her. — "Elmo." GOSSIP FROM HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE (1921, April 16). *Smith's Weekly* (Sydney, NSW : 1919 - 1950), p. 13. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article234272080> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article234272080>)

George Brock married Charlotte Davis in 1882 - the marriage registered at Canterbury. They had four children, two boys and two girls - NSW BDM's Records:

BROCK OSWELL C 7055/1882 GEORGE S CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN
 BROCK DOROTHY M 12143/1889 GEORGE T CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN
 BROCK VICTOR 25905/1891 GEORGE S CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN
 BROCK VIVA 25906/1891 GEORGE S CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN



FROM: Album 57: Photographs of the Allen family, 2 May 1911 - 7 October 1911 Digital Order No. a3289055; ***'Enlargement of view taken looking over the Polo Grounds. The road up the hill leads to Barrenjoey'*** and Digital Order No. a3289054; ***'Enlargement of view taken from Brock's house, 3rd of September, 1911'***. Both Courtesy State Library of NSW.



Photo Attributions: TOP: W.A.A.F. recruits, Mona Vale, 1944 . FILE: 41\WAR41923 SUBJECTS: **Australia. Royal Australian Air Force. Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force; La Corniche (House : Mona Vale, N.S.W.) ; World War, 1939-1945; New South Wales; Mona Vale; Mona Vale (N.S.W.)** DESCRIPT: "La Corniche" commandeered by Air Force during World War II and used as training ground for recruits CREATED: [1944]

Below Top: Members of Australian Women's Flying Corps, Mona Vale, 1944

FILE: 41\WAR41916 SUBJECTS: Williams, Phyllis; Australia. Royal Australian Air Force. Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force; World War, 1939-1945 ; New South Wales; Mona Vale; Mona Vale (N.S.W.) DESCRIPT: Phyllis Williams, second from left, back row Photograph taken at "La Corniche" CREATED: [1944]



Above: Cadets at Camp at Mona Vale, NSW - 1943
Cadets from Parramatta Company at 'La Corniche' training camp, Mona Vale in 1943.



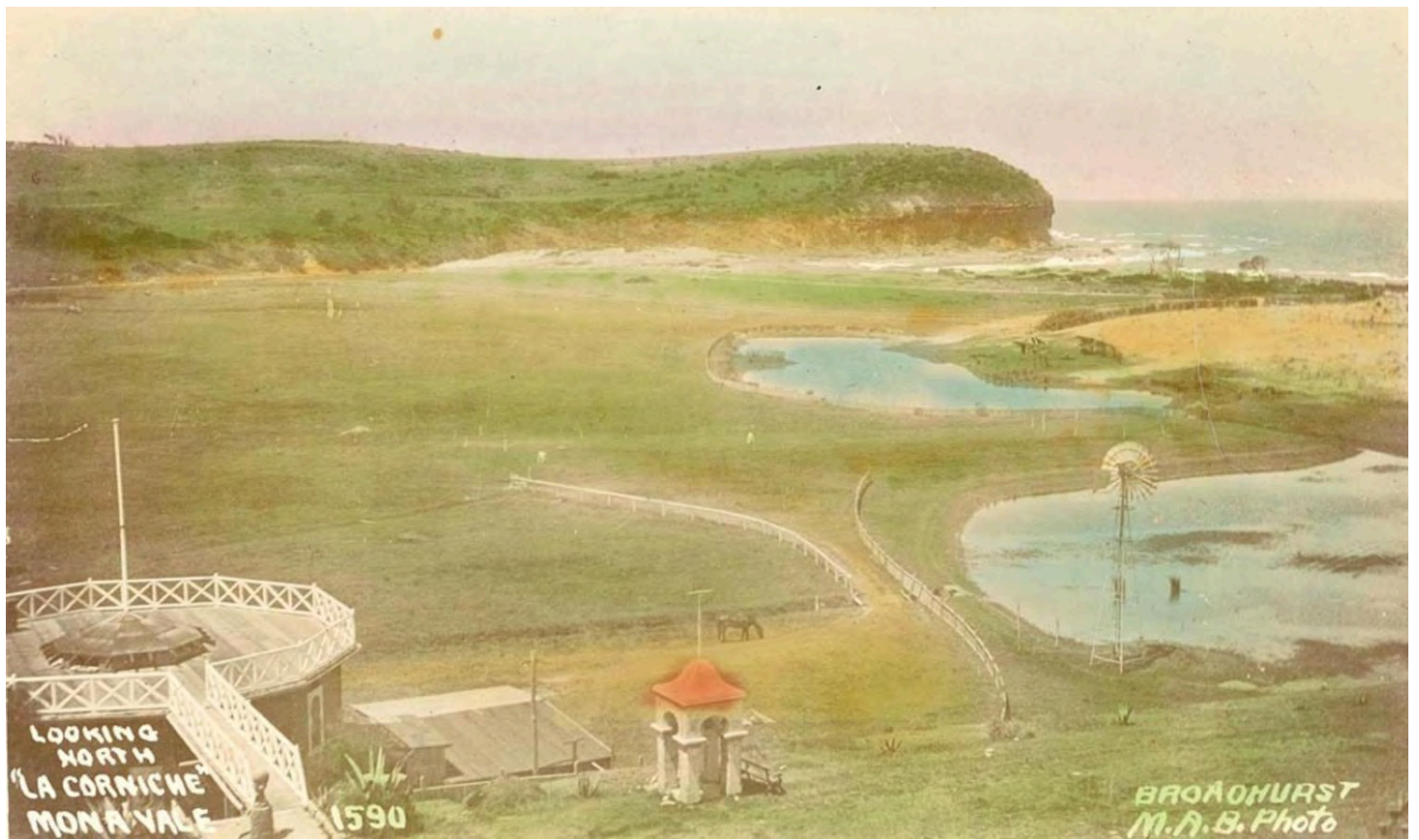
Above: Bedroom 8 at La Corniche. Right: the Ballroom. Images courtesy Mitchell Library, NSW, ca. 1900-1927 Sydney & Ashfield : Broadhurst Post Card Publishers. Album 'Scenes views and interiors of "La Corniche", Mona Vale, N.S.W. circa 1912-1927 Nos: a106010 a106011 & a106008 . Below Bedroom 7. Below: the villas beside the main building and Dining room, No: a106006.

Some of these images appear in the brochure entitled The Brock Estate produced by D.J.McIntyre & Coy for the auction sale of the property in October 1907. Others show La Corniche as rebuilt after 1912 and prior to 1920

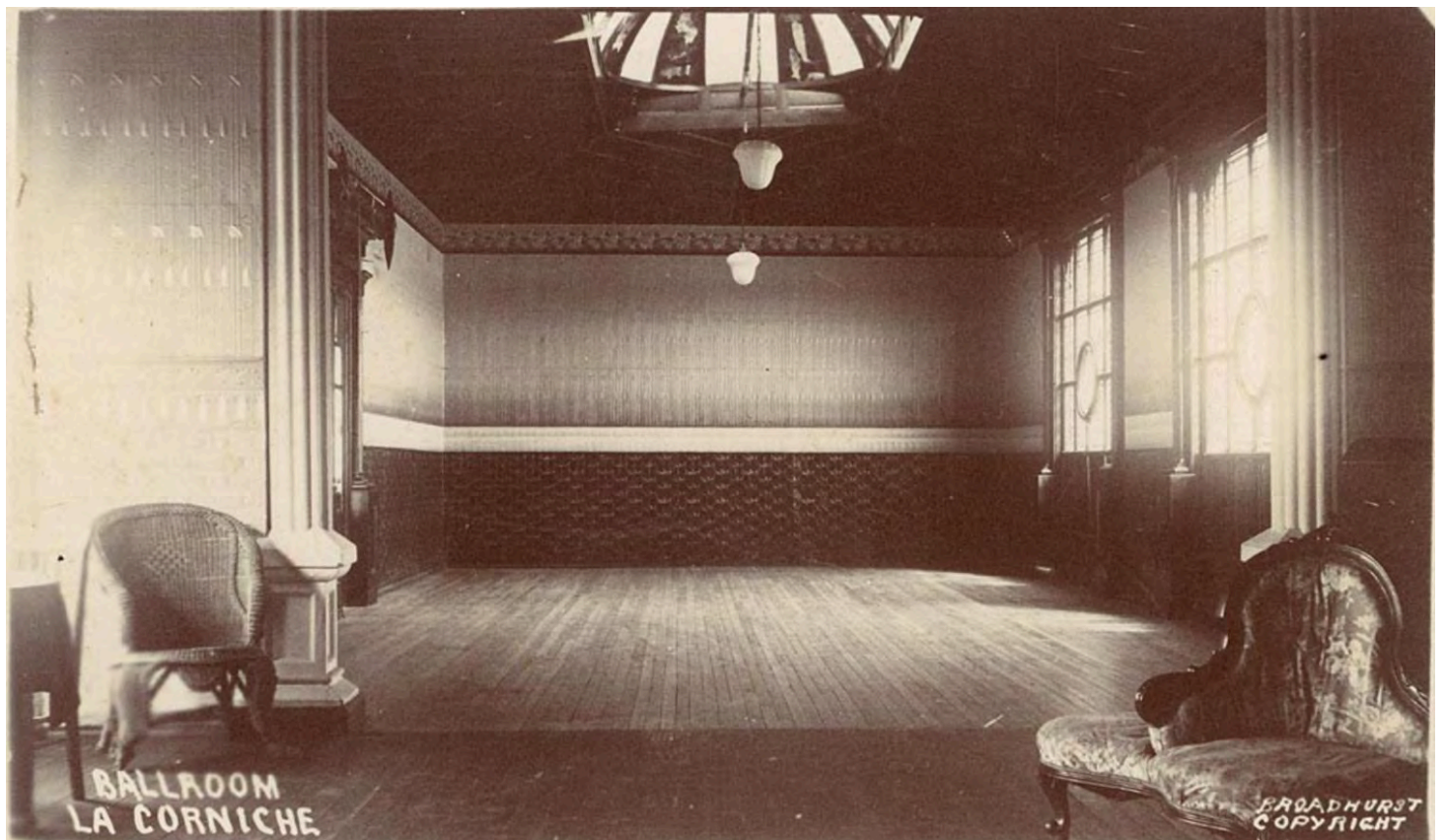








Above: View from Brock's House, Allen Family Album, 1911. Image No: 3289054, courtesy Mitchell Library NSW. Below: The Ballroom.





Also clubhouse for Mona Vale SLSC (monavalesurf-life-saving-club-history-by-skye-rose.php) when was still Alumin SLSC. 1930s.



Images courtesy Mitchell Library, NSW, ca. 1900-1927 Sydney & Ashfield : Broadhurst Post Card Publishers. Album 'Scenes views and interiors of "La Corniche", Mona Vale, N.S.W. 1900-1927 Image No: a105578h



Images courtesy Mitchell Library, NSW, ca. 1900-1927 Sydney & Ashfield : Broadhurst Post Card Publishers. Album 'Scenes views and interiors of "La Corniche", Mona Vale, N.S.W. 1900-1927 The Oaks, La Corniche Image No.: a106001



Images courtesy Mitchell Library, NSW, ca. 1900-1927 Sydney & Ashfield : Broadhurst Post Card Publishers. Album 'Scenes views and interiors of "La Corniche", Mona Vale, N.S.W. 1900-1927 **La Corniche, Mona Vale [The Oaks]** Image NO: a105579





Images courtesy Mitchell Library, NSW, ca. 1900-1927 Sydney & Ashfield : Broadhurst Post Card Publishers. Album 'Scenes views and interiors of "La Corniche", Mona Vale, N.S.W. 1900-1927 A View at La Corniche. Image No.: a106003

George Sydney Brock

George Sydney Brock was born in the spring of 1855 in Sydney to Robert and Mary Anne Brock (nee Kettle), their eldest son. His brother John H would be born in 1857, and die in 1858.

On the 18th September, at Balmain, the wife of Mr. Robert Brock, of a SON. Family Notices (1855, September 22). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 5. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12978367> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12978367>)

BROCK—January 26th, at Goulburn-street, **of whooping-cough, John Hurbert, aged 12 weeks**, second son of Robert and Mary Anne Brock. Family Notices (1858, January 28). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13005585> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13005585>)

In their Marriage Notice Robert Brock is stated to be from Manchester - his parents were William and Susanna. Mary Anne was born in Sydney to John Icke Kettle and Ann (nee May). Both John Kettle and Ann May were the offspring of transported convicts - John following his family out to join his siblings and mother, while Ann was born here.

George's wife Charlotte Ellen Davis was born in 1858, the birth registered in Glebe, the daughter of Joseph and Ellen. She and her mother were known as artists. Her sister Amy was born in 1860 at Newtown. Three brothers (one who died young) and two sisters preceded them. Her father worked as a grocer and butcher, suffering a few bankruptcies along the way. Her parents marriage:

By special license, on the 28th instant, by the Rev. Dr. Fullerton, Mr. Joseph Davis, of Newtown, to Ellen, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Edward Turner, of Parramatta-street. Family Notices (1850, October 29). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12922125> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12922125>)

She and George Sydney Brock were married 1882, the marriage registered in Canterbury. George and Charlotte had four children, two boys and two girls - NSW BDM's Records:

BROCK OSWELL C 7055/1882 GEORGE S CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN
 BROCK DOROTHY M 12143/1889 GEORGE T CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN
 BROCK VICTOR 25905/1891 GEORGE S CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN
 BROCK VIVA 25906/1891 GEORGE S CHARLOTTE E NEWTOWN

BIRTHS.

BROCK.-November 20, at Victoria Lodge, Newtown, the wife of George S. Brock, of a son. Family Notices (**1882, November 25**). *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 40. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70993261> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70993261>)



Robert and Mary Brock with grandson Oswald, circa 1887 - photo courtesy Dodds family

Births.

BROCK.-July 29th, at **Brockleigh, Newtown**, Mrs. George S. Brock, of **twins, son and daughter**. Family Notices (**1891, July 31**). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13833099> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13833099>)

Viva's twin brother died soon after he was born, the second time a Brock baby had been lost in successive generations:

BROCK.— December 18, at his parents' residence, Brockleigh, Newtown, Victor, aged 4 months 19 days. Family Notices (**1891, December 19**). *The Australian Star* (Sydney, NSW : 1887 - 1909), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227246352> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227246352>)

Brockleigh, Landmark Italianate Boom Style Residence 1 Warren Ball Avenue, Newtown

In a dress circle position fronting Hollis Park, this magnificent two-storey family residence stands on a large 480.6sqm block with landscaped gardens, a spacious alfresco barbecue area and swimming pool. With impressive proportions and superb Italianate Boom Style features, it is one of eight grand manor homes **built during the mid-1880s** in the blue ribbon **street originally known as L'Avenue**.

Set at the corner of Warren Ball Avenue and Georgina Street, the immaculately maintained and beautifully presented house has a handsome facade with a wide wraparound verandah and iron-lace balconies.

Named Brockleigh, it originally was the home of **George S. Brock** who developed the street's other majestic villas as well as a splendid row of terraces on Georgina Street.



Spanning two spacious levels plus a basement cellar, the imposing slate-roofed house commands sweeping views towards Botany Bay from its upper level verandah. Quiet and private, it has generously proportioned rooms with bay windows, soaring ceilings, ornate cornices, polished timber floors and beautiful original features including marble fireplaces and select timber species joinery.

At entry level an original tessellated tiled hallway, interconnecting formal sitting and dining rooms, a modern open-plan gas and timber kitchen, spacious family living and dining areas, a breakfast conservatory, large office (with separate entry), a bathroom (with easy access to the pool area), concealed laundry and abundant storage. Glass-paned french doors, in the family living area, open to the outdoor entertainment areas and pool. Two staircases lead to the upper level which has a huge main bedroom (with a book-matched slab marble ensuite, verandah and separate sitting room or nursery), three more king-size bedrooms (with built-in wardrobes) and a large main bathroom with a bath and separate shower. Mod cons include gas heating bayonets, air-conditioning, Foxtel wiring and garden irrigation. Featuring three street frontages and a separate gated entry from Georgina Street, this remarkable property is a short walk from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, University of Sydney, Eveleigh Farmers' Markets, city transport (buses and trains), and King Street shops and restaurants.

Last sold for \$3,625,000 on 13/03/2014. Information Retrieved from www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-newtown-116119335 (<https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-nsw-newtown-116119335>)

There is still a Brock's Lane in Newtown.

Oswell was an artist - many of the sculptures seen in photos of The Oaks stemmed from the sculpture machine spoken of above in the Mona Vale beach - George Brock section:



A Sydney-side Artist

In a recent "Smith's" you speak of "Ossie," the artist son of "Brock of Brock's Beach." "Ossie." is both a painter and a sculptor, and has wandered far afield in the course of his studies. He has pursued "line" under Dalia Gibson in America, painting on silk in which he excels, in Japan, and sculpture in Italy. **The group which is in front of the Mona Vale mansion is his.** His gifts and instincts are derived from two generations of the maternal side. **His mother was a charming painter, and so was her mother before her.** — "Elmo." GOSSIP FROM HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE (1921, April 16). *Smith's Weekly* (Sydney, NSW : 1919 - 1950), p. 13. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article234272080> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article234272080>)

A 1904 article in the Mosman Mail describes George Brock as:

Mr. Brock has made a great impression upon the district.

He is of average height, compactly built, with strong features. His face reminds one of the old Romans as they have been pictured for us. He is clean shaven, quick in speech, and direct-in his utterance, very prompt and somewhat masterful in manner. A man, that can be plainly seen,— a man of strong individuality. He stands alone, and requires no support but his own keen brain and active body. He is a man to take the lead and keep it, a man who by his greater pushfulness makes enemies as well as friends. ... "THE OAKS," (1904, September 3). *The Mosman Mail* (NSW : 1898 - 1906), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article247008613> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article247008613>)

GS Brock Family Background notes

Mary Brock (nee Kettle) was the daughter of John Icke Kettle. John Icke Kettle was born December 28th, 1808, the second son of Samuel (1778-1865) and Mary Icke (1778-1884). They married on March 24th 1805 in Newport, Shropshire, England. John was Christened February 11th, 1809 at St. James, Liverpool, Lancashire, England.

Samuel Kettle, was one of 156 convicts transported on the ship Speke, 13 December 1820. Details: Sentence details: Convicted at Lancaster Assizes for a term of life on 23 August 1820.

1825 muster (1823-1825)

Text: Kettle Samuel, convict, Speke, 1821, 14 years, government servant to his wife Mrs. Kettle
Kettle, Henry, came free, Countess of Harcourt, 1822, carpenter, Sydney - this is their eldest son, born 1806
John Icke Kettle, Free Settler "Jupiter" 1823

1828 census

Kettle, Samuel, 50, ticket of leave, Speke 2, 1821, life, Protestant, carpenter, Castlereagh Street Sydney
Kettle, Mary, 50, came free, Jupiter 1822
Kettle, Emma, 8, came free, Jupiter, 1822
Kettle, Ann, 13, came free, Jupiter, 1822

In 1927 John Icke Kettle married Australian born Ann May (born Parramatta January 1st 1807 to James May and Grace ?). James May, was one of 338 convicts transported on the ship Coromandel and Experiment, in November 1803. Sentence details: Convicted at Surrey Assizes for a term of life on August 8th 1803. James and his wife Grace? had two sons; James and Thomas, and two daughters; Ann and Elizabeth.

John Kettle had a son and two daughters.

Ann Kettle (nee May) died in 1851, aged 42 - NSW BDM's records aged 41.

DIED,

On 9th instant, at Sydney, Ann Kettle, aged 42, the beloved wife of John Icke Kettle, Esq., of this city.

FUNERAL.—The Friends of Mr. John Kettle are respectfully requested to attend the funeral of the late Mrs. Ann Kettle, which will take place on Saturday morning, at nine o'clock. The procession will move from the residence of Mr. John Kettle, Druitt-street. No circulars will be issued. Family Notices (1851, October 10). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12931136> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12931136>)

He remarried the same year, in 1851, his second wife being Anne K Blake. This item from the time of Mary's mother's illness and death reeks of Victorian era horrendousness for women, when rape wasn't really rape and 'hysteria' was a catchall misdiagnosis for symptoms now understood as "epilepsy, diabetic shock, neural disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, postpartum depression, and bipolar disorders".

Interestingly this court experience, deemed 'unfit for publication', occurs less than a year before her marriage to Robert Brock:

John Icke Kettle was indicted for an assault upon Dr. Henry W. M'Vitie. Upon the application of Mr. Nichols, supported by an affidavit of the defendant, the case was postponed until the first day of the next sessions, and the defendant in the meantime was admitted to bail. SYDNEY ADJOURNED QUARTER SESSIONS. MONDAY, JUNE 14. (1852, June 19). *The People's Advocate and New South Wales Vindicator* (Sydney, NSW : 1848-1856), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article251534346> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article251534346>)

SUPREME COURT.-THURSDAY, JULY 1.

(Before Mr. Justice Dickinson, and a jury of twelve.)

KETTLE V. M'VITIE.

This was an action by John Icke Kettle against Henry Wallace M'Vitie, M. D., for the seduction by the latter of plaintiff's daughter Mary Anne. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Damages were laid at £2000.

Counsel for the plaintiff, Messrs. Foster, Broadhurst, and Darvall ; attorneys, Messrs. Thurlow and Grant. Counsel for defendant, the Attorney General and Mr. Fisher; attorneys, Messrs. Johnson, Billyard, and Johnson.

The case rested principally upon the evidence of the girl herself, and most of the details were totally unfit for publication. The facts replied upon and sworn to were briefly these. The late Dr. Wallace was the medical attendant of Mr. Kettle's family; but, upon Mrs. Kettle falling ill in May, 1850, that gentleman being himself ill, the defendant, who was his nephew, came there in his stead. Hence he became acquainted with Miss Kettle, and, from the first of their acquaintance, he paid attentions to her, (which she described), coupling these attentions with a promise of marriage, when his circumstances, then not so flourishing as he could wish, would permit of it.

Aided by these promises he seduced her in June, and an improper intercourse was secretly kept up until the beginning of the present year. The consequence of this was to affect the girl's health in a manner too disgusting to particularise further. For this illness, he (Dr. M'Vitie), privately prescribed, but although at times better, Miss Kettle never became well. At the beginning of the present year, her illness having excited attention, she was prevailed upon to see Dr. Nathan. By this means the nature of the complaint under which she labored became known, and on some questioning from her step-mother, the illicit intercourse which had taken place between her and defendant was ascertained. Miss Kettle stated her present age to be twenty, and defendant, judging from his appearance, was not many years her senior.

The defence was not a denial, but a palliation, or attempted palliation of the seduction. It had appeared from the evidence of the girl that there had been a party at the house on the evening previous to the commencement of the illicit intercourse, during which she had danced principally with Dr. M'Vitie, and the latter had remained for breakfast ; the party having lusted so long that neither he nor Miss Kettle had retired to rest. It was contended that under these circumstances there was no breach of medical confidence, as had been alleged on the other side, but merely a temptation which the defendant had been unable to resist.

It was further urged that, looking at all the circumstances of the case, and at the feelings of the plaintiff, as far as they were able to judge of them, damages of a mere nominal amount would be quite sufficient to compensate for the injuries sustained. The Attorney-General made a long and able speech, but no witnesses were called for the defence.

His Honor briefly summed up, telling the jury that in considering the question of damages, they were not entitled to impose such an amount as they might deem necessary to punish the defendant, but merely so much as would fairly recompense the plaintiff for the injury he had sustained.

The jury, after having retired for about five minutes, returned a verdict for plaintiff, damages £250.

LAW INTELLIGENCE. (1852, July 2). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12938057> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12938057>)

MARRIED.

By special license, on the 21st instant, at St. James's Church, by the Rev. Oswald J. Howell, **Mr. Robert Brock, of Manchester, to Miss Mary Ann Kettle, youngest daughter of J. I. Kettle, Esq., of Sydney.** Family Notices (1853, May 24). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12946065> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12946065>)

John Icke Kettle goes on to serve the community for years in the Central Police Court and later at Newtown court as a JP and then a Magistrate. He was also a substantial land owner in Newtown. Kettle street and Lane in Newtown is named after him, while Georgina is named for his daughter. He also earned a fortune importing and selling goods.

Marian Watson, schooner, 126 tons, Adams, at Cunningham's Wharf ; **J. Kettle, owner.** Refitting. SHIPS IN HARBOUR. (1851, May 3). *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List* (NSW : 1844 - 1860), p. 129. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article161036227> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article161036227>)

NEWTOWN.

The fortnightly meeting of this council was held on July 31, when there were present ...

From the manager for Kettle's Estate, dedicating all streets and lanes thereon to the council for the public use. It was decided to accept dedication of all streets and lanes thereon that were in conformity with the Width of Streets and Lanes Act. ...NEWTOWN. (1888, August 3). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13692681> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13692681>)

Hollis Park in Newtown is bounded by Warrenball Avenue, Wilson Street, Fitzroy Street and Georgina Street, Newtown. This area was part of William Bligh's grant of 1806. Bligh's descendants sold that part of the estate between King and Wilson Streets in 1834 and it was later sold to John Icke Kettle in 1846. Part of this land was subdivided by Kettle in 1851 for housing and after his death in 1881 the land was further subdivided.

His elder brother Henry was the father of John Louis Kettle (3 December 1830 – 30 October 1891) an Australian cricketer, who played three first-class matches for New South Wales between 1859/60 and 1861/62.

CENTRAL POLICE COURT.

Friday.

Before Mr. Forbes, Captain M'Lean, Mr. Shoobert, Mr. Burnell, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Thornton, and Mr. John Icke Kettle. ... CENTRAL POLICE COURT. (1858, February 27). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 5. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13006808> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13006808>)

NEWTOWN POLICE COURT.

Mr. John Kettle and Mr. J. Alexander **presided at the Court yesterday.** NEWTOWN POLICE COURT. (1880, May 28). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13460878> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13460878>)

These Notices appear for decades after his passing, and even after Mary Ann passes, with Georgina the devotee. Even relatives, his brother's children, refer to him much later on when publishing their own Notices:

KETTLE.—In affectionate remembrance of Jonn Icke Kettle, **who died at his residence, Camperdown Grove, Newtown, on the 4th September, 1881, aged 73 years.** The dearly beloved father of Georgina Thurchly, Mary Ann Brock, and Napoleon John Kettle. Family Notices (1882, September 4). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28376578> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28376578>)

KETTLE.—In loving and affectionate remembrance of John Icke Kettle, who died 4th September, 1881, the dearly-beloved father of Mrs. Georgina Thurchly and **Mrs. Robert Brock, of Kettle-avenue, Newtown.** Family Notices (1894, September 4). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13966796> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13966796>)

Georgina is still placing this In Memoriam notices in 1903 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14547894>). Georgina passes way in 1908:

THRUCHLY.—May 29, 1908, at her son's (William) residence, Selvetta, 56 Watkin-street, Newtown, Georgina Thurchly, in her 79th year, eldest daughter of the late John Icke Kettle, Newtown. Family Notices (1908, May 30). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14926178> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14926178>)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

SELFF — KETTLE.—Thursday, February 9, 1854, Christ Church, George-street, Sydney, by the Rev. Thos. Winter, Patience Elizabeth Ann, **eldest daughter of the late Henry Kettle, master builder, Warick Park, Liverpool-road, Sydney, niece of John Icke Kettle, Newtown**, Sydney, to William Selff, of Windsor, New South Wales. Present address, Mudgee. Family Notices (1914, February 9). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 8. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15473508> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15473508>)

John Kettle's daughters inherited his estate;

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.
ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

In the will of John Icke Kettle, late of Newtown, near Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, gentleman, deceased. NOTICE is hereby given, that after the expiration of fourteen days from the publication hereof, application will be Made to this Honorable Court, in its Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction!, that probate of the last will and testament of the abovenamed John Icke Kettle, deceased, may be granted to Georgina Thurchly of Sydney, in the said Colony, widow of the late Thomas Thurchly, deceased, and Mary Ann Brock, wife of Robert Brock, of Sydney aforesaid, gentleman, the executrices in and by the said will named and appointed.—Dated this 6th day of September, a.d. 1881.

JOHN DAWSON & SON,
Proctors for the said Executrices,
92, Pitt-street, Sydney.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION. (1881, September 9). *New South Wales Government Gazette* (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900), p. 4651. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221619147> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221619147>)

All four children of George and Charlotte were born at Newtown, at Victoria Lodge, then 'Brockleigh'. While at Newtown George S. Brock was pretty active in the community:

Lively domination Proceedings.

The nominations for the vacant seats in the O'Connell Ward, Newtown, took place on Tuesday. The Mayor (Alderman Dolman) presided as returning-officer. **Messrs. G.S. Brock**, J. Salmon, and Ivan Henry were **nominated**, the latter for both seats, Mr. Brock for that vacated by Mr. Bellemy, and Mr. Salmon for that formerly occupied by Mr. Lane. All the candidates addressed the electors present, there being a large attendance.

Mr. Hastings inquired of Mr. Brock if it was a fact that he had a cesspit or earth pan **upon his properties** that the properties were connected with the Newtown drains, and that he had given the Newtown Council a guarantee bond to protect them in the matter? Mr. Brock replied that he had made his arrangements, and he would be willing to drink the sewerage water after it had gone through his process ; and as to foetal matter, there would not come out of it as much as could be laid on a shilling, and the Water and Sewerage Board approved his system. In reply to a further question, from Mr. Hastings, the candidate remarked that if his questioner did not like his arrangements he could do as he well liked; " the 60 per shent bum-bailiff combination would not pay a very heavy dividend in this investment."

Mr. Salmon, in his address, advocated a number of reforms, such as street sweeping machines, dust bins, the electric light, improved municipal buildings, &c. Mr. Ivan Henry also agreed with the electric lighting, but maintained that street sweeping should be dene at night. Dust bins would poison all the neighbors. Urinals were also required in public places, and a number of other improvements could be effected. With reference to the 60 per shent combination, that had doubtless been applied to him, he being a Jew; he, however, was also aware that Mr. Brock would be glad to get more Jews as tenants into his property. After a good deal more cross-firing, the proceedings terminated. The poll is fixed, for Saturday next.

Lively Nomination Proceedings. (1890, November 20). *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article113746119> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article113746119>)

G S Brock secured a seat but resigned from this soon after:
NEWTOWN.

The fortnightly meeting of this council was held on...

Aldermen Eggleton and Brock tendered their resignations of their seat as aldermen, which were accepted with regret. - *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), **Wednesday 4 February 1891**, page 4

Of his innovations while serving as an alderman of Newtown council:

A CLEANSING THE STREETS.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE " AUSTRALIAN STAR.")

Sir,— Re the paragraph in a recent issue "headed "An Excellent Example," twelve months back, **while a member of the Newtown Council, I had all the water-carts charged with disinfectant**, which proved during its application to the streets a great advantage ; but, **like all new ideas and improvements, I had to bear the expense of the experiment**. I, however, showed the great advantage to be gained by such application.

Since I left the council the matter has dropped. — Yours, &c. **G. S. BROCK.**

CLEANSING THE STREETS. (1892, November 9). *The Australian Star* (Sydney, NSW : 1887 - 1909), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227285053> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227285053>)

He continued contributing to the community of Newtown:

Charity Carnival.

A grand carnival in aid of the distressed poor of the district was opened last evening (Friday) in the L' Avenue Park, Newtown. There was a good attendance. The grounds were illuminated by hundreds of Chinese lanterns, &c, and decorated profusely with bunting, the effect being most picturesque. The entertainments provided were varied in character. There was a concert in

which the Misses Tracey, C. and M. Llewelyn, and Miss Wintle took part, followed by tableaux under the direction of Mrs. Newton and Miss Flatau, **and comic varieties by Mr. G. S. Brock.**

On the lawn a maypole and minuet dance was very prettily executed by children in costume, under the direction of Mrs. Newton and Misses Flatau and A. Hardy. Naval displays were given by officers and men from H.M.S. Rapid, and a crystal fountain with limelight effects was arranged by Alderman C. J. Lane. The Newtown Brass Band, under Bandmaster T. Mellor, played at intervals during the evening. Amongst the other items were an entertainment by the Electric Minstrel Troupe, punch and judy show, refreshment stalls, Edison phonograph, &c. **It should be mentioned that the promoters of the carnival are the ladies connected with the various local churches, headed by the Mayoress (Mrs. Rigg) and among those who are taking a prominent part are Mesdames J. J. Eyes, Harvey, Briton, Weeks White, Collier, Russell-Jones, Watt, Bardsley, C. W. Wiseman, Brock, Guy, Thruelly, Newton, Campbell, Meek, &c, Misses Thorburn, Briton, Bruce, Angus, Lander, Davies, Morgan, Cowley, Dolman, and Monie, the executive being the Mayor (Alderman W. Rigg), Alderman Lane, and Mr. G. S. Brock,** and the Misses Bruce and Thorburn, the Mayoress being hon. secretary, and the Mayor treasurer. The carnival re-opens to-day at 2.30 and 7 p.m., and is well worth a visit. Charity Carnival. (1894, January 13). *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article114070034> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article114070034>)

He was a lover of horses, a good and even great polo player by some accounts and is later stated to be one of two founding members of the Sydney Polo Club - although this may have been mixed up with his forming the Bowenfels Polo Club at Lithgow in 1913. He certainly installed a polo ground at The Oaks, Mona Vale and when it all went bust was selling off some very expensive horses, as well as cows, to meet costs. George Brock also liked shooting birds, and had and bred the 'sporting dogs' that accompanied this 'sport's' practice:

Pinkeye in Horses.

Mr. G. S. Brock writes to the 'Evening News' as follows : — " Dr. Gwynne-Hughe's statement that the disease is rheumatic influenza, combined with the other symptoms described by others, .has convinced me that one of my horses had the disease last week for several days. And I shall be glad if you will insert the remedy I applied, as it proved successful. Eirst I noticed that the horse was off his feed, and came in after his work- in a lather of sweat, the eyes having a red cast, tip of nostrils scaled, discharging matter accompanied with cough. Remedy I applied successfully : Knocked off hard feed ; gave hot bran mash with linseed, then gave drench of strong tincture of camphor; put all the rugs I could on him ; fixed nose bag filled with fresh green lucerne hay, steamed and well diluted with eucalyptus oil. When I took the nosebag off the discharge from nostrils would have filled a large cup. I arranged extra ventilation to the stables and thoroughly disinfected them, disinfectant passing through a special apparatus I have which gives 300gals. of disinfecting fluid at a cost to me of less than 2s 6d for chemicals. The horse the next day was free — the following I had him at work. *Macleay Argus* (Kempsey, NSW : 1885 - 1907; 1909 - 1910; 1912 - 1913; 1915 - 1916; 1918 - 1954), **Friday 30 January 1891**, page 6

PIGEON SHOOTING.

NEW. SOUTH WALES GUN CLUB

Considering the inclement and unpropitious state of the weather for the past fortnight, the New South Wales Gun Club may consider themselves fortunate in having last Friday fine. It was, to use a synonymous term, gloriously grand, and for pleasant outdoor enjoyment no better could be wished for. It was such another day one generally gets in the beautiful spring season of the old country, and several members took advantage of the opportunity afforded to them, and visited the ground for the purpose of taking part in the competition for the trophy presented by one of the most energetic members of the club, Mr. John Hamilton.

The following are the scores : — Mr. J. Q. de Lauret, Mla ... 1111101111111101 (Winner)

Mr. G. Brock, 23yds 11101111110 - *Referee* (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939), **Wednesday 17 June 1891**, page 3

The Kennel.

Mr. T. F. Thompson presided over a meeting of the newly-formed Kennel Club at the Imperial Arcade Hotel last week. There were 30 members present, and the following office-bearers were elected : Patron, Sir E. W. Duff ; president, Mr. T. F. Thompson ; vice-presidents, Messrs. E. B. Baynes, E. H. Judd, J. Hamilton, and H. Moses; hon. secretary, H. A Richardson ; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. C. Marshall ; hon. auditors, Messrs. W. M. Walker and A. T. Noyes. **Committee** : Mr. W. Hamilton, fox terriers; **Messrs. G. S. Brock and Dr. Gorrick, sporting dogs** ; Messrs. J. E. Dynon and P. E. Russell, Irish, Scotch, Skyea, Dandy Dimmont, Dachshunds, black and tan and broken hair terriers ; L. L. Ramsay, bloodhounds, mastiffs, St. Bernards, boarhounds, Newfoundlands : J. Pomell, collies ; W. Miller, bulldogs and bull terriers; T. K. Steanes, Italians, Pomorians, Yorkshires, and all toys; hon. veterinarian, Mr. F. W. Darling. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. H. St. John Bell for his action in bringing the meeting to a successful issue. It was decided to write to Sir R. W. Duff requesting him to accept the office of patron. The Kennel. (1893, November 25). *Australian Town and Country Journal*(Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 39. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71192072> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71192072>)

The Poultry and Dog Show SOME OF THE PRIZE DOGS.

(See illustrations on page 25.)

The dog classes at the recent poultry and dog show held in Sydney comprised some of the best seen on Sydney benches. We give this week illustrations of some of the prizewinners. ...

We give three illustrations of setters exhibited by Mr. S. A. Fullford. With Romeo he tied for the first prize for dogs, and secured the first prize for puppies. **Romeo is aged 11 months, and is by Rippleshot out of Nettle, and was bred by Mr. G. S. Brock. Juliet, 11 months, by Rippleshot out of Nettle,** took second prize among the English bitches.



Mr. S A. Fullford's English Setter Dog, Romeo. Tied for First Prize, and Got First Prize for Puppies. The Poultry and Dog Show (1894, August 11). *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 16. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71262778> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71262778>)

POLO.

An effort is being made to introduce into Sydney the popular Indian game of polo. The Sydney Polo Club has already been formed, the office-bearers of which are : Patron, Lord Jersey; committee, Captain H. Cholmondeley, A.D.C., Major Churchward, R.A., Messrs. H. J. Wynne, C. Fairfax, E. Terry, Major Airey, D.S.O., and Mr. S. R. Stephen : hon. treasurer, the Earl of Ancrum, A.D.C. ; and hon. secretary, Captain M. McNeill, 4th Hussars. Rules have been adopted, and the members of the club are at present in active practice. POLO. (1891, August 1). *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article235862536> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article235862536>)

SYDNEY POLO CLUB'S SPORTS.

Patrons his Excellency Sir Hobart Duff Sir Frederick Darley, his Excellency Admiral Bowden-Smith, Hon G Bold, Sir William Patrick Manning, and Major-General Hutton C B president Mr Sydney Burdekin vice-president, Hon S A Stephen, M L C , stewards, Messrs A B Paterson, Colin C Stephen, Captain G Feilding, and T Watson judge and clerk of scales Mr Charles Perry starter, Mr W Welman clerk of course Mr J T Luckey, hon secretary, Captain Alexander J Dodds
The Sydney Polo Club held a sports meeting at Kensington Racecourse on Saturday and it proved to be a great success ... In the **Costume Race** the riders had to dismount, put on costumes, remount, and gallop over a marked course. In this event Mr. **G. Brock, on Dick, had an easy win.** ...

POLO CUP, under 14 1, weight ... **Mr. G. S. Brock's ...Nell**, 11st 10 lb.

CIGAR AND UMBRELLA RACE, for trophy. Umbrella to be opened, and cigar to be lighted with an ordinary wax match before mounting ; umbrella to be open all through race, and cigar to be kept alight Course : Btsrt opponte grand Btand, round flag (No. 1) 75 yards away and back past stand, round flag 150 yards away from flag No land back to winning post opposite grand stand ; turns to be made round flags from right to left; first and second pony in each heat to compete in final, distance, 300 yards. -First heat : Mr. A. B. Paterson's Blue Bonnet, 1, Other starters ; Captain Dodds's blk g Black-and-Tan. Mr. T. Watson's br g Hogan. Paterson took the lead when the flag fell, and led round the first flag and back. Watson negotiated the second flag quickest, however, and came in ahead of Paterson, but was disqualified for not keeping his umbrella open. Second heat: Mr. A. B. Paterson's w g Snowy River, 1 ; Mr. A. J. Dodd's g g Firefly, 2. Other starters : **Mr G. S Brock's rg Dick** ...

SYDNEY POLO CLUB'S SPORTS. (1894, October 29). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13974263> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13974263>)

Our Melbourne correspondent wired last night a Theodore and Malvolie were backed today, at the Caulfield races, for all the money available for the two cups. Carnage for the Melbourne Cap, Capstan for the Caulfield Cap, Dreamland for the V.H.C. Derby, **Brockleigh for the Epsom**, and Paris for the Metrop. are favorites. SPORTING SPECKS. (1894, August 19). *Truth* (Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167953834> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167953834>)

Polo.

The polo players drew a large number of spectators to the Centennial Park on the 23rd ultimo, when the return match between the married and single members took place. Amongst those present were spectators on foot, on horse, in carriages, and on wheels, with a good proportion of the fair sex. The onlookers took a keen interest in the game, and many to whom polo was quite new greatly appreciated the many obvious evidences of first-class play and horsemanship. Of view, the ground is not as suitable as it might be for high-class polo, the surface consisting mainly of loose sand with grass struggling over. In some spots

an attempt has been made at topdressing, but not having yet had sufficient time to bind, a blinding dust arose whenever the horses got into close quarters, and for the moment hid the ball from Bight. Notwithstanding this drawback, the game was keenly contested. Try as they might, the married section could not reverse the decision of the previous match, and had to submit to defeat by three goals to two. The teams consisted of— Married : Messrs. C. B. and G. E. Fairfax, T. Watson, **and G. S. Brock**. Single : Messrs. C. Stephen, Horsfall, H. Hill, **and Major Dodds**. The features of the first quarter were an attack by the married members on the single men's goal (mainly through the efforts of Mr. C. B. Fairfax and Mr. T. Watson,) a fine though temporary relief by Mr. Hill, and a return by Mr. C. B. Fairfax, **and a close shave for goal by Mr. Brock**. Mr. Hill then attacked the single quarters, and after give and take play on both sides, the end of the quarter arrived without any score having been recorded. The opening of the second quarter was characterised by even play, till at length Mr. Watson, in relieving his goal, put in a splendid drive, and being well followed up by Messrs. G. E. and C. B. Fairfax, the latter safely negotiated the goal. This caused Mr. Hill to assert himself, and, taking the ball from one end to the other, put it through the posts and equalised the score. The third quarter opened somewhat on the same lines as that immediately preceding. Mr. Horsfall. and Major Dodds, with valuable assistance from Mr. Hill, made an onslaught on the ' Married ' section's goal with such.... became— Single, 2 goals; Married, 1 goal. Immediately on reopening for the concluding quarter Mr. C. B. Fairfax made the game two all, but this met with a response from the single that finally wound up with an advantage in their favour of three goals to two, the final score being made by Major Dodds.

At Brisbane two polo matches were played on Saturday between two teams from Toowoomba and Brisbane. There was a large attendance, including the Governor. The game was very evenly contested, and at the call of time both games resulted in a draw,— the whole four teams scoring 2 goals apiece. In the play-off, however, both the Toowoomba teams secured a goal each and won. Polo. **(1896, October 3)**. *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW : 1871 - 1912), p. 698. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163786303> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163786303>)

George Brock was also a lover of sailing - he had a few yachts, the 'Viva Brandon (yawl)' and later the 'Dolphin'. He was a member of the RPYC when it was still the PAYC and participated in races on the harbour and also supported smaller boats with:

RATING RACE FOR BROCK TROPHY.

A race for 2-raters and under was sailed on Saturday afternoon under the Y. R A rules, over a course from Orlando's buoy round Watson's Bay pilot light, Shark Island, Orlando buoy, Shark Island, and back to Orlando buoy the **prizes were first, £10 (presented by Mr G S Brock)** second, £5 , and third, £2 The entries and handicaps were -Viva Brandon, 1 9 rating, scratch , Louello, 1 7, ...**RATING RACE FOR BROCK TROPHY. (1895, March 25)**. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14002232> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14002232>)

Small Raters.

A meeting of owners of small-rating yachts was held at Aarons's Exchange Hotel last night, Mr. G. S. Brock in the chair. Mr. Fairfax reported that the delegates appointed to wait on the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club had met with a cordial reception, and that the committee had decided to put on five races for the small raters for prizes of £3 and £ 1. The meeting adopted the report, and decided to support the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club. On the motion, of Mr. Hunt, seconded by Mr. Fairfax, it was agreed— 'That the existing Y.R.A. rating rule be adopted, but that in class races boats which would be eligible under the old rule shall be allowed to compete, and shall give the Y.R.A. time allowance, but shall in all other respects sail under the same conditions as other competitors.' The secretary, Mr. Thompson, was instructed to write to the secretary of the Balmain Regatta committee pointing out that there were many small-rating boats in the harbor, and. that a race for that class would fill well. Small Raters. **(1895, September 17)**. *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article109877432> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article109877432>)

The innovative ideas he applied at Mona Vale were preceded by:

A Yacht Buoy.

Mr. G. S. Brock, of Newtown, has invented a buoy for yachts, which he claims yachtners will find to be a great improvement over the old style of mooring, as no rope is required to haul the cable to the surface. The buoy is never lifted out of the water, as the composition of which the buoy is made is very light and is non fouling. No marine growths will touch it, nor will it lose its color in sea water. In appearance it is like enamelled ware, and can be made any color desirable. The inventor claims that this composition is better than copper for ship bottoms, being smoother and lighter. In figure 1 of our illustrations the yacht is shown with the buoy attached. Figure 2 shows the position of the buoy when not in use. Figure 3 shows a section of the buoy, showing the tube through which the cable passes.

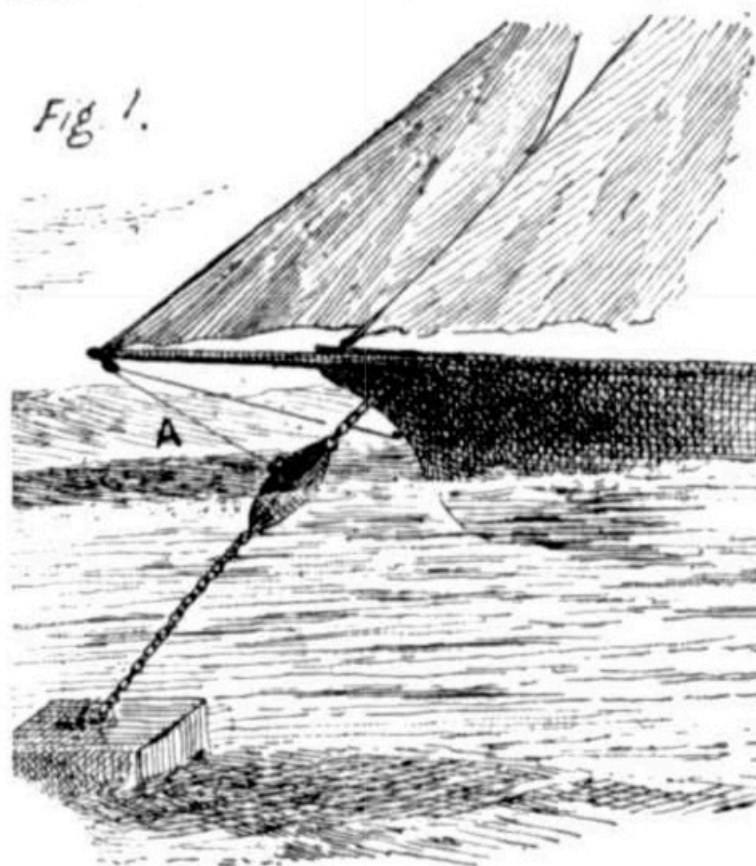


FIGURE 1.

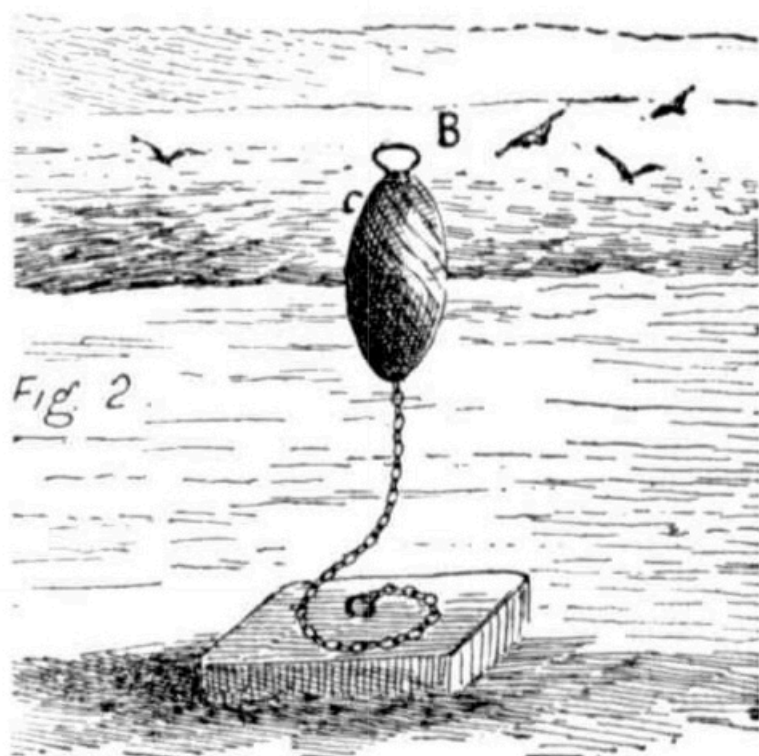
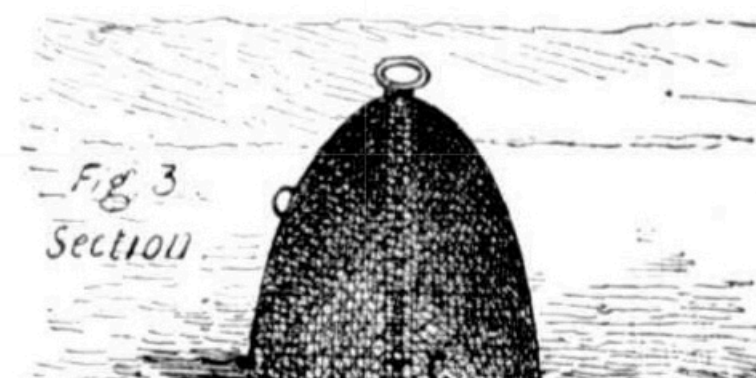
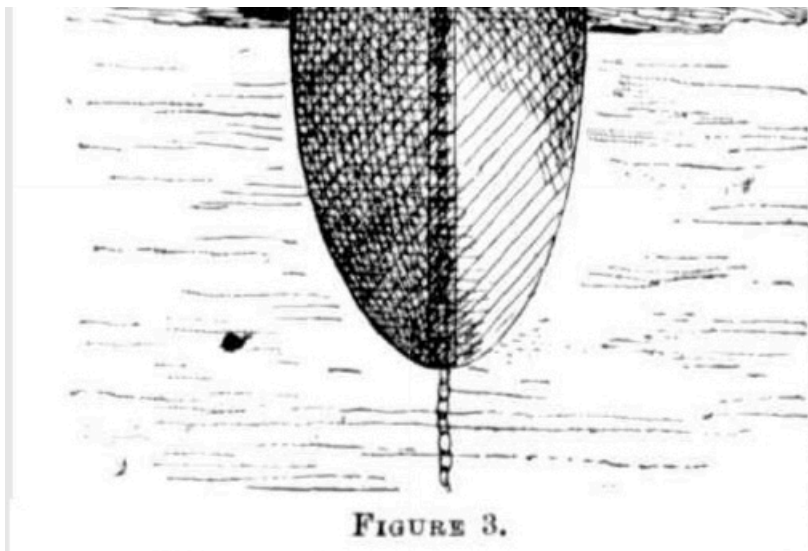


FIGURE 2





A Yacht Buoy. (1893, July 15). *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 29. Retrieved July 20, 2019, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71186743> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71186743>)

Aquatics.

Prince Alfred Yacht Club.

A special meeting of the Prince Alfred Yacht Club was held on Thursday evening at the club rooms, Hotel Australia, at which Mr. S. Hordern, commodore, presided. Messrs. H. Hitchens, **G. Brock**, and Dr. A. M. Johnson were **elected members**, and Dr. E. E. Magons and Messrs. A. Josephson and J. H. Merriman were nominated for membership.

The meeting was called more particularly to consider the advisableness or otherwise of altering rule No. 5 of the racing rules, which ran : ' Every yacht sailing' in a race shall be steered by a member of the club and manned by bona fide amateurs, except only the man or men permanently in charge of the yacht ; such man or men to take no part in the steering.' The suggested alteration was ' that every yacht sailing in a race shall be steered by a member of the club,' thus discarding that portion of the rule applying to crews. The rule as altered was carried, and in future yachts of this club may be manned by any crews, but an amateur and member must take the tiller. Aquatics. (1893, November 17). *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article112936208> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article112936208>)

AQUATICS.

Prince Alfred Yacht Club.

A meeting of the Prince Alfred Yacht Club was held last evening at the clubrooms, Hotel Australia. The commodore. Mr, S. Hordern, presided, and the following members were present, viz. :-Mr. A. A. Griffiths (vice-commodore), Mr. P. H. Sullivan (rear commodore), Dr. Milford, Messrs. J. F. King, W. M. Calvert, W. H. Murrell, J. H. Harris. W. Sheen, C. S. Jewett, A. C. Jewett, W. Evans, **G. S. Brock**, J. J. Rouse, W. H. Ballard, D. J. Hines, H. L. Thompson, T. Gibson, W. H. Simpson, T. O. Bennett, G. Beaumont, P S. Adams, and J. A. Ross (hon. secretary).

On the minutes of the special general meeting being submitted, the tenor of these being the change of name from P A.Y.C. to Now South Wales Yacht Club, Dr. Milford moved that his special minute be expunged from the records of the club. Messrs. F. O. Bennett and J. H. Harris both supported the mover, and when the motion was put it was found that 10 were for the retention of the old name and 11 for the new, which, considering the number of members in the club-about 75-is really a very small majority. When the voting was made known by the chairman Dr. Milford gave notice of the following motion -" that a special meeting be called for the purpose of further considering the proposal, all members to be specially notified " This was seconded and a meeting will be held about a month hence. The following gentlemen were then admitted to the club, viz -Messrs. A. Markeell, A. Thornley, W. E. Fisher, and J. Macintosh. Messrs. W. B Dyson and G. Bull were also nominated for membership. Various accounts, &c , were passed, and the meeting shortly afterwards adjourned. AQUATICS. (1894, May 11). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13950841> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13950841>)



George's 'Dolphin' on Pittwater, circa 1906 - photo courtesy Dodds family

"AT HOME" AT RETFORD HALL.

An "At Home" was given at Retford Hall on Saturday afternoon by Commodore S. and Mrs. Hordern to the members of the Prince Alfred Yacht Club. There were about 150 guests present, about half of the number being ladies, and the pretty light summer dresses of the latter contrasting with the club uniform had a particularly attractive effect as the party singled out in groups on the lawn. The weather was delightfully fine, and the cool sea breeze, with the magnificent view of the harbor, the yacht sailing and the fleets of merchant entering and leaving port, all went to make a scene of the most exhilarating character.

Music was not wanting, as there were two bands, the Sydney Cornet Band, under Bandmaster Booth, and the Truda Bros. string band, the two classes of instrumentalists agreeably alternating in the afternoon's programme. Various games were started on the lawn, such as deck quoits, ladies' cricket, &c.

The flagstaff on the lawn was decorated with bunting, and the fleet of yachts moored off Retford Hall also were dressed out for the occasion.

The yachts and their owners were : — Bronzewing, Commodore S. Hordern ; Violet, Mr. F. J. Jackson; Lahloo, Mr. Murrell; Jenny Wren; Assegai, Rear-commodore P. H. Sullivan ; Isis, Mr. J. R. Fairfax ; Mabel, Mr. C. S. Jewett ; **and Viva Brandon, Mr. Brock.** Refreshments of all kinds were served in the banquet room, and altogether a most enjoyable afternoon was spent, the proceedings terminating at 6 o'clock, when the guests warmly thanked their host for his hospitable invitation.

Among those present were: Sir George Dibbs (Premier), and Lady Dibbs, Hon. T. M. Slattery (Minister for Mines and Agriculture and Justice) and Mrs. Slattery, Hon. F. B. Suttor (Minister for Education), Sir W. P. Manning, M.L.A., Mayor of Sydney, Hon. John Kidd (Postmaster-General), Mr. J. P. Garvau, M.L.A., Hon. W. J. Lyne (Minister for Works) and Mrs. Lyne, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Griffiths, Dr. and Mrs. Burnc, 51 r. P. H. Sullivan, Mrs. and Misses Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. John Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bennett, Mr. J. R. Fairfax, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hordern, Miss E. Stuart, Mrs. J. G. Smith, Mr. J. H. Merriman, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Garland, Miss Halloran, Messrs. W. S. and H. Eaton, Mr. Parker (London), Mr. W. H. Murrell, Mr. Beaumont, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Adams and Miss. Adams, Mr. A. Wilson, Mr. G. Trouton, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sharpe, Mr. A. Josephson, Mr. and Mrs. Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Rouse, Miss Portia Booth, Mr. W. Bennett (London), Mr. Parker, Dr. and Mrs. Alton (H. M.S. Rapid), Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Richards, Miss Airey, Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, Mr. Kellerman, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Jackson, **Mr. and Mrs. George Brock**, Mr. Walter Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and Miss Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Jewett, Mr. A. C. Jewett, Misses Millar, Mrs. F. Booth, Mrs. J. Booth, jun., Dr. Knaggs, Mr. W. J. Hynes. "AT HOME" AT RETFORD HALL. (1894, **January 22**). *The Australian Star* (Sydney, NSW : 1887 - 1909), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227231428> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227231428>)



Volume 05: 'Snapshots' album of **Retford Hall**, Yarranabbe Rd & Thonton St, **Darling Point**, Image No.: a855009h, courtesy the State Library of New South Wales.

Designed by Edmund Blacket in 1865 for leading merchant Anthony Hordern, 'Retford Hall' was one of the most imposing of Darling Point's mansions. It was later demolished in 1967



Samuel Horden in Retford Hall room - Volume 05: 'Snapshots' album of Retford Hall, Yarranabbe Rd & Thonton St, Darling Point, Image No.: a855005h, courtesy the State Library of New South Wales.



George's father, Robert Brock appears to be sending gold to Great Britain in November 1853 (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28644945>), although there is another Robert Brock, at Broulee, and another at Tamworth during the same era. Roberts parents were William and Susanna Brock. While his son George is still resident at Newtown, twins Victor and Viva being born at 'Rockleigh' in 1891, Robert passes away at his property at Mona Vale:

BROCK.-November 10th, at his late residence, The Oaks, Mona Vale, Pittwater, Robert Brock, aged 82 years.

BROCK.— The Friends of the late Mr. ROBERT BROCK, are kindly Invited to attend; his Funeral to move from his late residence, "The Oaks," Mona Vale, Pittwater, TOMORROW (Sunday),- at 12 o'clock, noon, for the Manly Cemetery. Special carriages will be waiting at the Manly - wharf at quarter to 11 (eleven) to convey friends to Pittwater.

T.WAUGH and COMPANY, Undertakers and Embalmers,.Corso. Manly. Telephone, 42.

Family Notices (**1899, November 18**). *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 20. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71336496> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71336496>)

Less than a year later his mother passed away and was interred at Manly too:

Deaths. BROCK.— August 18, at Mona Vale, Pittwater, Mary Anne, relict of the late Robert Brock, aged 69 years. Family Notices (**1900, August 20**). *The Australian Star* (Sydney, NSW : 1887 - 1909), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article230638859>

BROCK. — August 18, at her residence, **The Oaks**, Mona Vale, Mary Anne Brock. Family Notices (**1900, September 1**). *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW : 1871 - 1912), p. 543. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163693941> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163693941>)

BROCK.—The Friends of the late Mrs. BROCK Sen., are kindly invited to attend her Funeral to move from her late residence Mona Vale Pittwater THIS AFTERNOON Monday at half past 1 and to arrive at the Manly Cemetery at 4 o'clock. A special boat will be at the Manly Wharf at 10 45 to convey Friends to Pitt Water. T.WAUGH and COMPANY, Undertakers and Embalmers,.Corso. Manly. Telephone, 42. Family Notices (**1900, August 20**). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14331551> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14331551>)

BROCK.—August 18, 1900, at her residence, The Oaks, Mona Vale, **Mary Anne, the dearly beloved and only sister of Mrs. Georgina Thurchly, of Kettle-avenue, Newtown.** Family Notices (**1900, August 21**). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14331752> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14331752>)

While dealing with the loss of his parents within so short a time George Brock was also working at getting that tram out to Pittwater to secure the success of his venture:

PROPOSED MANLY TO PITTWATER TRAM. MINISTERIAL VISIT.

For two years past the project of a tramway from Manly to Pittwater has been mooted, its prospects and possibilities have been represented to both Mr. Reid and Mr. Lyne's Governments, surveys have been made, reports and estimates prepared, and statistics collected but hitherto in spite of the exertions of the member for Warringah, Mr. Dugald Thomson, M.L.A., no step towards the realisation had been taken.

The new Minister for Works (the Hon. E. W.O'Sullivan) having had the matter brought prominently under his notice, arranged to visit the route on Saturday, and accordingly in company with Mr. Dugald Thomson, arrived at Manly by special launch at 10 in the morning, and then took coach to the district, attended by many Manly residents and visitors. Among the coach party were the Mayor of Manly (Alderman W. H. Fletcher), the Mayor of Paddington (Alderman T. J. West), Messrs. E. and S. L. Ridge, H. T. Robey, D. Farrell, T.C. Haylock, A. Vialoux, and W. Bulfin.

The day was fine, and as he drove along the Minister's attention was drawn to various points and undertakings of interest. Just over the Manly lagoon bridge gangs of men were breaking local white metal for the repair of the road as far as Greendale, and it was shown that the same work was badly wanted right down to Narrabeen. The Salvation Army Home, its irrigation works, market gardens, and quarters excited comment, as did Mr. James's brick and pottery works, where it has been attempted to start an extensive local industry. Long Reef with its basin was inspected, where is the only boat refuge between Sydney and Broken Bay, but whose facilities are at present denied to the public because the Government has not proclaimed a road to it which was long since surveyed. At Narrabeen a halt was made, and Mr. D. McLean joined the party, the drive being shortly resumed over Narrabeen bridge, past Rock Lily, and on to Church Point, at Bayview. There a large gathering had assembled, prominent among them being Messrs. G. S. Brock, J. J. Roche, S. Morrison, and Geddes.

The steamer Cora took the party on board, and a trip up to Kuring-gai Chase, round Scotland Island, and on to the basin, was thoroughly enjoyed, and when a landing was effected at Newport all were ready for host J. S. Gregg's excellent luncheon. At the hotel the party were met by Mr. J. Waterhouse, Mr. D. C. McLachlan, Mr. J. Symonds, Dr. Watson Harvey, Alderman F. C. Passau, and many others. Some 50 persons sat down, the chair being taken by Alderman W. H. Fletcher (Mayor of Manly), who proposed the health of "Her Majesty," after which Mr. T. J. West proposed "The Ministry" coupled with the name of the Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan.

Mr. O'Sullivan said that the action of his Government in sending troops to South Africa would have a prominent place in history. The unrest coincident with the last years of the centuries was abroad, perilous times were ahead, and the duty of every Britisher was to do what he or she could for the Empire. His colleagues had passed in four months, 54 measures, including the Early Closing Bill, the Amended Navigation Act, the re-valuation of selections, and trades union rates for skilled labour. His great aims were to mitigate the effects of droughts by water conservation, boring, and light railways to carry stock; to carry out the city railway, the North Sydney bridge, and to light up Sydney with electricity.

Mr. J. Waterhouse proposed "The Parliament," coupled with the name of Mr. Dugald Thomson, M.L.A., to which that gentleman responded. The Minister for Works proposed "Success to the District," and said it was strange that so few people in Sydney knew anything about the magnificent scenery with which Pittwater teemed. He had that day seen a great deal of picturesque beauty along the route, and it appeared to him that this was a part to which greater facility of access should be given for the sake of the people and the colony. He could not promise that money for the tramway should go on the Estimates or that the matter should be brought before the Public Works Committee just now; but he would promise to have a report made so complete and a survey as exhaustive as would enable him to submit the scheme to the Cabinet, and persuade them to send it on to the committee at as early a date as possible. He had already ordered the tram from Mosman to the Spit, which would greatly help Manly, and enable travellers in rough weather to avoid the boats, and he would honestly endeavour to forward the Pittwater project and while he was Minister would not lose sight of it.

Messrs. F. C. Passau, D. Farrell, J. Symonds, and D. C. McLachlan also spoke.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the toast of his health, proposed by Mr. H. T. Robey, said he hoped the Government would reduce the debt on the Manly waterworks system, whose cost had been magnified by the purchase of watershed lands at very high figures. He suggested that the people of Pittwater and district might combine to hold a weekly market in Manly, and if they thought the scheme worth a trial he had no doubt the council would allow a suitable site.

On the return to Manly the journey was broken first at **Mr. G. S. Brock's establishment at Mona Vale**, and again at the Rock Lily Hotel. Manly was reached at 7 p.m., and it is considered that a distinct forward movement was made by the day's proceedings. **PROPOSED MANLY TO PITTWATER TRAM. (1900, January 29).** *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14291370> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14291370>)

The Oaks Model Village - George Brock's Mona Vale Estate

George Brock's idea for the Oaks at Mona vale, as shown in his naming it a 'model village' was to provide something extraordinary, along the lines of Mark Foy's Medlow Baths in the Blue Mountains, only beside the sea. The main house itself had three levels and over 38 rooms, a dining hall, 28 bedrooms, a ballroom out in the grounds, as well as polo fields, a golf course.

His passion for polo even had some scribes, in writing it up, stating this was The Oaks Polo Grounds. He acquired sections 2 and 3 of the Mona Vale estate, from the verge of where the present day golf course is all the way up to and including the Bungan-Mona Vale headland verge.

The land on which The Oaks stood is Section 2 of the Mona Vale estate, offered in the second subdivision and may have been picked up relatively cheaply:

TO SPORTING, BOATING, AND CAMPING PARTIES.

CHOICE WATER FRONTAGES.

THURSDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 1889.

CLEARANCE SALE

of the whole of the

UNSOLD PORTIONS of that BEAUTIFUL MARINE ESTATE,

MONA VALE, PITTWATER.

AT THE ROOMS, 130, PITT-STREET.

MILLS, PILE, and WILSON have been instructed by the proprietors to sell by public auction, at their Rooms. 130, Pitt-street, on THURSDAY, the 19th December, at half-past 11 o'clock,

The whole of the unsold portions of the

FARFAMED MONA VALE ESTATE,

recently subdivided into blocks of 2 to 30 acres each

THIS BEAUTIFUL ESTATE bus a large frontage to the eastern shores of Pittwater, extending to the waters of the Pacific Ocean, and is Intersected by the main road to Barrenjoey.

The SOIL is of the richest description, suitable for

ORANGERIES and ORCHARDS,

and the hills surrounding the various bays are adapted for

MARINE VILLA RESIDENCES.

The coach to Manly runs daily, and makes this property easily accessible from the city.

The terms of sale will be very liberal.

For further particulars and Lithos. apply to

MILLS, PILE and WILSON, Auctioneers, 130. Pitt-street. Advertising **(1889, December 11).** *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 11. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13752858> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13752858>)

SECOND SUBDIVISION

MONA VALE

PITT WATER

MILLS & PILE

Auctioneers

130
PITT STREET



LOCAL SKETCH

SALE IN THE ROOMS

THURSDAY, 19TH DEC.



PACIFIC OCEAN

A.W. STEPHEN
Licensed Surveyor
under 'Real Property Act'
FITZ-EVAN CHAMBERS
50 Castlereagh Street

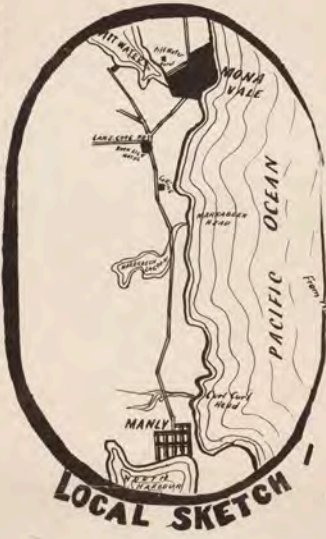
NB ALL LENGTHS IN LNKS. MOR L.

Second Subdivision - Mona Vale - Pittwater - Hill St, Waterview - Section 2 and Section 3, Thursday December 19th, 1889 Item No.: c046820031, from Mona Vale Subdivisions folder, courtesy State Library of NSW.

MONA VALE, PITTWATER SALE December 19, in the Rooms, 130 Pitt-street.

FREE COACH TICKETS from Manly, for Intending Buyers to inspect this Property, can be obtained at the Rooms. MILLS, PILE, and WILSON, Auctioneers. Advertising (1889, December 13). *The Australian Star* (Sydney, NSW : 1887 - 1909), p. 8 (FOURTH EDITION). Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227582280> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227582280>)

MONA VALE



PRICE.

Sec.	Lots	Per Acre
1	49, 50	1 0 0
2	50 to 57, 63 to 66	11 0 0
3	1 to 7	12 0 0
	9 to 17	12 0 0
	18 to 25	16 10 0
	26 to 29	13 0 0
	30 to 33	12 0 0
	34 to 38	15 10 0
4	7, 9, 10	20 0 0
	17, 23	20 0 0
5	6	23 0 0
	7	30 0 0
	8	30 0 0
	9 to 11	30 0 0
	12	30 0 0
	13 to 15	20 0 0
	16 to 19	12 0 0
	20 to 22	16 10 0
	23, 25, 26	22 0 0
	27, 30A, 30B	31 0 0
6	27	22 0 0
	1, 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D	15 10 0
	2, 2A	7 14 0
	3, 3A	15 10 0
	4 to 6	29 0 0
	7 to 9	16 10 0
	10, 15, 16, 16 to 30	11 0 0

TERMS:

10 per cent. Deposit, and the balance in equal amounts at 1, 2 and 3 years, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable quarterly.

All Measurements are in Links. Scale, 4 Chains to an Inch. SHADED LOTS ARE SOLD.

G. PILE & ALLUM,
AUCTIONEERS,
MOORE STREET, SYDNEY.



By 1897:

**Department of Lands,
Sydney, 13th November, 1897.
APPLICATIONS FOR LEASES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES.**

It is hereby notified, for general information, that the undermentioned applications have been received for Special Leases, under the provisions of the 89th and 90th sections of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, of the lands and for the purposes hereunder stated, and that it is the intention to grant leases, should no sufficient objection be found to exist, after inquiry by the Land Board and consideration by the Minister.

Any objections will receive due consideration if lodged in writing at the Office of the Chairman of the Board, within four weeks from the date of this notice, or before the Local Land Board shall have concluded its inquiry at the hearing of the respective applications for such Special Leases.

J. H. CARRUTHERS.

George Sydney Brock - Locality: Pitt Water - Area: 300x10 feet. Purpose: Jetty APPLICATIONS FOR LEASES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES. (1897, December 1). *New South Wales Government Gazette* (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900), p. 8735. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221020716> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221020716>)

**Department of Lands,
[34003 Sydney, 12th October, 1898.
SPECIAL LEASES GRANTED.**

It is hereby notified, for general information, that the undermentioned persons have been permitted to lease the lands specified in the annexed Schedule. The leases are subject to the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts and the regulations thereunder, to the following general conditions and to the special conditions set out respectively at the foot of the Schedule.

The rent for each year must be paid in advance to the Colonial Treasurer, on or before the 31st December of the year preceding, otherwise penalties for late payment will be incurred, and the leases will be liable to forfeiture.

The leases do not confer any right to purchase the land.

The land shall be used only for the purposes for which the respective leases are granted.

Should any of the leases be forfeited, all improvements on the land shall become the property of the Crown.

J. H. CARRUTHERS.

Brock George, Sydney, Polo Pony Stud Farm, Mona Vale: Pittwater, Parish Narrabeen, county Cumberland - Jetty, 13 1/2 perches - for Jan 1 1898 to Dec 31 1900, £3 annual rent. SPECIAL LEASES GRANTED. (1898, October 12). *New South Wales Government Gazette* (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900), p. 8160. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article220979251> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article220979251>)

Mr Brock's entry into the Pittwater community, although he became the first 'mayor' of the soon to be formed Warringah Shire Council, was coupled with a push by him to take the Post Offices away from Bayview and Newport and install a 'central' one at Mona Vale.

A word skirmish over petitions, with requests from RPAYC representatives and Duguld Thomason to retain 'waterside services' on the estuary and even **Mr. Brock** (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/la-corniche-history.php>) accusing the 'Post Master' (James Joseph Roche of Bayview - husband of Katherine Roche (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/katherine-mary-roche-history-matriarchs-pittwater.php>)) of being an alcoholic and seemingly not too happy with many of the 'residents' or those who 'visit', caused disharmony in the community, although other records indicate George Brock was welcome in many places by many established residents:

Sample of Communication: Newport - Bayview
Post offices, against closing

RECEIVED
11 MAY 1904
P.M.
2 19 11
U.S.

with Bony 5365

From whom received: S. Greig, Don'tic Newport Progress Assn
Date of Communication: 10 5 04

The Newport Progress Association,

Pittwater, May 10th 1904.

Sir,

At a meeting of the Association held last night, a letter was received from Mr Brock, of Mona Vale, purporting to be a copy of a letter which he had sent to the "Honble the Postmaster General, Sydney," on the subject of closing the Newport and Bayview Post offices, and establishing one at Mona Vale.

The letter was received with astonishment by this association, and received serious and careful consideration, and it was unanimously decided to respectfully enter a strong protest with the Postal Authorities against what was described as, "his wild cat scheme."

My association desires me to say for the information of your department that if the suggestions of Mr Brock were given effect to the belief there would be a general rising of the public throughout the whole district of Pittwater.

I have the honor to be
The Deputy Post Master General } Sir
G. D. C. } Your obedient servant.
Sydney } Stuart Greig.
Hon Secy.

The Oaks, Model Village,

Pittwater.

23rd: July. /08.

G. P. Urwin, Esq:

Act'g Dep't Post-Master, General,

S Y D N E Y.

Dear Sir,

Since I interviewed you, I have
(which I felt sure was the case) found that all the sign-
atures of the PETITION to allow matters to remain as they
are, in this benighted district; Were given to understand
that the post offices were to be closed all to-gether. (I
presume to save expense on your part) I hasten to tell this
as I shall support my case by absolute facts in the shape of
each individual asking you to remove their signatures as they
signed under a wrong impression & now asking you to forward
the proposal with all expedition.

Yours faithfully.



3.--- Enc's:

- 1/a- asking by PETITIONS to have their names to be removed.
- 2.--- A postal matter bearing out my contention for the ab-
solute necessity for immediate action to place matters
on a proper business form.

inform Mr Brock
that if he can see the
G.P. Unwin Esq:
Act'g Dep'y Post Master General.
S Y D E S Y
Dear Sir,

For you to have received 108 Signatures protesting, is to say the least, well I'm DUMFOUNDED. Why all that I have spoken to in the district, mind you real property owners, & real residents, know absolutely nothing whatever about any petition; And I feel confident that when the petition is examined, it will be found to have been signed by casual visitors; or (absurdly I admit) that it was proposed to close the post offices all together. The visitors are not the only pebbles on the beach, who have to be considered; as they are here to day & gone tomorrow, & only return when fine weather comes back. They'd sign anything. I have just been informed that your estimable Local Post Master, celebrated the great success of his precious Petition & returned, in a beautiful state of Alcoholic benediction, to all in general. Now sir if our valuable correspondence is to be at the mercy, of such irresponsible agents, & that when letters directed PITTSWATER, travel first to Bayview, then back to Manly, then another try to Barran-Juey, then back to Manly, & on the cards to New-port, & again back to Manly, & reaches you after the writers DEAD. (& this in the year 1904, not 1804,) All the Post Masters Petitions, & the rest of it, will not I trust stop you Sir conducting your marvellous organisation, progressing with the times. Especially, when it is going to be a considerable save to the Department. And fix for all time this vexatious TIN-POT way of doing business.-- If I call might I be permitted to see this precious PETITION; As they are great on petitions down in these

MEMO.----- Here's a case in point fortunately showing the rotten system now in force: This letter represents a large matter £5,000= that I'm dealing with at the present moment. all the other papers came all right last THURSDAY & the MISS carrying of this letter caused me a special trip up to TOWN & here it arrives to day, after going the very frequent (to me) rounds. Now what in the name of all thats reasonable did it want to go to BROOKVALE for, & of course back to MANLY & finally reaches me days after the documents should have been signed. The letter is from my Solicitors Messrs LUMSDANE & LIEBIUS, of Pitt St: & will bare me out of the importance of the communication, to them & me. Now fortunately I have with a bit of luck prevented any damage being done. But Sir if I hadn't been able to so arrange " WHO'S RESPONSIBLE " Manly, Bay-view, NEWPORT, Barran Juey, or BROOKVALE, All I can say is if there were 50 PETITIONS the present arrangements are a perfect FARCE; When as you Sir (I take it) are in favour of ONE CENTRAL POST OFFICE for the DISTRICT of PITTWATER, & let the MAIL come to that OFFICE & not FILTER through Manly, Narrabeen, Brookvale, Bay-view, Newport, Barran Juey, Etc:

2/713-4

Minute Paper.

Subject -

Re request of Mr G. Brock for a central office to be opened in the Pittwater district and correspondence delivered by Carrier therefrom.

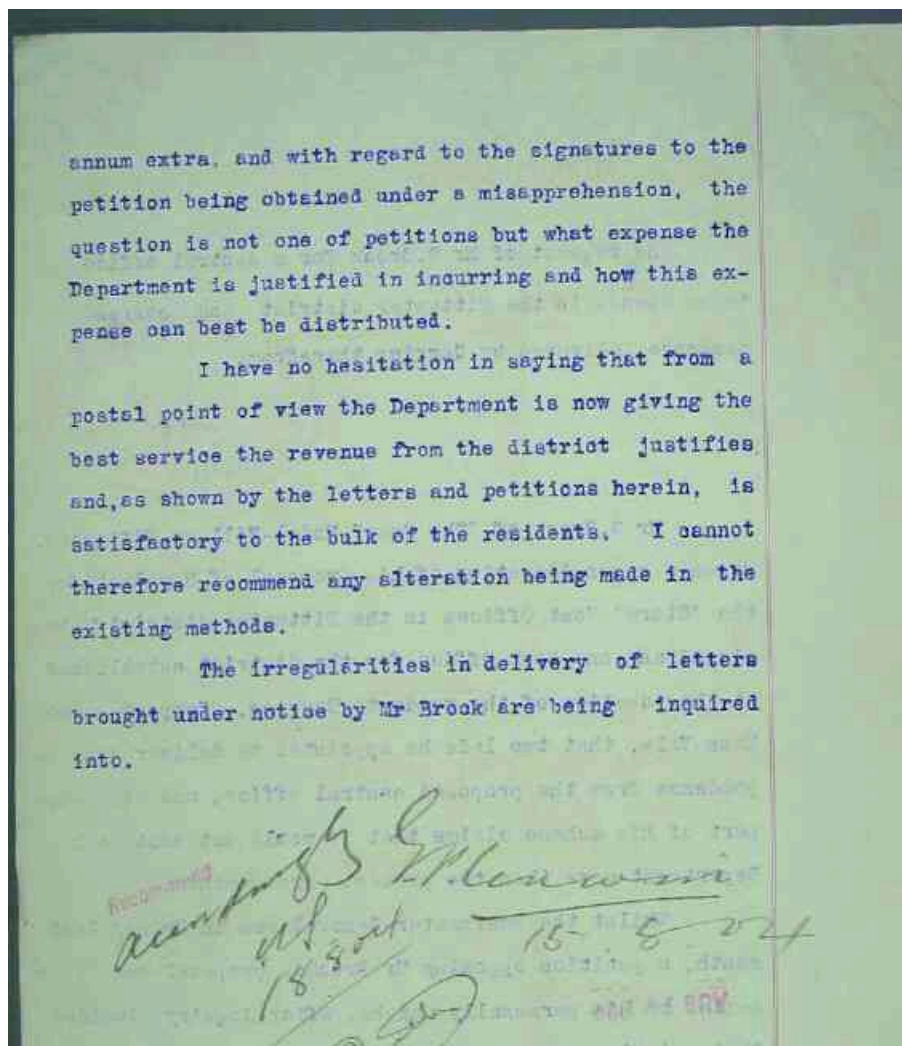


Mr G. Brock of "The Oaks" Model-Village, Pittwater, urges a reconsideration of his proposal of May last for the "Store" Post Offices in the Pittwater district to be closed and one Post Office for the district established at the junction of the roads to Bayview, Newport and Mona Vale, that two men be appointed to deliver correspondence from the proposed central office, and in support of his scheme claims that it would not cost the Department more than the present arrangements.

Whilst the Postmaster-General was in Sydney last month, a petition opposing Mr Brock's proposal was presented to him personally and he, after inquiry, decided that existing arrangements should continue.

Mr Brock urges the reconsideration of the matter on two grounds. (1) that the existing arrangements in connection with the delivery of correspondence addressed to the Pittwater district are very faulty, and (2) that the petitions presented to the Department urging that the present arrangements be continued were signed by numbers of persons under a misapprehension.

It will be seen from a perusal of the attached statement that Mr Brock's supposition that his scheme would not involve the Department in any additional expense is erroneous. It would cost more than £150 per annum



Although there was clearly a fair amount of construction work going on at Mona Vale the Brock's still spent time in town:

Miss Winifred Fraser invited a few of her friends to **tea at Baumann's**, on September 29. The hostess received her guests in the large room upstairs, where tea was served. Among those present were **Mr. and Mrs. G. Brock, Mr. Oswald Brock**, Mrs. J. Sanders, **Miss Gair**, Dr. and Mrs. Todd, Mrs. Pulsford, Miss Crossland, Miss Rose, Mr. Marr-Thompson, and others. **SOCIAL ITEMS. (1905, October 7).** *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article113289463>

A pleasant little gathering took place at the Hotel Australia on April 6, when a few of Mrs. A. J. Taylor's friends assembled to bid her "bon voyage," previous to her departure on a trip to England, with her mother, Mrs. J. R. Hill. The drawing-room was prettily decorated with flowers, and light refreshments were served, while a programme of music, arranged by Mrs. Kingsmill Shaw, was a pleasant feature of the afternoon. Among those who took part were the Misses Grace Fletcher, Florence White, Allen, Queenie Macdonell, and Saxe, and Mr. Philip Leslie, **while amusing recitations were contributed by Miss Kate Gair and Mr. Oswald Brock**. The hostesses included the Hon. Mrs. Pery, Mrs. Hughes, the Misses Winifred Fraser, Peden, Stewart, Smith, and Prince, while among the guests were Mrs. T. H. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Walker, Mr. and Miss Scroggie, Mr. H. de Y. Scroggie, Mrs. Cox, Mr. and the Misses O'Connor, Miss Bessie Major, Mr. Tedbar Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Carter Pickford, Mr. and Mrs. F. Muller, Mr. Edgar Payne, Mrs. and Miss Hamilton Osborne, Captain and Mrs. Powell, Miss Hubbard Smith, Mrs. and the Misses Banss, Dr. Palee, Mrs. W. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Mason, the Misses King, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. and Mrs. R. Collins, Mrs. James Taylor, Miss L. Peden, Miss V. Moore, and others. **Social News. (1906, April 11).** *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), p. 43. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71529290> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71529290>)

George Brock also brought his experience as an alderman in Newtown to the formation of Warringah Shire council. On March 7th 1906, the Warringah Shire was proclaimed by the NSW Government Gazette, along with 132 other new Shires. The new council's boundaries ran roughly from Broken Bay in the north to Manly Lagoon to the south, and by Middle Harbour Creek and Cowan Creek in the west. It covered 264 square kilometres (102 sq mi) and had a population of around 2800, with 700 dwellings. Under the Shires Act, ratepayers with properties worth at least five pounds could vote for six Councillors for a three-year term, two from each Riding.

Upon its establishment a temporary council of nominated representatives was installed by the State member for Middle Harbour Dr. Richard Arthur: George Alderton, of Frenchs Forest, George Brock, of 'The Oaks' Mona Vale (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/la-corniche-history.php>), Thomas Gibbons, of Narrabeen, David Skene, of Brookvale, and Prof. Anderson, of Bayview (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/sir-francis-anderson-history.php>) (husband of Maybanke (<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/Maybanke-Selfe-Wolstenholme-Anderson.php>), who resigned on 9 June 1906 and was replaced by Herbert Sturman, of Mona Vale).

The first meeting of this temporary council took place in the Narrabeen Progress Association's Hall at 10 a.m. on June 14th 1906, with George Brock in the chair. Mr. Brock was already wondering how so many absentee landowners would 'have their say':

VOTING FOR SHIRE COUNCILS. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,-I have Just been notified of my appointment on the temporary council of Warringah, anticipating more kicks than halfpence during my sojourn on this temporary council. I'm much concerned at the absurd expectations at election time of the property owners turning up to vote; it's certain we'll find the gas-bag-agitator-kerosene-tin humpy much in evidence; but what about the absent owners of all this vast magnificent residential site, untouched and unimproved land, that is much in preponderance in this Warringah shire? It is clearly evident that voting by post is the fairest for all concerned. If it is good enough for the A.M.P. Society with £20,567,134 of funds to have all the control done by post voting, it should be likewise for all those interested in the welfare and progress of this fairest spot on the terrestrial globe. This blot in the Local Government (Shires) Act 1905 will be the Waterloo of its successful working. True the municipalities have personal voting at the ballot box. What do we find? Mostly representation by park-spouters and fire-brand agitators. Result, 99 out of the 100 councils up to their necks in debt, it being made so easy to fling about other people's rates collected. Post voting will obliterate the professional failure. I am, etc.,

G. BROCK.
Pittwater, May 22.

VOTING FOR SHIRE COUNCILS. (1906, May 23). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14773898> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14773898>)

The election of the first Warringah Shire Council took place on Saturday November 24th 1906, and the first meeting of the six elected councillors took place on December 3rd. The six councillors elected in November 1906 were:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THE FIRST SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The first elections of councillors took place on Saturday, in the 134 shires created in N.S.W. under the new system of local government. Although the number may afterwards be increased to nine, each shire council is at first to consist of six numbers—two each from three ridings. Many of the returns to hand up to this morning were not complete, but as far as they have been received they are given, below: —

WARRINGAH.— A Riding: E. W. Quirk, J. Duffey. B Riding: A. Ralston. T. Fishbourne. C Riding: J. Hews, E. A. Holden.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. (1906, November 26). *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), p. 6. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article115673717> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article115673717>)

The Post 'The Oaks' Years

After he lost The Oaks, taken and sold for a song by the mortgagees, the family lived at 'Aloha' Rushcutters Bay by November 1907 - as seen by the letter by daughter Viva from that same year.

In 1911 he lost his wife:

DEATHS BROCK.—February 7, at Aloha, Waverley-street, Bondi Junction, Charlotte Ellen, beloved wife of George Sydney Brock, aged 53 years. Family Notices (1911, February 8). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15226607> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15226607>)

In January 1912 the wonderful dream home he had spent so much time, energy and money realising was burnt:

BROCK'S MANSION BURNED.
BIG BLAZE AT MONA VALE. beautiful landmark destroyed.
Damage estimated at £12,000.
No fire- fighting appliances available.

"La Corniche," a mansion at Mona "Vale, which occupied a commanding position on the road between Manly and Newport, was destroyed by fire early this morning. Flames were discovered at 10 minutes to 1. At half-past 2 only portions of the walls, and they rickety, were standing.

The building was palatial In Its dimensions and appointments, and **contained in all 38 rooms, 28 of which were bedrooms.** It was **originally designed for The Oaks Polo Club, and was built by Mr. G. S. Brock at a cost which has been set down at £32,000. Before the building was completed, however, it was acquired by Mr. Arthur Rickard,** who brought It up to date and then let It to M. and Mme. Rainaud, at one time chef to Sir Harry Rawson. Instead of being used as a polo club it became a fashionable boardinghouse, and on account of its situation and its surroundings, including surfing and golf, it became exceedingly popular. There were 30 boarders in the place at the time of the fire.

The fire started in the large dining hall, and was discovered before it had a very strong hold of the room, but not in time to be beaten out. There was a hue and cry raised throughout the building, and boarders were running to and fro to ascertain the extent of, their danger and the possibilities of saving their effects. The flames spread with great rapidity, but happily not in the direction of the staircase, and many of the people were, therefore, able to dash about and get their property outside.

Those on the second and third floors, however, did not take the risk which running up and down the stairs involved, and threw most of their belongings out of the windows. In ten minutes the flames -had begun to light up the hills on either side, and to throw long reflections out to sea. The boarders were all out of the building by ' this .time, and the menfolk were assisting the staff (numbering 20) to remove the furniture. They continued in this until the flames drove them back, and were successful in getting out a piano and other big stuff. But What was saved was a mere fraction of what was lost.

All that the people could do was to stand by and watch. There was water—the sea could be heard roaring in to shore all the time — but there was no means of pumping it into the building. No fire-fighting appliances which would avail anything were kept on the premises, there is no depot in the vicinity, and though a boarder motored to Manly post haste and reported the blaze the firemen did not go out, because they could have done nothing if they had.

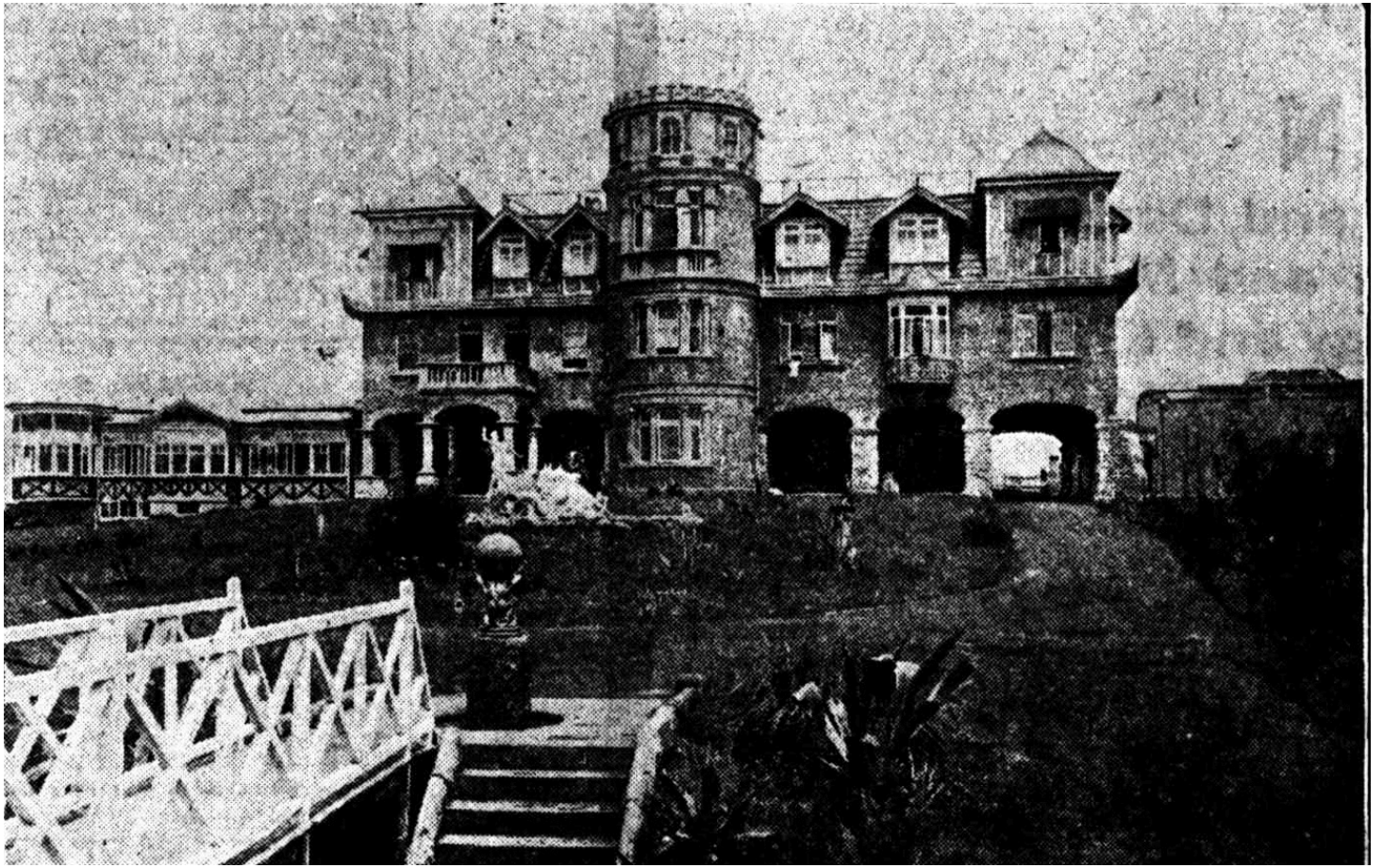
There were very few incidents in connection with the fire. Everybody was got out expeditiously, and though there were several cases where ladies fainted they were never in danger. Even the pets of the house were saved, though one had a narrow escape. It was a little white pussy, and it mewed and mewed pitifully on the window sill of a room from which smoke was already issuing. One of the girls attached to the staff saw its plight and darted into the building and out again with her charge in a few seconds.

Mr. Scott Fell, who has a house in the grounds of La Corniche, provided accommodation for the boarders for the rest of the night. As bad as the consequences were they might have been worse. If the blaze, for instance, had started nearer to the stairway than it did, it is quite possible that the escape of the boarders would have been cut off, and the only exit would have been through the windows, a course . of action which would practically have endangered limbs if not life. Then, again, the wind was blowing out to sea. Had it blown from the sea, it is not unlikely that two cottages and the Casino, nearer the roadway, would have gone, while the motor garage, where four motor-cars were kept, would almost certainly have been gutted.

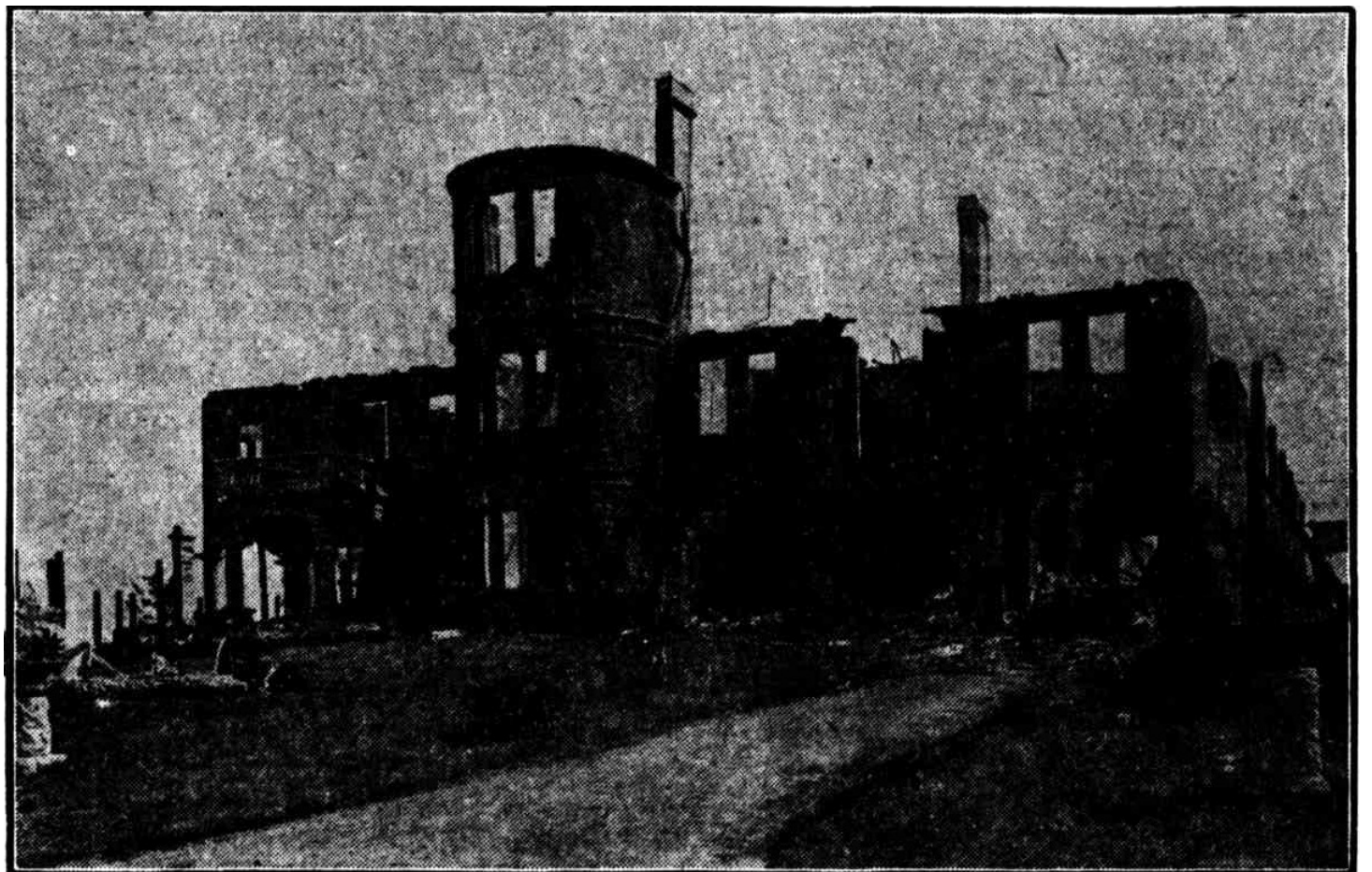
The most remarkable circumstance in connection with the fire was associated with the telephone. When the blaze was found to be so serious Mr. A. Davis tore the 'phone from the wall and carried it outside. Later in the morning an electrician fitted it up on to the fence—the only piece of the fence which escaped the flames—and a trial showed that though the wires had been through the heat of the flames, the 'phone was still in order, and the Manly exchange could be distinctly heard. The boarders relished the good fortune, because it enabled them to send reassuring messages to their friends.

Mr. Rickard stated this morning that the building and furniture was insured in the New Zealand Insurance Co. for £6000, and that he was therefore a fairly heavy loser, seeing that his estimate of the value of the building was £10,000. The furniture was valued at £2000. Mrs. Mueller (wife of Dr. Mueller, of Macquarie-street), Messrs. Harvey, A. Davis, Earle, Hermann, Toohey, L. A. and R. V. Minnett, Lotrois, and others of the boarders, were also sufferers by the fire. Mr. Rainaud lost silver, linen, &c., to the value of £250, which was uninsured.

The origin of the fire cannot be determined, but it is believed that it was caused by a lighted match or cigar butt carelessly thrown on to the carpet in the dining-room. Mrs. Rainaud heard a noise in the dining-room, which she attributed to burglars, and on getting out of bed found the place ablaze.



Mona Vale Hydro, the scene of a disastrous fire which occurred in the early hours of this morning. BROCK'S MANSION BURNED. (1912, January 8). *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222004219> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222004219>)



Ruins of "Brock's Mansions," at Mona Vale, destroyed by fire on Monday morning. The fate of the handsome pile of buildings is a grim finale to the financial tragedy that overtook the plucky builder, Mr. G. S. Brock, in its erection. No title (1912, January 10 - Wednesday). *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954), p. 1 (FINAL EXTRA). Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222002216> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222002216>)

George Brock went west and worked - and although he is shown selling his polo ponies when he lost The Oaks, thankfully he was in a place where he could pursue his passion:

LAND VALUATION.

PORTLAND, Monday.

The valuation of the property in the urban area of Portland was recently made by **the Blaxland shire valuer, Mr. G. S. Brock**. The valuation has been doubled, and in some places, quadrupled in comparison with that made three years ago. COUNTRY NEWS. LAND VALUATION. (1913, June 11). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 16. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15426350> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15426350>)

POLO CLUB FOR LITHGOW

A meeting convened by Mr. G. S. Brock for the purpose of forming a polo team at Lithgow was held at the Club House Hotel last night. It was unanimously decided to form a club to be called the Bowenfels Polo Club, **the necessary gear having been sent from Sydney, of which club Mr. Brock is one of two pioneer members.**

Mr. Brock was appointed hon. secretary, Mr. J. L. Brown, patron, Ald. R. Pillans, president. and Messrs. Major Bracey, .T. A. S. Jones. A. C. Wright. T. W. Cohen, and A. J. Brown, vice-presidents. It was decided that the players, Messrs. Brock, Pye, Walsh, iEather, and Jones, form the committee. Mr. Brock explained that Mr. J. L. Brown had kindly offered to allow the club to utilise any site on the Cooerwull Estate. Practice, commences on Saturday on a ground close to the factory. It is expected that matches will be played with Sydney team's, the match ground being situated opposite "Methven. '. POLO CLUB FOR LITHGOW. (1913, May 9). *Lithgow Mercury* (NSW : 1898 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218665861> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218665861>)

POLO AT BOWENFELS.

Mr. G. S. Brock, Hon. secretary, writes: — Bowenfels, Liddleton, and Vale of Clwydd met on Saturday on the new, graded ground at Cooerwull, and the members not having all recovered from the vaccination boom it was decided by the captain to make up a scratch team of blues and whites. The blues were: — Ray Pye, back; .1. Finlayson, No. 2; -and Hull, No. 1 on a green (pony). The i whites were; — Brock, buck; Young, No. 2; and Oakey Park representative, No. 1.

The first chukka found Whites, on the now level ground, forcing the play, and soon the first goal was scored by Brock. The blues on the next throw off, with a brilliant run by Pye (on his new creamy), fairly made a run equal to match form, and scored a very fine goal. Brock with combination tactics forced the blues to their goal line, and gave an opening for Young to score several behinds. Second chukka: Pye was penalised for over-reaching his stick and Brock scored for the whites. Pye, showing some real fine polo, kept the whites going to save the goal, and, backed up by Finlayson (of Parrumatta), fairly ran away with the ball, the ground now favoring fast riding, and from a scrum, not a foot away from goal, scored. Third chukka: Too much standing over the ball and riding off tactics on both sides made the game slow for the onlookers. Honors were about equal. Fourth chukka: Play became fast. A duel between the two backs left- an opening for the Parramatta colt, and Finlayson dribbled a goal. The ponies wearied. Result: Blues, 3 goals 2 behinds; Whites, 2 goals, 5 behinds.

Miss R. Wright carried the colors of the club, dark blue and light blue stripes and the Whistle, combined with timekeeper,' Mr. Dawson (of Thelma yacht fame) R.S.Y.S. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Walsh assisting. The club coach left the club rooms at 2 p m with Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, of Sydney, also Miss Viva Brock, also on a visit to the fancy masquerade ball the night before. Misses Wright, Miss Cohen, Miss Bracey, and later Mr. and Mrs. Tartakover joined the party. From Mr. Wilson's trial spin it looks like as if he will be a first-class player. A polo dinner was held after the match at the Hotel Lansdowne, although alfresco, Host Baumashe was equal to the occasion. The Sydney visitors gave the polo chaps quite a musical treat, and expressed surprise amongst so much coal and iron, that polo was so much alive and had come to stay for sure.' Mr. Dawson, the member, of the R.S.Y.S. has presented the club with club ensign, dark and light blue stripes, and the club hopes to soon see it flying over their shelter kiosk. POLO AT BOWENFELS. (1913, August 4). *Lithgow Mercury* (NSW : 1898 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218661453> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218661453>)



George on one of his polo ponies - photo courtesy Dodds family

BREVITIES. **Mr. G. S. Brock** advertises in this issue **The Newbold siding subdivision, Marrangaroo**. BREVITIES. (1913, August 4). *Lithgow Mercury* (NSW : 1898 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218661489> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218661489>)

In 1914 their daughter Dorothy marries and as can be read, George is still in Lithgow:

WESTCOTT—BROCK.—August 8, 1914, at St. Mary's Church of England, Waverley, by Rev. J. N. Manning, M.A., LL.D., Walter Clarke, second son of G. H. Westcott, of Ashfield, to **Dorothy Marjory eldest daughter of G. S. Brock, of Lithgow**. Family Notices (1914, September 12). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15563365> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15563365>)

LICENSES.

At the Lithgow police court on Tuesday an **auctioneer's license was granted to George Sidney Brock, of Lithgow**. LICENSES. (1914, December 2). *Lithgow Mercury* (NSW : 1898 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218669427> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218669427>)

MUNICIPAL AND SHIRE APPEAL COURT

APPORTIONMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL COAL MINES. VALUERS BURNS AND BROCK IN THE RING.

Under the Local Government Act a coal or shale mine may be assessed either on the average annual, output or on the unimproved capital value of the land. The local mines have been assessed on the average annual output since 1889, but trouble has arisen this year — when the triennial valuation was due — between the Blaxland Shire Council and the Lithgow Council as to how the mines should be assessed and the apportionment of the rates so obtained. All the associated collieries in Lithgow are partly situated in the shire area and partly within the municipality — with the exception of the Ironworks Tunnel. But though the shafts, machinery, and so on are all within the municipality, the greater part of the surface area is in the shire. The respective valuers (Messrs. K. Burns and G. S. Brock) failed to agree as to the apportionment of the rates, which led to a recommendation on the part of the Blaxland Shire valuer that the assessment should be on the surface area, which would mean that the shire would reap much more in rates than has hitherto been the case. On the other hand the local valuer contended that the assessment should remain as heretofore. Neither was able to adjust the matter, and the P.M., sitting as a municipal and shire court, considered the question at the Lithgow courthouse on Tuesday morning. Mr. K M. Mitchell, of Sydney, instructed by Mr. T. F. Thompson, appeared for the Council, while the Mayor (Aid. R. Pillans), Mr. T. Evans (town clerk) and air. E. Barns (valuer) were also present. The Blaxland Shire was represented by its solicitor (Mr. E. P. Richards), while the engineer (Mr. B. A. Heffernan), the clerk (Mr. A J. Ash-down), and the valuer (**Mr. G. S. Brock**) were also in court. ... MUNICIPAL AND SHIRE APPEAL COURT (1913, November 19). *Lithgow Mercury* (NSW : 1898 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218658457> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218658457>)

In 1916 Oswald Carl Brock marries Lucy Victoria Garling, daughter of Arthur Crawford Garling and Anne Rushby. Interestingly, paintings he was getting copyrighted that year, show his studio as 'Aloha', the name of the premises where the family had moved to and where they were when his mother had passed away just a few years earlier. The couple had a son, John Brock:

3581. **Oswell Carl Brock, Aloha Studio, Victoria Chambers, 44 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, New South Wales.—Painting:—"Belgium." Belgian girl, part of the set of six representing the Allies. 16th December, 1915.**

3582. **Oswell Carl Brock, Aloha Studio, Victoria Chambers, 44 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, New South Wales.—Painting:—"Italy." Italian girl, part of the set of six representing the Allies. 16th December, 1915.**

3583. **Oswell Carl Brock, Aloha Studio, Victoria Chambers, 44 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, New South Wales.—Painting:—"Japan." Japanese girl, part of the set of six representing the Allies. 16th December, 1915.**

3584. **Oswell Carl Brock, Aloha Studio, Victoria Chambers, 44 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, New South Wales.—Painting:—"Russia." Russian girl, part of the set of six representing the Allies. 16th December, 1915.**

3585. **Oswell Carl Brock, Aloha Studio, Victoria Chambers, 44 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, New South Wales.—Painting:—"England." English girl, part of the set of six representing the Allies. 16th December, 1915.**

3586. **Oswell Carl Brock, Aloha Studio, Victoria Chambers, 44 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, New South Wales.—Painting:—"France." French girl, part of the set of six representing the Allies. 16th December, 1915.** PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE COPYRIGHT ACT 1912. (1916, January 20). *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* (National : 1901 - 1973), p. 105. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232467614> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article232467614>)

The theft of Brock property continues:

Paddington.—Stolen, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. the 3rd instant, from the residence of Oswald Brock, Springfield, O'Sullivan-road, Bellevue Hill,—A gold half-moon brooch with two rose leaves and a rose bud thereon, set with about thirty pearls, small diamonds set in bud; plain gold bar-brooch, set with a pearl; a lady's rolled gold keyless wristlet watch, No. 472485, "14, 15, and 16 and A.J.S." scratched inside back case. Also stolen, same time and place, the property of Ethel Walsh,—A lady's open-face silver keyless Geneva watch, No. 338250 "14, 16, and 16" inside back case; a gold brooch, heart shape, with leaves, set in pearls; gold bar-brooch, set with a ruby; gold bell pin; and a fine gold neck-chain; total value, £9 10s. Identifiable. Suspicion attached to two men First about 26 years of age, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, medium build, fair complexion, clean shaved; dressed in a grey tweed sac suit and grey soft-felt hat with black band. Second—about 30 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, stout build, full fat face, wearing a straw hat; both wore "R.S.A." badges. Can be identified. Burglaries, etc. (1918, May 8). *New South Wales Police Gazette and Weekly Record of Crime* (Sydney : 1860 - 1930), p. 211. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article251745458>

A highly fanciful *Smiths Weekly* record keeps the name G S Brock in the news:

BROCK OF BROCK'S BEACH

The following, from "Smith's Weekly," will be read with interest by Lithgowites: "The author of the well-known structure on the Newport Road, north of Sydney, built a decade and a half -ahead of his time.

The motor makes the place an ideal "country club" site, but Brock built before the motor, had been heard of. He has always had notions of his own on the subject of architecture. **His original house was built on the lines of a ship. He put in portholes instead of windows and armchairs which played 'God Save the King' when you sat down, on them. He also put in Larry Foley majolica mantelpiece.** Nobody ever knew why Larry Foley got the mantelpiece. Nobody ever knew why Brock took it away from him. Brock is a great sportsman, and is the essence of hospitality. He has always had a passion for the sea, and this passion was once nearly the end of him. He put off from the beach in a dingy, and was caught in a gale. He was blown many leagues to the north, and was ready to go out to it, when by chance he was picked up. **He was a great polo player, and is still a stylish quail shot.** BROCK OF BROCK'S BEACH (1921, January 31). *Lithgow Mercury* (NSW : 1898 - 1954), p. 2. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article219261547> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article219261547>)

In June 1921 Viva marries:

MARRIAGES.

DODDS-BROCK.—June 23, at St Andrew's Cathedral, by Rev. Canon Charlton. Edward Hindmarsh, eldest son, of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dodds. Green Meadows, Vlidemere, to Viva, younger daughter of Mr. George Brock and the late Mrs. Brock, of Mona Vale. Family Notices (1921, July 13). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28087438> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28087438>)

WEDDINGS.

DODDS— BROCK.

An interesting and pretty wedding was celebrated on June 28 at St. Andrew's Cathedral, between Viva, youngest daughter of Mr. George Brock, Narrandora, N.S.W., and Edward Hindmarsh, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dodds, of Green Meadows, Widemere. Canon Charlton performed the wedding ceremony. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a pretty dress of very pale pink taffeta, trimmed with lace. An old family veil of Limerick lace was worn with a tiny wreath of orange blossoms. Her shower bouquet was composed of white sweet peas and carnations. Miss Doris Litchfield was bridesmaid, and wore a maize satin gown, her lace hat having long gold streamers. She carried a shower bouquet of Iceland poppies. Captain Clive Fitzhardinge, M.C., was best man.

The wedding breakfast was held at the Waratah Cafe, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dodds being host and hostess. Their guests included Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lee, the Misses Lee, Mrs. W. H. Corbould, Miss Evelyn Corbould, **Mr. George Brock**, Mr. H. M. Somer, Mr. L. Hopkins, Mrs. Metcalfe Jackson, Mr. Arthur Dodds, Mr. Harry Dodds, Mr. and Mrs. Westcott, **Mr. and Mrs. C. Brock**, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Houghton Bradley, Mrs. Randle, and Dr. George Bell. The bridegroom was flight-lieutenant in the Royal Air Force, having seen service in East Africa, Palestine, and Salonika. WEDDINGS. (1921, July 2). *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), p. 15. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239753960> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article239753960>)

A CITY WEDDING

Very jolly speeches marked the dinner given at the Waratah Cafe after the wedding of Miss Viva Brock and Mr. Edward Dodds on Tuesday evening. Canon Charlton, who conducted the service at St. Andrew's Cathedral, presided, and three old friends—the bridegroom's father, Mr. Livingstone Hopkins and Mr. H. M. Somer—vastly amused the company with their stories against each other. The bride is the second daughter of Mr. George Brock, formerly of Mona Vale, and the bridegroom the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dodds, of Green Meadows, Wentworthville. The bridal gown was of pale pink satin with an overdress of lace, the whole being covered with a very long tulle veil that fell from a small wreath of orange blossom'. Miss Doris Litchfield, as bridesmaid, wore a dress of pale lemon chanceries and a white net hat. The bridegroom, who was in the A.F.C., and the best man, Lieut. Clive Fitzhardinge, M.C., wore their uniforms. A CITY WEDDING (1921, July 3). *Sunday Times* (Sydney, NSW : 1895 - 1930), p. 17. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article123245863> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article123245863>)

Oswell's marriage unfortunately didn't last:

BROCK v BROCK.

Lucy Victoria Brock (formerly Garling), the petitioner in this suit, asked for a decree for restitution of conjugal rights to be directed to Oswald Carl Brock, to whom she was **married on January 21, 1916, at Waverley**, according to the rites of the Church of England.

There was no appearance on behalf of respondent, and a decree was granted ordering him to return to or take back petitioner within 21 days of the date of its service upon him. Mr. Little (instructed by Messrs. R. D. Meagher, Sproule, and Co.) appeared for petitioner.

IN DIVORCE. (1928, August 1). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16483366>

ARTIST'S WIFE

DIVORCE DECREE

HUSBAND LEFT HER

OSWELL Carl Brock, a Sydney artist, whose water color work is often to be seen in Sydney shop windows, was the respondent in a divorce suit heard before Mr Justice James to-day.

Lucy Victoria Brock, formerly Garling, said she was married to respondent at Waverley in January, 1916. Her husband **left her and their 12-years-old son**, and on July 31 last she obtained a decree for restitution of conjugal rights against 'He did not comply with the order,' said Mrs. Brock, 'and I have not seen him since.'

Mr. Justice James: Have you done anything to cause him to keep away?—

No. Nothing at all.

A decree nisi was granted on the ground of desertion, by reason of non-compliance with the restitution order. ARTIST'S WIFE (1928, December 13). *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), p. 12. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article115696988> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article115696988>)

Towards the end of his life we find out more about George Brock's beginnings:

HOLTERMAN'S NUGGET.

Gold Clerk's Narrative.

The publication on the illustration page of the "Herald" on Wednesday of an old photograph of Holterman's famous gold nugget, **discovered at Hill End in 1872**, and valued at £12,000, **recalled to Mr. George Brock his association with the sale of the nugget**. In a letter to the Editor, **Mr. Brock says he was gold clerk in the old A.J.S. Bank, when the nugget was forwarded to the headquarters of the bank from the Hill End branch**. The nugget was conveyed to the Mint with great difficulty owing to its great weight. A hansom cab was hired, and the nugget placed on the floor of the cabin. However, before the journey was half completed, the flooring of the vehicle collapsed, and the nugget fell to the ground. A second cab was engaged, and the trip was completed without further incident.

The finder of the nugget, says Mr. Brock, boiled it down in an ordinary washing copper. When he took it to the Mint officials, they said that by boiling it down in such a crude way he had depreciated its value by £500. HOLTERMAN'S NUGGET. (1933, July 15). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 13. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16991455> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16991455>)



Caption: "Bernard Otto Holtermann and the world's largest 'nugget' of gold, North Sydney, ca. 1874-1876 / montage photograph by American and Australasian Photographic Company" The "nugget" was found in Hill End, New South Wales by German prospector, Bernhard Otto Holtermann on 19th October 1872. More than half of the 630 lbs weight was pure gold, at that time having the value of 12,000 pounds (\$24,000). Today, with gold worth say \$1400 per ounce, the value today would be over \$10 million. Three photographs were used to create this image of Holtermann, (supposedly holding the world's largest accumulation of rock and gold ever brought to the surface in one piece). He was posed in the studio with his hand on a headclamp, the nugget was inserted and both placed on a photograph of the verandah of his mansion, built from the proceeds of his goldmine.

The A.J.S. BANK. was the Australian Joint Stock Bank- head office in George street, Sydney. The bank was created in 1852 by an Act of the New South Wales Parliament. It issued its first banknotes in 1862. It operated from 1852 to 1910, after which it became the Australian Bank of Commerce and then was taken over by the Bank of New South Wales in 1931.



Kerry & Co.

308 GEORGE ST
SYDNEY.

Kerry & Co. (1893). Australian Joint Stock Bank Head Office, Sydney, ca. 1893- 1895 Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-148352604> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-148352604>) - courtesy National Library of Australia

George passed away in 1933.

SMH: BROCK Feb 7 at 'Aloha' Waverley St Bondi Junction, Charlotte Ellen, beloved wife of George Sydney Brock aged 53 years.

BROCK.—November 15, 1933, at Sydney, George S. Brock, late of 61 Wellbank-street, North Strathfield. Privately interred Waverley Cemetery, 16th inst. Family Notices (**1933, November 17**). *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17024923> (<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17024923>)

Viva Dodds formerly Brock

Born 1891 in Newtown, Sydney. Daughter of George Sydney Brock and Charlotte Ellen (Davis) Brock.

Sister of Oswald Carl Brock, Dorothy Marjorie (Brock) Westcott and Victor Brock.

Wife of Edward Hindmarsh Dodds — married 1921 in Sydney.

Mother of Elizabeth M Dodds, Leonard Hindmarsh Dodds and Dorothy Winifred Dodds.

Viva was aged 82 years when she died in 1974 - late of Parramatta, formerly McMasters Beach Gosford.



330 Long Reef Sydney coast - Pittwater - Manly Road (H King Syd.)





No 330. '*Long Reef Sydney Coast, Pittwater - Manly Road*' - this is actually Bungan Beach looking south towards Mona Vale and Long Reef from Bushranger's Hill. by Henry King, circa 1880. The enlarged sections shows what was called the 'Black Swamp' at M.V.

The Oaks - La Corniche - threads collected by A J Guesdon, 2011.

Post