

Some Waverley Firsts

One of the first buyers of an allotment at Bondi Junction was John Douglas, a blacksmith who set up business in 1877.

The first inn was the Crown Inn, opened by 1828. It was situated on the south side of Waverley Crescent, near Bondi Road. The first proprietor was Joseph Bigge. The first licensed public house was the Tea Gardens Hotel (Bronte Road). Application for a licence was granted in 1854.

The English, Scottish and Australian Bank was the first bank to be opened in the municipality. It was opened on April 15, 1881 on the corner of Bronte Road and Oxford Street.

The first steam tram to run to Waverley was on the Darlinghurst/ Ocean Street/Charing Cross route which began on April 13, 1881. In 1882 a crossing loop was laid near the Tea Gardens Hotel and it is from this that the name Bondi Junction originates.

On January 1, 1858 the first post office was opened; it was probably situated near the corner of Oxford Street and Bronte Road. The Waverley Post Office in Birrell Street was opened in 1885.

The school in Waverley House run by Miss Amelia Hall is thought to be the first established in the area. Founded in 1866 it was one of Sydney's most exclusive private boys' schools.

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