Acknowledgement

To commemorate the Centenary of Federation the Waverley Centenary of Federation Committee decided to mark items of historic and cultural significance in the municipality and produce walking guides to these places.

In order to make the walk a reality it was necessary to obtain funding. Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club saw this as a unique opportunity to support a project of lasting value to the Waverley community and agreed to sponsor the project.

The Club is strongly identified with Waverley as it has been in Bondi Junction since 1961 and the Easts’ football team has been supported by the people of Waverley since 1908 - so it was well placed to undertake such a sponsorship.

The Waverley Historical Society also assisted with the project. Waverley Library has an extensive local history collection which was used for the preparation of the material. Waverley Council staff supervised the project, undertook the research and preparation of the material and installed the signs.

The production of this walk has been the result of an exciting collaboration between Waverley Council and the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club.
Prior to European occupation, the Bondi Junction area, and much of what is now Sydney, was home to the Eora Aboriginal group - probably the Cadigal people and possibly also the Biddigal and the Birrabinnagal peoples. Unfortunately, we don’t have any material in the Bondi Junction area to document that use.

Bondi Junction, or as it was known Tea Gardens, goes back to the earliest days of the colony. The first road (as distinct from a street) in the colony, the “Road to Botany Bay” came through Bondi Junction so as to avoid the low lying swamps to the west and then on through Randwick, keeping to the high ground, out to La Perouse.

Bondi Junction became a busy commercial centre, transport hub and a place for entertainment. As transport and industry has changed so has the Junction - motor vehicles replaced horse drawn vehicles and the trams, which had first been introduced in Waverley in 1880 these were then replaced with buses by 1960. Syd Einfeld Drive was built in the 1970’s and in 1979 the Eastern Suburbs railway opened, both of these major transport links saw the destruction of 19th century streetscapes and the routes and/or names of a number of roads changed. At one time Waverley Street went down to Bondi Beach, now most of that street has been renamed Bondi Road. Former factory sites were developed and Victorian terraces and shops have given way to multi story commercial and residential developments.

There was a wide range of industry at Bondi Junction including: the ice works, soap factory, iron foundry and boot factory which were mostly gone by the mid 20th century. Over the years a great variety of leisure businesses operated here including: open air picture theatres and later indoor picture theatres, dance halls, skating rinks, boxing stadiums, snooker halls and a bowling club. There were also grand residences, mostly on the higher ground on the eastern side of Bondi Junction in streets such as Waverley Street, Paul and Botany streets.

Bondi Junction is always changing and over time many sites have had more than one readily identifiable use. For example, we know that 65 Ebley Street has been a skating rink, film studio, soft drink factory, television production studio and now it is a retail store. Many of the items highlighted on this Bondi Junction Walk were places of business or pleasure.
26 Llandaff House
Llandaff (later Craighnsnet) built in 1876 was a large house, surrounded by extensive gardens, stables and a tennis court. It was demolished in the mid 1970s. The stone gate posts are all that remain.

27 Eora Park
Named after the local Aboriginal people the park was created to provide green space in a busy urban centre when the surrounding development took place.

28 Coronet Theatre
Opened in 1921 on the corner of Waverley and Oxford streets, Olympic No 1 was among a chain of four theatres established by William J Howe. Hoyts acquired the theatre in 1930 and renamed it the Coronet. Screenings ceased in 1968.

29 Grace Bros & Waverley Bowling Club
In 1933 Grace Brothers assembled a large store in the Coronation Hall at Bondi Junction. Built in 1911 the Hall had been a skating rink, boxing stadium and theatre for vaudeville shows.

30 Pattinson’s Corner
For generations Pattinson’s Corner was a Bondi Junction landmark and meeting place. It takes its name from Pattinson & Co, later Washington H. Soul Pattinson who operated the nearby chemist shop from 1903.

31 Tea Gardens Hotel
In 1854 Alexander Gray was granted a licence for the Waverley Tea Gardens Hotel which was to be surrounded by gardens, summer houses and a quoit pitch. It was a popular weekend spot. The first hotel was a single story building.

32 Bondi Junction Waverley RSL
The Bondi Junction Waverley RSL was formed in 1933. The Club purchased Walter Stone’s premises in 1954 and the present Club was opened in 1968. Walter Stone, carrier and furniture seller began by selling produce and fuel here in about 1888.

33 Central Synagogue
This was the first Jewish Congregation in the Eastern Suburbs and is the largest in Australia. This synagogue, dedicated in 1998 replaces an earlier one destroyed by fire.

34 Ben Eden
In 1863 James Campbell built Ben Eden, a two storey gothic stone villa. In 1927 it became a Marist Brothers school and monastery. In 1993 the site was redeveloped and the refurbished villa retained as two strata residences.

35 Waverley Bus Depot
This is the site of the former Tram Depot opened on September 17, 1902. In 1959 the Tram Depot was closed and converted to a bus depot. Few buildings remain of the original depot.

36 O’Sullivan’s Garage
This building was built as stables in 1920 for Harry Lynch’s horses. Briefly it was the depot for Stringer’s Bus Service. Since 1926 it has been O’Sullivan’s Garage, first run by Eugene and Ellen O’Sullivan and now run by their son Phil.