

Waverley's Seal & Emblem

On 13th June, 1859, Sir William Thomas Denison, Governor-General and Governor-in-chief of the Colony of New South Wales, proclaimed the establishment of "The Municipality of Waverley". The New South Wales Government Gazette of Tuesday, 14th June, 1859, published the Proclamation with an interesting description of the municipal boundaries and of a "Petition signed by seventy householders resident within the Rural Districts of Waverley, Bondi, and Little Coogee..., praying that the same might be declared a Municipality".

SEAL OF THE WAVERLEY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



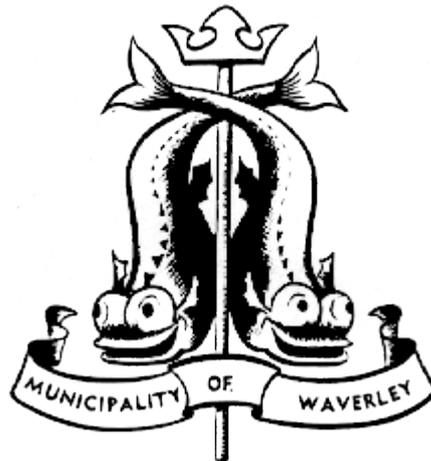
The Seal for the Municipal Council was handed over to it by Councillor Simmons on August 30, 1859. Simmons, who was Chairman of the Seal Committee, had received the Seal from the Colonial Secretary.

The dominant element of the Seal is the ornamental shield bearing the cross of St. George and its five stars which are symbolic of our mother State. The different devices in three of the four quarters of the shield are, so far as one can make out, a sheep's fleece (denoting productiveness), a sailing ship (denoting communication), and an anchor (representative of a seaboard district or town). The fourth device is not clear, but perhaps a bale of wool or merchandise. The rising sun above the shield is, no doubt, intended to glorify Waverley as part of sunny New South Wales. The cornucopia, with its spilled contents of fruits and vegetables, placed against the right side of the shield, is a standard emblem sometimes called the 'horn of plenty' representing wealth and peace. The pick and spade, on the opposite side, usually signify industry and possibly pioneering.

The simple scene at the right, with its foreshore, old-fashioned cottages, and ship at sea, seems to emphasise the fact that Waverley is a seaboard municipality.

In the left background is, perhaps the most interesting element of Waverley's Seal. There, standing atop of some high cliffs, is a simple representation of what could be nothing else than the old Macquarie lighthouse of the outer south head of Port Jackson. The lighthouse of today is just outside the northern boundary of the Municipality of Waverley.

EMBLEM OF THE WAVERLEY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



The emblem shows two dolphins and Neptune's trident or spear, with an ornamental scroll at the bottom bearing the name of the Municipality. It was adopted by Council in 1915, although the reasons for such an emblem are not entirely clear.

It is, however, reasonable to assume that as the whole of the eastern boundary of the Municipality borders the sea, something symbolic of the sea would be very appropriate. The inclusion of dolphins would be appropriate on the Emblem because of their fabled friendship to man. In this connection they figure prominently in art and heraldry.

The choice of a trident in the Emblem was, indeed, a happy one, for Neptune, the Roman mythological God of the Sea, is always represented with a trident with which he could shatter rocks and cause earthquakes. There is, moreover, a close relationship between the dolphins and the trident in the Emblem. Neptune transformed himself into a dolphin and made love to Amphitrite who bore him a son named Triton, a sea deity who calmed the waves with his trumpet.

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