



**WOOLLAHRA HISTORY
& HERITAGE SOCIETY**
PROTECT | EDUCATE | CELEBRATE

The Woollahra History and Heritage Society was founded in 1985.

The first Patron was Sir Laurence Street, KCMG, Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice of New South Wales.

The present Patrons are Peter Poland OAM and the Mayor of Woollahra Richard Shields.

Peter and June Poland dedicated their lives to the heritage of Woollahra. Strickland House and the land would not be available for the public if it hadn't been for their lifelong work to retain it for the public for recreational purposes as it was given in 1914.

Objects of the Society include:

- to encourage the study of history both of Woollahra district and Australia and to help preserve its natural and cultural heritage.
- to promote the compilation of authentic records about Woollahra.
- to acquire for the use of the Society, books, manuscripts, photos which have a bearing on Australian History and Heritage.
- to promote interchange of information among members by conducting walks, lectures, discussions and exhibitions.
- to defend the heritage of the municipality and elsewhere.

Of these campaigns the most prominent has been our opposition to proposals to alienate the Strickland House property, purchased for public parkland in 1914, and to ensure that the land and the historic house, Strickland House are retained for the use and enjoyment of the general public.

The battle to defend our Heritage has involved places such as Rose Bay Lodge, the 1834 John Verge cottage in Salisbury Road, the 1860's mansion Hawthornden in Roslyndale Avenue, the 1840's Claremont Cottage at Rose Bay Convent, the land at Macquarie Lighthouse, The Royal Hospital for Women Park in Paddington and for public land on the Harbour foreshores. The Society has published some 170 "Briefs" about aspects of our history, the majority written by Bruce Crosson who also researched and conducted walks in the municipality.

We have also commemorated a number of important anniversaries, starting with the arrival of Governor Phillip at Camp Cove continuing with important ship arrivals and departures commemorated at the South Head Signal Station where a flagstaff was erected in 1790 to announce the sighting of a ship.