

## What's in a name? The road to Bronte



*Bronte Road, 1937.*

Bronte Road has had many names since it was built, often changing its title depending on which of Waverley's suburbs it passed through. Today it begins at the corner of Oxford Street Bondi Junction, travels through Charing Cross, and ends at the water's edge at Bronte Beach.

In 1788 the section of Bronte Road at Charing Cross was known as Frenchman's Road, so-named because it was used by the crews from *La Pérouse's* ships. When the first European settlers and market gardeners arrived it was re-named Coogee Bay Road, as it was the road to Coogee.

After Waverley Council's incorporation in 1859 the part of Bronte Road at Charing Cross again changed name, becoming Leichhardt Street after German explorer Ludwig Leichhardt. Later again the stretch from Oxford Street to Victoria Street was named Cowper Street, after Sir Charles Cowper, member of the NSW Legislative Assembly for East Sydney, 1859-1867, and Premier of NSW when the Waverley municipality was created.

In 1940 to streamline the road's name Cowper Street, the Charing Cross part of Leichhardt Street, and a portion of Nelson Bay Road were all re-named Bronte Road.

The final stretch of Bronte Road, where it arrived at the beach from Charing Cross, has been known as Bronte Bay Road and Nelson Bay Road. Today it is all in simply Bronte Road – the road to Bronte.

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