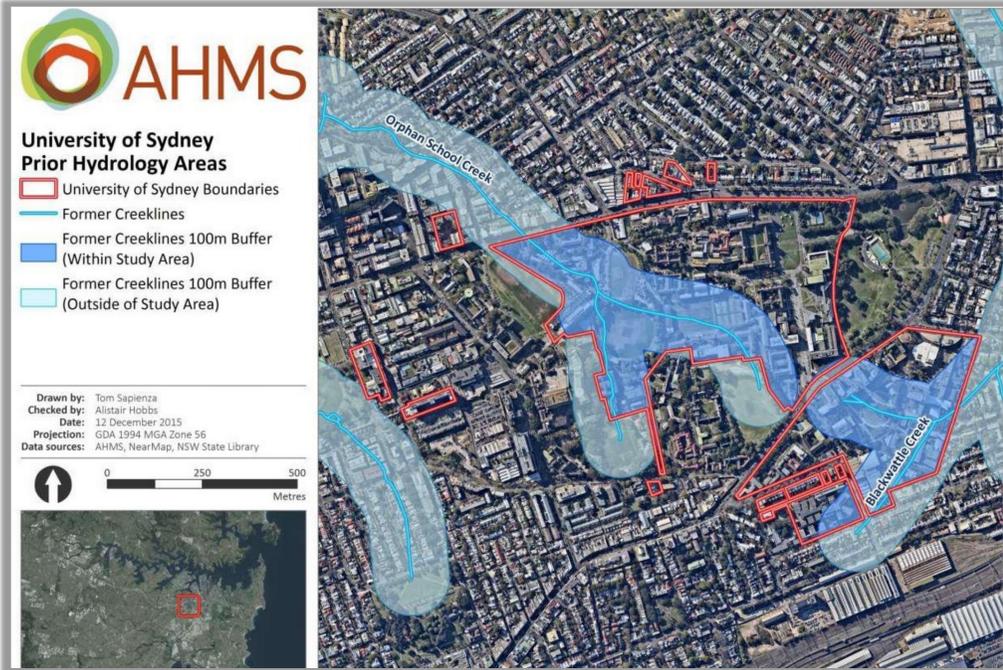
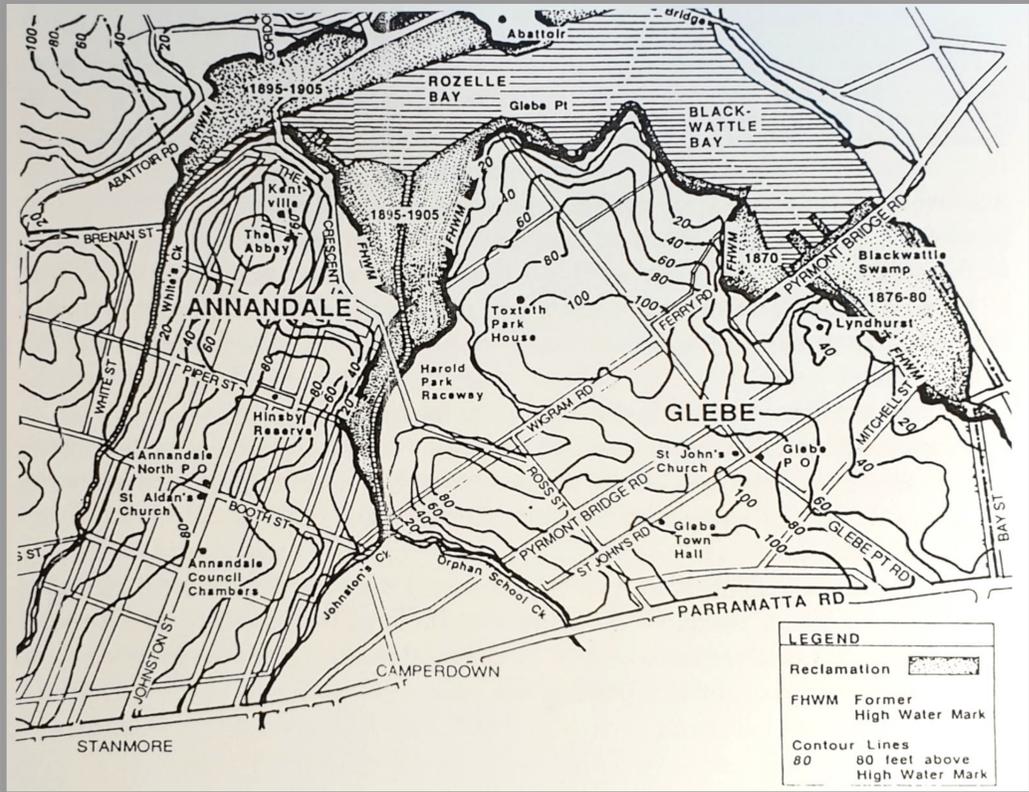


The land, water & its people

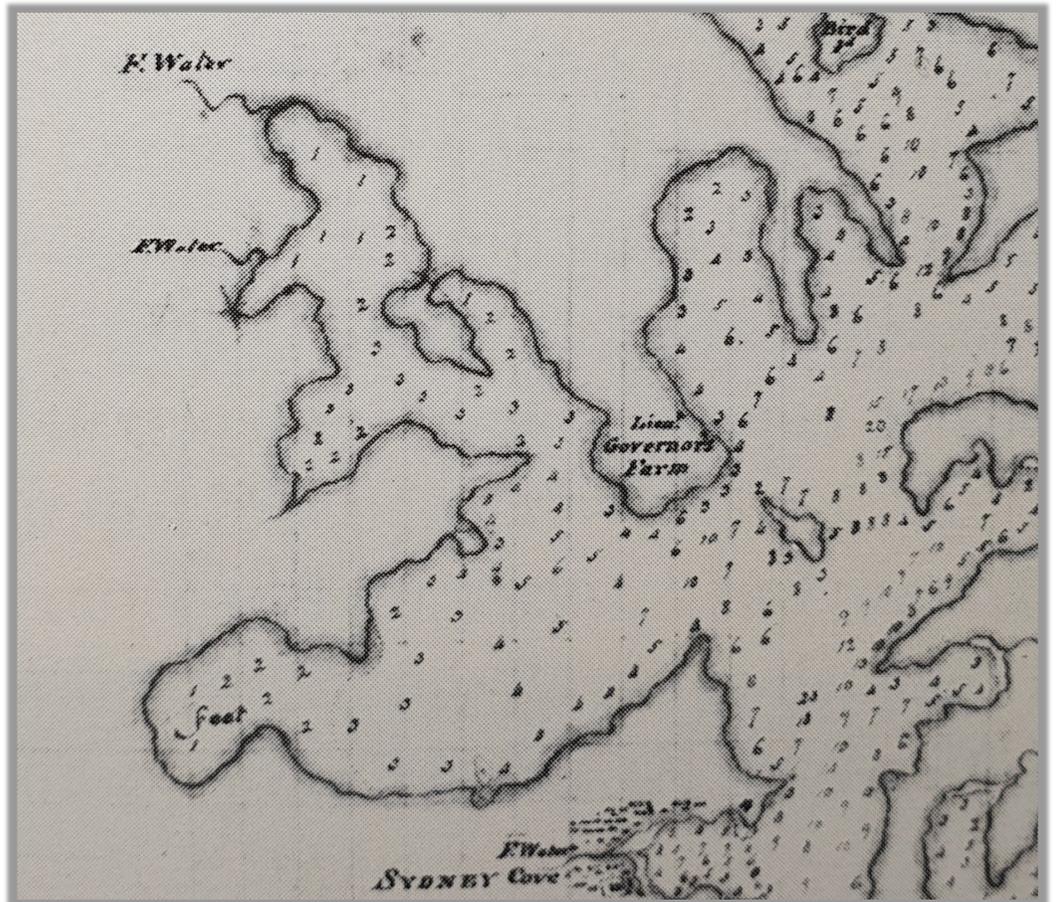


Where the creeks once rose

This image from an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report commissioned by the University of Sydney shows where the upper reaches of Blackwattle Creek and Orphan School Creek once were. Blackwattle Creek began where the old Darlington School is located within the University. The creek then ran through Glebe, Chippendale and Ultimo.⁵

The waterways – past and present

Prior to colonisation, the people who lived around what is now Glebe and Forest Lodge relied upon the waterways for freshwater, seafood and transport. This topographical map from Max Sollings' *Grandeur and Grit: A History of Glebe* (2007, p.40) shows the creeks and bays as they were prior to reclamation, and as they are now. The waterways of Rozelle Bay and Blackwattle Bay, into which Blackwattle Creek, Johnstons Creek and Orphan School Creek empty, are separated by the ridge on which Glebe Point Rd is found today.¹



'Kangaroo Ground' – source of headwaters of Glebe's creeks

The creeks that feed the bays rise on higher ground within and around the University of Sydney and its colleges. This area was known as 'Kangaroo Ground' and is labelled that way on this map by J. Walker, which was included in Watkin Tench's *A Complete Account of the settlement at Port Jackson in New South Wales* (1793).²

Kangaroo Ground was an area of open woodland on shale soil. Aboriginal people fire managed the area, possibly to attract kangaroos – a food source – to eat the kangaroo grass.³

As with other creeks that drain the watershed ridge between Port Jackson and Botany Bay, sections of these creeks have been channelled into concrete canals or buried underground.⁴

Fresh water in the bays

The creeks that fed the bays were a source of fresh water for people living or travelling through the area now called Glebe and Forest Lodge. George Raper's copy of Captain John Hunter's Chart of Port Jackson from the first year of British settlement (1788) has marked two sources of freshwater in the area.⁶

RIGHT: Glebe's land & water – occupied for thousands of years

The images in this display – except this one – were created in the last 230 years. But people have lived in the area for many thousands of years. The broader Sydney region has over 5,000 registered Aboriginal sites, with a significant number of those being located in the harbour region. This picture shows an engraving at Balls Head cross the harbour on the northern shore.⁷



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