

THE PAD D N GTON PEOPLE PASSIONATE FOR PADDINGTON Paper

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Over the Palisade

The Cutler Footway has been closed to pedestrians for almost 12 months to the inconvenience of daily users, particularly the elderly folk, who are forced to walk a similar distance with an additional 44 steps or a more circuitous, longer route of 250m. The problem is that on several occasions some have been seen crossing the bridge using the road pavement, which is obviously extremely dangerous.

The Burton Street Viaduct was built for trams in 1909 with the footway attached in the late 30s. The footway is jointly owned by City of Sydney and Woollahra Council. During a routine inspection it was confirmed that the metal of the footway was corroded. The City has now almost completed a heritage report and a detailed assessment to ensure the bridge structure will support a replacement footway built to modern standards. Seems unacceptable for the bridge to have been let go such that it has reached this condition, and for it to have taken this long to carry out studies without any action.



ANNUAL DINNER

Moves to MAY!

Tuesday 9th May

Welcome drinks and canapes
at 7pm followed by dinner
Cipri Italian Restaurant, Paddington

Guest Speaker: PHILIP THALIS
much awarded architect and
City of Sydney Councillor.

Join us to find out what is
happening in Sydney

Members: \$90 | Friends: \$95

Everyone welcome! Bring friends.

Booking information: 0417 475 669
or heritage@paddingtonsociey.org.au

NBN is here

Work has begun in Paddington on the super hi-speed internet rollout

bought to you by the NBN Co, a fully owned Federal government enterprise. The broadband network build will be in full swing by June and is already in central Paddington. The impact unrealised for many people in terms of the switchover hurdles, understanding who does what, and how to smooth the switchover-connection process.

There is virtually no choice which technology will connect you to NBN, little consultation available and confusion via technical jargon, however, there are some benefits to be tapped. Actually getting the NBN service to your terrace, apartment or business is tricky, with potentially new cabling runs, trenches, unattractive junction boxes to locate and aged infrastructure, all contributing to significant impacts in our heritage suburb.

The best information on where, and timing is to go to the NBN website (www.nbnco.com.au) which has an up to date national map, you can key in your address and find that you will be connected by HFC (Hybrid Fibre Coaxial) technology in Paddington. You'll also see that cities have been left till this later stage of the rollout... go to www.nbnco.com.au/learn-about-the-nbn/rollout-map.html or follow the navigation on their home page.

The NBN uses multiple technologies to bring the broadband/high-speed internet to your external home or office wall. Total Fibre Optic cable was the original plan before politics got in the way. In Paddington there is only one technology being used. HFC is a blend of optical cable joined to an existing pay TV coaxial cable. It uses the optical fibre in the trunk network to local nodes and then the coaxial cables installed by pay TV suppliers, such as Foxtel, because of the high penetration of pay TV in the suburb. If you have pay TV the switchover will be less painful. If you have a landline, that's the copper wire network (sold by Telstra to NBN) it won't be used since it is so degraded here, so that will mean new cabling for your terrace. At this stage we are not sure if that will be an aerial cable to your house, a new coaxial cable "pulled" into replace the copper wires cable, or a newly dug trench and a utility box affixed to your outer wall. Fortunately HFC Utility Boxes don't require electrical back-up as some systems do, so at least you won't need an electrician to run a new power outlet. There is also the potential to use existing satellite dishes

installed for some Foxtel customers, but that is not certain as the NBN SkyMuster satellite is reserved for remote locations.

• **Once the NBN box arrives** then it is up to you to manage what happens inside your home or office. You need to organise the actual connection to the internet (as with ADSL+) via your preferred ISP - Telstra, Optus, iiNet, TPG, Foxtel, iPrimus, InternetOn, Dodo. NBN Co lists 147 potential ISP suppliers on their website just for Paddington.



First Node, a Tfan to connect 400 households lands in Hopetoun St, no consultation, 15 possible in Paddington

• **Here is the NBN bonus** which doesn't get much airplay. Phone calls, local, national and mobile will be free over the new broadband network. Now the bad news, your existing landline phones won't work over the NBN internet unless they are digital and support VoIP or SIP - internet protocols. Landlines are disappearing now we all have cellular mobiles. It is all bundled in your 'unlimited data' plan. If you have a digital PBX or smart phones for your home business then savings follow because no more call charges, just a monthly flat fee for data bandwidth. Some ISPs will charge a small connection fee for a Voip call (referred to as a NetPhone service) but the call length is untimed.

• Existing landlines will be switched off 18 months after NBN service is available, December 2018. No option. No more PTSN (old technology) phones.

• **Speed is the promise.** Currently, if you have an ADSL2+ internet service via a landline you will be getting around 5-6 Mbps (megabytes per second), possibly 8Mbps at best. NBN's broadband network promises speed plans of .../more on the back page

What makes Paddington so pleasurable?

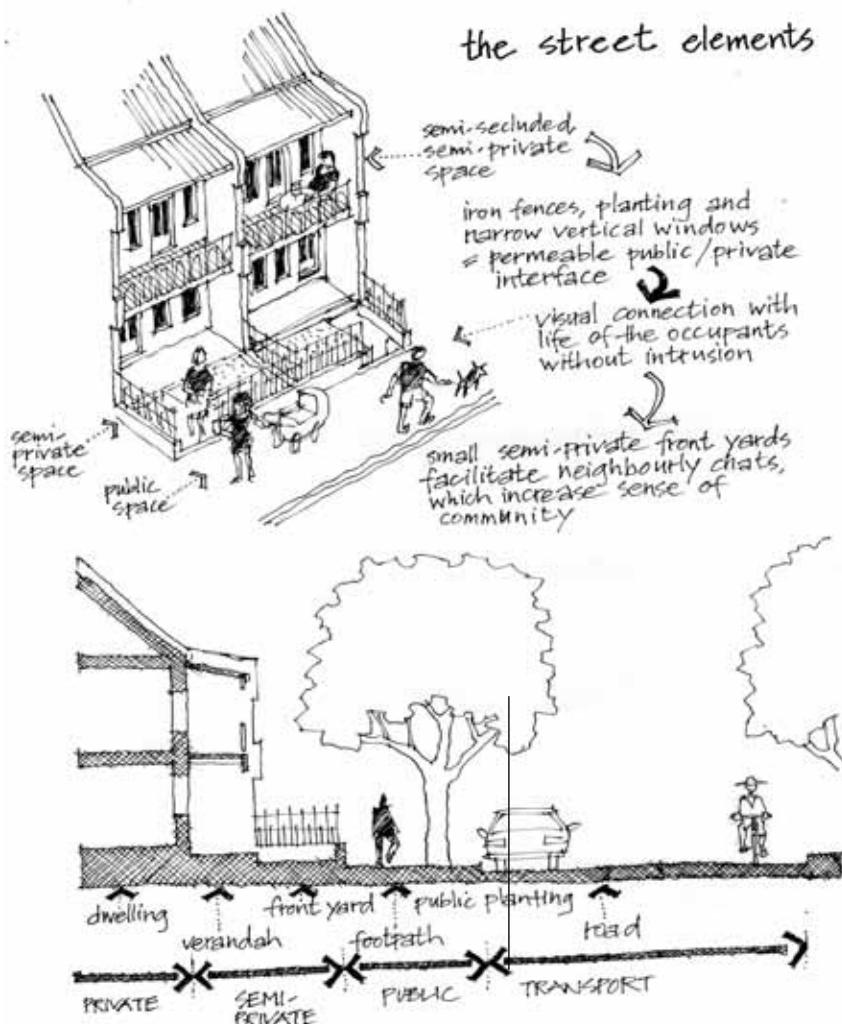
What makes Paddington such a pleasurable, intriguing place to live or visit? It lies in the stimulation of our senses as we walk its streets, as we discover views we had forgotten, as we round a corner from one interesting street to another, or as we suddenly see details such as chimney pots above the roofs lit by the evening sun.

Paddington is full of visual delight. The serried ranks of terrace houses marching up and down the hilly topography enclose street spaces that are interesting to walk along and that seem to entice us forward in order to see around the next corner.

If we stop to observe and analyse the typical street in Paddington we perceive that there are many elements, which contribute to a sense of place. These elements work together to stimulate a pleasurable response in the passer-by. The small front yards of the traditional terrace house provide semi-private spaces, a transitional zone from the public space of the road to the private spaces of the house. Stepping back, to view a group of houses, we see the repetition of similar facades with their vertical dividing walls extending to the roofs, seeming to dance up and down the streets like the marks of notes on a sheet of music.

At certain intersections the streets converge to create small urban spaces, which may be marked by corner shops, or corner pubs. Five Ways is an example of a very hospitable urban space. At the Five Ways intersection all five corners have a retail presence ranging from al fresco dining to a pharmacy. In fact most of the lanes, streets and intersections that comprise the public domain of Paddington are pleasurable spaces to inhabit – they are hospitable places.

The architecture of Paddington – using the word “architecture” in its widest sense to mean the structure and organization of something, be it a symphony, a computer program or a town – succeeds at more than just looking visually pleasing with a touch of nostalgia for a more aesthetically elegant



epoch than our own. But beyond that the many elements of the townscape combine to induce a psychological pleasure – a sense of welcoming hospitality, a sense of an interacting human community. In other words, it is a very humane place.

Paddington is an example of very successful urban design. The facades, front yards, streets, intersections and planting of Paddington work together to produce a hospitable, stimulating urban environment. The happy combination of a house type rocky gullies, creeks, swamps, waterfalls

derived from Georgian English attached town houses, modified with verandas borrowed from India and embellished with Italianate details provide the basic elements of the townscape. Mostly built during the last two decades of the nineteenth century, the quick construction period of Victorian Paddington ensured a consistent streetscape. In the modern era, an incremental process of mostly sensitive adaptation of the rear spaces to modern life, accompanied by careful restoration of

Did you know?

Paddo has its own local bush

Many Paddington residents are probably not aware of the delights of the large swath of natural bushland, mostly hidden behind rows of terrace houses and with few entrances, that is **Trumper Reserve**. Visitors mainly use it for access from Paddington to Edgecliff station and the shopping centre, or enjoy the sporting amenities on its periphery, the Trumper Oval and playground at the bottom and the tennis courts at the top. There is

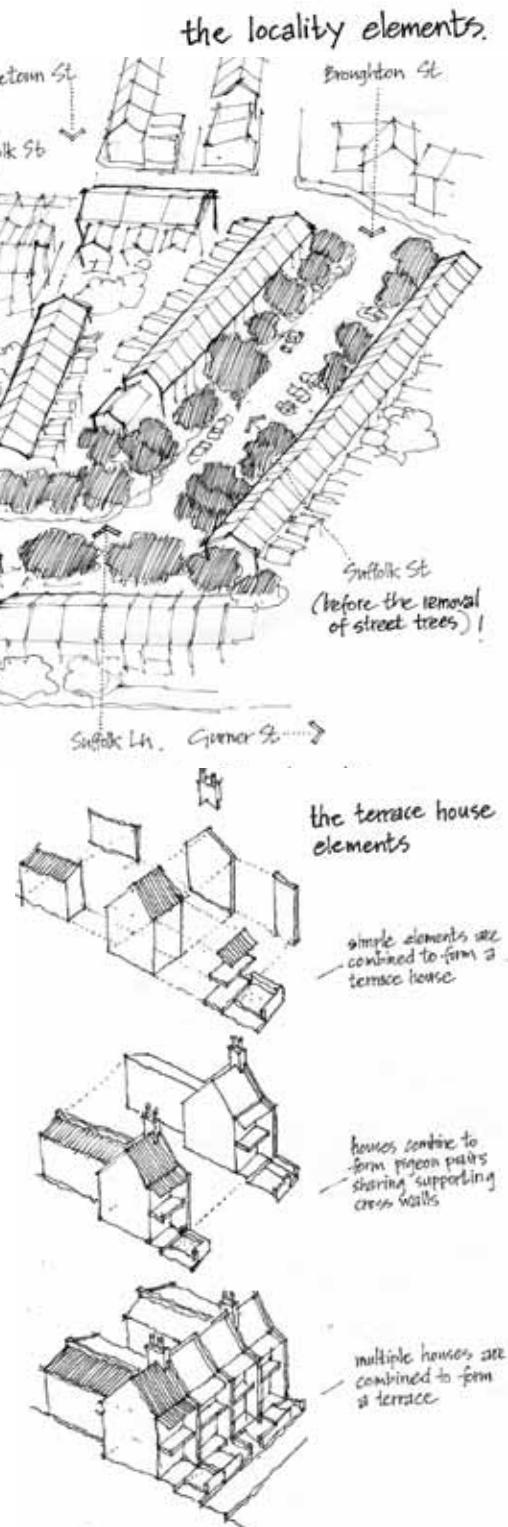


also a very active community garden built 7 years ago by volunteers behind the courts.

Hampden Park was established in 1897 by the old Paddington Council, and renamed in 1931 after the cricketer Victor Trumper. The low lying area was originally swamp land which was later filled to create the park and oval, while the eastern part of the park was a sandstone quarry and then an ash and rubbish dump. In the 1860s the site was covered by dense bush and scrub.

Since the establishment of the park it has undergone continuous redevelopment, including the rehabilitation of topsoil, planting of native trees and shrubs, and a weed clearance program. Today it is managed by Council and a large group of bush-care volunteers.

On the Streets



the front facades to original condition, have resulted in an excellent example of heritage conservation.

Important elements of the Paddington streetscape are the trees that shade the footpaths and soften the effect of multiple house facades. The recent removal of all the trees in Suffolk Street by Woollahra Council provides a dramatic illustration of the difference between utility and delight. The footpaths of Suffolk Street had become impassable for mothers with strollers due to tree roots buckling the pavements, although the canopy of the trees themselves provided shade and delight. While removing these trees was deemed necessary to restore utility to the footpaths the effect on the streetscape has been devastating. The current state of Suffolk Street demonstrates how the removal of a significant streetscape element impacts on a fragile and complex urban space.

The autumn season has begun and this is the perfect time for the "flaneurs" of Paddington, the itinerant strollers on their evening walks, to look with discerning eyes at the marvellous environment that we have inherited.



Suffolk Street before



Suffolk Street after (new trees have now been planted)

There are bushland trails through the park, a mix of hard dirt and asphalt. It is also dog friendly, with off and on leash dog areas. The bush walking trails are off leash but the area around the playground is on leash and dogs should be kept clear of the oval as well. About halfway along the main bush track is a charming little pond with ducks and other water fowl and some bench seats on which to sit and relax.

Access points at the bottom of the park are from Glenmore Road, Cecil Street, and Harris Street, and at the top from Quarry Street, Bowes Avenue and New Mclean Street.

Despite it being by far the largest park in Paddington at almost 7 hectares (and one of the biggest in all Woollahra), the Trumper Reserve is not even mentioned on the Woollahra Council website in the list/map of Parks, Reserves and Playgrounds; only the Trumper Park Oval is cited, which is less than a third of the total area of Trumper Park.



Oxford Street residential hub begins to take shape

For more than a year, South Paddington residents have been living under towering cranes and midnight deliveries as new development sites power ahead.

The Gordon on the corner of Gordon and Newcombe Street is close to completion. The complex will provide 19 apartments over 3 levels, basement parking, and a fresh food market on the ground floor. The Gordon Street facades are well scaled for the terrace house context. While traffic has been assiduously controlled in Gordon Street, locals will be relieved to be able to walk down the northern footpath once more.

Next to this site at 391-393 Oxford Street, but still under wraps, is another development of 3 levels with 20 studio apartments above 3 retail areas, with no parking provided. There is to be a licensed café/restaurant on the ground floor. Along with The Gordon, this building will look onto a delightful plaza which Council has just completed, cleverly allowing deliveries from Oxford Street rather than through the residential streets.

Two neighbouring sites on Oxford Street are also under construction. The former Commonwealth Bank next to St John's is in its final stages. It will be a 4-star hotel of 30 rooms with a small café on the ground floor, called Mrs Banks Boutique Hotel. A new 3 storey rear addition to the 2-storey Bank building. The Bank's Art Deco façade will be retained.



Mrs Banks Boutique Hotel takes shape

Next door at 257 Oxford Street, the former Photographic Centre will soon be demolished. Late last year, City Council approved a DA for a 3-storey building with 2 ground floor commercial tenancies, 12 apartments above and a communal roof terrace. The building will be a storey higher at Oxford St than either of its neighbours, but the top floor will be set back from the lower floors.

All-in-all, an addition of 51 apartments, 30 hotel rooms and 7 retail spaces, means that South Paddington is doing its bit to meet government urban infill policy for a bigger Sydney.

Events

ANNUAL DINNER

Tuesday 9th MAY

Do join us. Bookings filling up fast.

Details on front page

2017 Citizenship Award

The Paddington Society was recognised for their Contribution to the Environment at Woollahra Council's 2017 Citizenship Awards. The Society continues to maintain Paddington's beauty, heritage values and the quality of its architecture, streetscapes and open spaces. A small group of volunteers assess all proposals for new development, making submissions in support of preserving and augmenting the built and natural environment.



Mayor Toni Zeltzer with Esther Hayter, Will Mrongovius and Robyn Attuell from the Society Committee

Strickland House Day Sunday 30th April

52 Vaucluse Road Vaucluse
Talks & Walks 11am, 1pm, 2.30pm
Take the 325 bus from Edgecliff station
Enquiries: peter_poland@hotmail.com

HeadOn Photo Festival

5 to 28th May in Paddington

See events and exhibitions will be held in both chambers of Paddington Reservoir Gardens. The Town Hall will also feature work by top-tier photographers.

2017 Paddington Society Committee

Will Mrongovius
Geoff Ludowyke
Francis Walsh
Penny Alford
Robyn Attuell
Andrew Bragg
Linda Gosling
Esther Hayter
Krystyna Luczak
John Millbank
Bill Morrison
John Richardson
Graham Stewart
Minty Smyth

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Ass. Secretary
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Understanding the NBN Rollout, continued

25 or 50 or 100Mbps, from 4 to 20 times faster. The reality is less. That is because of "contention", the number of users plugged into an internet exchange and what they are downloading. You can test your current internet connection speed by using free Okla software at www.speedtest.net. Run the test and record your current speeds, several day's data is useful for later negotiations. Retest when NBN is up and running, then you have some real facts to discuss with your ISP about actual speeds.

• **Connecting to the NBN.** Once the NBN Utility Box has been installed, or new coaxial cable pulled, you will need your Internet Reseller to organise the actual connection of the service... the POP (point of presence – this used to be your telephone wall socket).

• **You will need a new modem.** Your ISP usually supplies a new technology modem with your new plan. Free if you've been loyal, charged or bundled if you are taking the opportunity to switch suppliers. They rarely cost more than \$80, but connectability varies. Ask if it will support digital phones, or a pbx if you have one. Not all modems have ports to allow you to plug in internal cordless phones with those located on other floors throughout the house. This new modem, often called a gateway will have an inbuilt wireless system operating on several frequency bands to connect to your smart TV, laptops, mobiles, iPads, even desktop computers, and wireless back-up systems to store your files.

If you live in a terrace with multiple floors you've probably already invested in "wireless repeaters"... so make sure the new supplied modem/router has the ability to plug into your existing wireless distribution system usually by Ethernet cable (the thicker blue or yellow computer network cable).

• **NBN has a consulting mechanism,** *Technology Choice Program* where areas, towns, organisations or corporates can apply for a specific method of connection. This does not seem to be available to individuals.

• **What about heritage issues?** When we raised our concern over new cabling that could be needed, the location of utility boxes on walls, the digging up of footpaths with landscaping just completed by local council, we were told by the online info centre we could "defer our installation". No attempt was made to provide specific details or links to an area manager who could field questions and provide a better Paddington solution.

Some Recommendations:

1. Go to NBN's website (nbnco.com.au), and register, study their interactive map accessible from the homepage on where installation is happening right now.

2. Read the pages on HFC and other technology pages so you are knowledgeable when you talk to your Internet Reseller (ISP).

3. Visit ISP websites to compare what is on offer, for example Telstra, Optus, TPG, iiNet, and your current internet provider. 25Mbps Plans with a 250Gb data limit start at about \$60 per month and will handle email, video downloads, FTP transfer and smartTV watching. 50 Mbps Plans cost around \$110 per month and handle high definition video downloads with unlimited data. 100 Mbps Plans are generally for professionals who need real time mass transfer.

4. The ISPs quote 5 to 10 days for switchover. We experienced less than 36 hours switchover with an ISP outside Sydney.

5. Download the NBN's *Getting Connected* HFC version brochure from their website. It's also available on the Paddington Society's website on the news page.

6. Start today, because tomorrow's promised internet is arriving in Paddington this month.

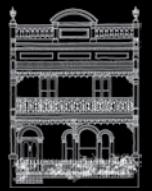
Links to useful websites and tools are available at the Paddington Society's website on the News page.

History in the making

The Paddington Society's major project, a substantial book on the history of our area is progressing well. We have engaged an editor, Dr Greg Young (also a Paddington resident), and commissioned a team of authors who are prominent in their fields. The writing stage is well underway with chapters covering aboriginal history, the changing landscapes from early land grants, the villas and subdivisions, architectural development, cultural, creative and conservation history – describing the many lives of Paddington and explaining how the physical and social shape of the suburb came to be.

This is an ambitious project and it has been funded to date by a bequest from one of our members, accumulated Society funds plus the generous donations of our members, as well as a small grant from Arts NSW to research an image database for the book, but more funding is needed for publication. So if you haven't yet invested in this landmark book please send us a cheque or call any committee member to arrange for a donation.

The end result, we believe will be a book you will be proud to have on your bookshelf, share with friends and which will foster an appreciation of the unique qualities of Paddington to a wider audience.



The Paddington Paper is the official newsletter of The Paddington Society providing news and informed comment on local issues. Views expressed are those of the editorial committee and not necessarily those of the membership of the Paddington Society.

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