



Key

Colour key to map numbers:

- RED
water supply and sewerage
- BLUE
drinking places
- GREEN
ornamental fountains
- BROWN
public conveniences
- PURPLE
baths and pools



Walk on water
A GUIDE TO SYDNEY'S WATER FEATURES

A Guide to Sydney's Water Features

From the drains and sewers under the surface of the ground to spectacular fountains in parks and plazas, the city is full of water features. Some you are meant to ignore, some are there to be noticed and enjoyed. This brochure explores the theme of water in the City. It is part of the City of Sydney's contribution to the National Trust Heritage Festival, 5–13 April, 2003. The theme for the Festival is *Freshwater- water, waves and wanderings*. Check out the City's virtual historical exhibition *Water, water every where* on the Council's website. www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



Golden Water Mouth (1)
Comprising of a dead Yellow Box tree, 23ct gold leaf and terracotta tile, Golden Water Mouth stands 10.7m high. This site forms the entry to the symbolic village of Chinatown, where traditionally is found a wooden pagoda to protect the rivers and ensure wealth to the village. This artwork incorporates Shui Kou elements of wood, water, earth and gold together with native Australian species. It evokes memories of the Chinese arrival in Australia-the 'New Gold Mountain'.
(photo: City of Sydney Archives)



Obelisk (2)
The obelisk on Elizabeth Street is one of the earliest monuments recording the beneficence of a Sydney mayor. It was erected in 1857 and unveiled by the Mayor George Thornton. The monument is actually a sewer vent. It became a joke around town and led to it being dubbed 'Thornton's Scent Bottle'.
(photo: Garry Deirmendjian)



Anzac Pool of Reflection (3)
The Anzac Memorial on Hyde Park South was built to commemorate the men and women who served in World War I. But by the time it was opened in 1934 the land fit for heroes was no longer providing jobs for all as the country was experiencing profound economic depression. When the Council received funding to create work for the unemployed one of the tasks was to build a large pool in front of the memorial. (photo: City of Sydney Archives)



Frazer Fountains (4) (5)
The importance of public access to drinking water has declined with time. In nineteenth century, many houses were built without water connections. John Frazer's gift of two drinking fountains to the people of Sydney was a generous and welcome gesture. The two imposing Frazer drinking fountains were erected in the 1880s. They were designed by the City Architect, Thomas Sapsford, and carved in Pyrmont stone by Lawrence Beveridge. The basins for the fountains were made of granite.
(photo: City of Sydney)



Sandringham Gardens (6)
The Sandringham Garden and Memorial Gates commemorate King George V & VI. They were built on the site of the old bandstand in Hyde Park and dedicated in 1954. The gardens include bronze memorial gates incorporating the crests and heraldic motifs of each king; a memorial tablet with inscription and dedication; and a memorial fountain with mosaic inlay. (photo: City of Sydney)



Cook + Phillip Park (7)
The multiple uses of water at Cook and Phillip Park is testament to Sydney's diverse range and love of water - from the harbour to the Yurong, from bathing to competition, and from playing to meditation. There are the swimming pools found within the complex, both for children's games and sporting events. The Yurong Water Garden in the park, and the pools of reflection on College St., which further act as major structural elements to balance the weight of the roof of the pools below, all create the water world of Cook and Phillip Park. (photo: City of Sydney)



The Yurong Water Garden (8)
The Yurong Water Garden is an environmental artwork inspired by and retracing the path of the Yurong Creek that once ran from the edge of Cook and Phillip Park through the mangrove swamps down into Woolloomooloo Bay. Roughly hewn boulders of sandstone and original pavers and rocks from the former Cook and Phillip Park have been arranged to form a course for the creek which flows down three terraces of gardens. The use of sandstone reflects the cultural and natural heritage of the surrounding area.
(photo: City of Sydney Archives)



Archibald Fountain, Hyde Park North (9)
This distinctive Art Deco showpiece is the legacy of a private citizen, J F Archibald, and is quintessentially 'Sydney'. The fountain was erected in Hyde Park North in 1932. It is intended to commemorate the association between Australia and France in World War One, and is the work of French sculptor Francois Sicard. It depicts a bronze Apollo surrounded by other mythical figures. (photo: City of Sydney)



Passage (10)
This installation in Martin Place called 'Passage' was created by Anne Graham in 2001 for the Sydney Sculpture Walk. The walls of early Georgian houses are traced with inlaid black granite and stainless steel grilles. The three bronze bowl fountains represent washrooms at the rear of the houses. A mist rises every ten minutes creating an illusion of the space once occupied by past residents. The fine spray is a source of enjoyment and a place of exploration.
(photo: Brett Boardman)



Il Porcellino (11)
'The Little Pig' was a gift to the City of Sydney from the Marchesa Fiaschi Torrigiani as a memorial to Thomas Fiaschi and Piero Fiaschi, her brother and father respectively, both eminent doctors at the Sydney Hospital. Sydney's *Il Porcellino* is an exact replica of the bronze monument known as Porcellino - a sculpture of a wild boar sculpted by Pietro Battista Tacca in 1547 which stands in the straw market in the heart of Florence. It is believed to bring good luck if passers by rub its nose and drop coins into the base pool, and is sited here to help raise funds for the hospital. (photo: City of Sydney)



Robert Brough Memorial Fountain (12)
Dedicated to the memory of Robert Brough (1857-1906), a popular Sydney actor, this magnificent Victorian fountain is tucked away in the northern courtyard of Sydney Hospital. The distinctly Australian design comprises a group of brogias surmounted by black swans displaying their crimson beaks. The fountain was imported from the Colebrookdale Factory (UK) and was installed near the Nightingale Wing in 1907. (photo: Sally Couacaud)



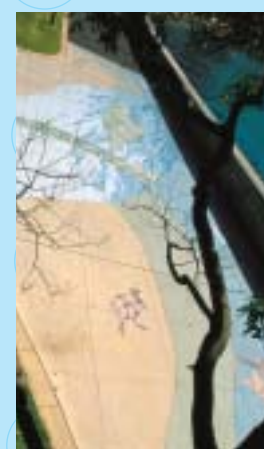
55 Hunter Street (13)
An early example of public art commissioned by the private sector, 'The P&O Building Fountain' by Tom Bass was installed in 1963. Following the publication of a satirical photograph in *Oz Magazine* in February 1964 that showed three men of varying heights voiding their bladders, the artwork has been commonly referred to as 'The Urinal'. This image was the subject of a legal battle, which accused editors of *Oz Magazine* to be promoters of 'public pissing'. The artwork continues today to provoke attention because of this history and the structure of the fountain itself. (photo: City of Sydney)



Archaeology of Bathing (14)
This artwork by Robyn Bracken traces elements of former baths at Woolloomooloo. A floating jetty and marine piles mark tidal change, the stair cage and portal frame reflect on the enclosed spaces associated with early bathing machines. It forms part of the Sydney Sculpture Walk.
(photo: Brett Boardman)



Lewis Wolfe Levy Fountain (15)
An art nouveau bronze statue of a young girl standing amidst reeds, a heron and frogs beckons people to drink at the red granite drinking fountain near the Woolloomooloo Gate in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens. The fountain, erected in 1889, was a gift from the Levy family in memory of Lewis Wolfe Levy (1815-85), politician and business man. The statue, by C. B. Birch (1832-93), is an important example of aestheticism in Sydney.
(photo: City of Sydney)



Wuganmagulya (Farm Cove) (16)
Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens occupy the site which the original clans of Sydney called Wuganmagulya, later renamed Farm Cove by Governor Arthur Phillip. It was once the hunting and ceremonial ground for the Yura / Eora. Here too the British made their first attempts to grow crops. Brenda Croft's art installation *Wuganmagulya (Farm Cove)* is set into the foreshore walk around Farm Cove. It pays homage to the Yura / Eora and other clans who travelled great distances to attend ceremonies at Sydney Cove. The figures depict Sydney rock carvings.
(photo: City of Sydney Archives)



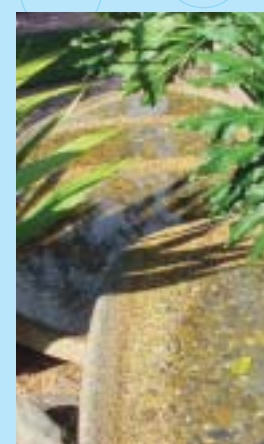
1788 Shoreline (17)
Circular Quay encroaches over the natural shoreline of Sydney Cove. At East Circular Quay the 1788 shoreline is indicated in the granite paving by cast bronze discs. The first constructed shoreline, reclaimed to form Circular Quay, is mapped by a continuous band of white granite. (photo: Brett Boardman)



Cast Iron Canopy Drinking Fountain (18)
In 1870 Sydney was graced with 8 elaborate cast-iron canopied drinking fountains imported all the way from Glasgow. Only a small number survive today, such as this one in Macquarie Place. The fountain canopy carries the city's coat of arms (adopted in 1857), an instructive Bible inscription, along with the less charitable demand: Keep The Pavement Dry! The actual drinking fountain is missing.
(photo: City of Sydney)



Tank Stream Sculpture (19)
The settlement of Sydney was centred on a stream of fresh water that emptied into Sydney Cove. This Stephen Walker sculpture was donated to the City by John Fairfax and Sons Ltd. in 1981 and is located in Herald Square at Circular Quay. The cascading Fountain with bronze animals is an invitation to children to explore, and its dedication 'to all the children who have played around the Tank Stream' evokes a sense of this place stretching back into its pre-urban landscape.
(photo: City of Sydney)



Water Engineering (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25)
Busby's Bore was Sydney's first reliable source and is commemorated in a fountain in Hyde Park North. (20) Tangible reminders of 19th century water engineering include exposed drains at the Museum of Sydney (21), Conservatorium of Music (22), GPO (23) and the old Supreme Court (24). The Pumping Station at Darling Harbour (now re-used as a cafe) was built for the Sydney and Suburban Hydraulic Power Company and supplied power to the city 1891-1975. (25)
(photo: City of Sydney)



Old-Style Toilets (26) (27) (28) (29) (30)
Loos...lavatories...toilets...urinals. Call them what you will, we all need them. The City Council has been involved in providing 'public conveniences' since in the 1880s. An example of a 19th century cast iron urinal can be found down in The Rocks. (26) In the early 20th century a range of substantial men's lavatories were built. Reminders of these can be found in Hyde Park (27) (28), Wynyard Park (29), and Macquarie Place (30).
(photo: City of Sydney)