

Sands Sydney Directory Guide



ANTHONY HORDERN & SONS, UNIVERSAL PROVIDERS, HAYMARKET (ONLY), SYDNEY.
610 Alb WAVERLEY. Bay

WAVERLEY.

BOUNDED on the north by Lighthouse reserve, South Head; on the east by the Pacific Ocean; on the south by Boundary street; on the west by Mill Hill road and Reserve.

Divided into four wards, viz., Bondi, Waverley, Nelson and Lawson.

Incorporated 1859.

Area—2,111 acres.

Miles of streets—54.

Number of houses—4,700.

Population—11,000.

Annual value—£118,700.

Council Chambers—Bondi road.

Office hours—Every day (excepting Saturday), 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wednesday evening, 7.30 to 9.

MAYOR—W. J. Blunt, J.P.

ALDERMEN—

Bondi Ward:

J. Ellison
T. K. Northen
W. A. Oakley

Waverley Ward:

J. C. Kershaw, J.P.
O. Harley
R. M. Roberts

Nelson Ward:

W. H. Simpson, J.P.
W. C. Tipper
J. W. Alidis, J.P.

Lawson Ward:

J. C. Humphrey
W. Carter, J.P.
W. J. Blunt, J.P.

COUNCIL CLERK—

John Clubb, J.P.

ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK—

P. O. Coulter

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES AND DAIRIES—
T. H. Dickson

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS—

Mrs. Orr, Campbell street, Waverley

MANAGER OF WAVERLEY CEMETERY—
J. F. Martin

Electoral Registrar—Luke Kingsmill

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John Sands & Company published *The Sands Sydney Directory* annually from 1858-1859 until 1932, with the exception of the years 1860, 1862, 1872, 1874 and 1881. *The Sands Sydney Directory* is commonly referred to as *Sands*. Each issue of *Sands* lists householders, businesses, public institutions and officials for Sydney and its suburbs, making it an important resource for researchers.

Sands lists who lived in a particular house, in a particular street, at a particular date, much like a phone book does today. In short, it lists occupancy. *Sands* does not reveal whether the occupier of the property was the owner – just as our present phone books do not reflect this kind of information. The ownership of a particular property is established by using Waverley Council rate books, not by *Sands*.

Sands is not available electronically, although the genealogical website Ancestry.com has a limited part of *Sands*, the Alphabetical section, on its database. Ancestry.com is available on the public access computers in the Reference section of Waverley Library.

Sands is available in most public libraries on microfiche; Waverley Library holds a fiche copy of all available issues (some libraries do not hold a full set, so check with your local library). *Sands* is arranged chronologically, with the page parameters appearing on a 'band' at the head of each fiche and an index for the year on the first fiche for that year.

The two major parts of *Sands* are the Alphabetical and the Suburban sections. The first section consists of a single alphabetical list of the names of householders, business houses and major organisations, with the address of the associated premises attached. The Suburban section provides similar information arranged either by suburb, locality or Local Government Area; keep in mind that the format of *Sands* changes over its 74 years of publication.

Sands is arranged by Local Government Area (then called Municipalities) in which the property was located. In the early years of *Sands* the Suburban Directory consisted, like the Alphabetical section, of a single alphabetical list of names for each local government area (then called municipalities) i.e. a street-by-street listing of householders. It is in effect a directory of residents, listing the primary householder in every street. The type of information typically included is the householder's name, usually male, and sometimes their title and sometimes their occupation, or the type of business carried on at that address. This alphabetical listing is discontinued in later years.

Entries in *Sands* look something like this, street entries can include a combination of any or all of the following: house name, house number, full name of occupant, initials only of occupant, occupation. For example:

Birrell Street – south side

2 Domanski, D. 'Beagleville'
4 O'Sullivan, K. Nurse 'Hill Top'
6 Cook, Bernard

Sands also had a Trades Directory arranged by the name of the trader. As a tradesperson had to pay to be listed, this is not a comprehensive list of those in each trade, just those who paid for a listing in *Sands*. After 1897 a Pastoral or Country NSW Directory was included.

The best way for a new researcher to use *Sands* is to start with the last edition, 1932, and work backwards. At this date a house number will almost always be shown, unlike earlier listings which often do not have a street number or a house name.

Recommended way to search

- Determine the address of your property, finding the relevant street from those listed for your suburb, streets are listed alphabetically. The more information you have before you start, the easier your search will be e.g. what is the street name, street number (or house name), the physical location of the property in relation to the street i.e. is it on a corner, on the north or south side of the street and between which cross streets?
- Before 1884 listings are alphabetical by the name of the resident – surname, then first name – then their address is listed. After 1884 this is reversed, listings are alphabetical by street name, then the name of the resident is given.
- Street numbers are often not used in the earliest editions of *Sands*, if there is no street number for your property look for a house name. Note any information you have on any previous occupants of the property.
- Compare house numbering or location within a street, to determine your property's physical address and its occupants. Intersecting streets are an important identifier in *Sands*, they are used to show the location of the property in the street i.e. its location between two particular cross streets.
- It is useful to note the neighbours on either side of your property, as well as the nearest cross streets, this can assist locating a house when using earlier editions of *Sands* where less information is given. The first year in which a property appears in *Sands* may be considered an indication of it being built or occupied about 12 months earlier. This is because while *Sands* was published in January of each year, it was compiled from information collected the previous October.

Troubleshooting

- Street names which seem to 'disappear' at a certain point or streets which were known to exist are not listed in *Sands*. There are a couple of reasons this happens: street names change e.g. Beach Road, Bondi Beach was known as Matilda Street until 1936, so despite it existing for the entire period of the publication of *Sands* the name Beach Road does not appear in any edition.
- if there are no residents in properties in a street there will not be

a *Sands* listing for that street as *Sands* records occupiers of dwellings, if there is no resident there is no listing, this does not mean that a property physically does not exist; because *Sands* was concerned with occupied premises, the existence of unimproved property frequently was unrecorded.

- Caution should be exercised, sometimes what appears to be the first listing for a property may in fact be the first listing after a period, sometimes lengthy, of omission from *Sands*. This can occur if the property has been vacant for some years and *Sands* agents unable to collect information from any occupants.
- There is no street numbering in the earliest years of *Sands*. Street numbering is introduced progressively in the later editions. Remember that street numbering may change as properties are subdivided. Identify properties by location or house number.
- The listings generally only include one member of the household, usually whoever is deemed to be its 'head' and does not include other people living at the same address.
- House names change regularly. Identify your property by its location, not just by its name.
- Sometimes the *Sands* listing will give an indication of the use of a property e.g. 'motor garage', sometimes it does not.
- Re-subdivisions of property are often difficult to identify using *Sands*
- *Sands* is not a legal document. The information in it was collected by agents who called door-to-door, it is therefore open to error and it only as good as the accuracy of the agent. This is why names of occupants sometimes appear similar but with different spelling.
- Remember that local government boundaries shift and local government boundaries often bisect streets. First choose the relevant Municipality in the suburban section of the index i.e. Waverley, which is on the first microfiche for each year. When searching properties in the northern part of the Waverley LGA, it is important to keep in mind that Vaucluse was a separate local government area from 1895 to 1948
- *Sands* publication in 1932, replaced by the earliest Sydney phone directories. Copies of these phone directories are held in the State Library of NSW.