

2 DESCRIPTION OF CALLAN PARK

2.1 Locational context

Callan Park is a 61-hectare site located on the foreshore of Iron Cove at Rozelle. The site partly forms the western slope of the Balmain Peninsula between the Balmain Road ridge and Iron Cove.

Surrounding land uses include the open space of Leichhardt Park and Leichhardt Oval to the south-west, and King George Park to the north. The boundary of Callan Park adjoins a strip of reclaimed land on the western Iron Cove edge of the site which is owned by NSW Maritime, and submerged land of Sydney Harbour at north Callan Point which is also owned by NSW Maritime. Residential and retail uses in Lilyfield and Rozelle adjoin the site across Balmain Road.

Figure 2.1 Location of Callan Park



2.2 History of Callan Park

A summary of the rich history of Callan Park is outlined below.

Table 2.1 History of Callan Park

Year	Events
20,000–30,000 years ago	The people living around the site of the Rozelle Hospital are the Wangal clan or band (part of the Eora or Dharug tribes).
1819, 1821	Gentleman's Estates created from original land grants to Butler, Austen and Ralph.
1837 - 1844	Significant Gentleman's houses Garry Owen House (c.1837-1839), Kalouan (c.1840-1844), and Broughton House (c.1841-1842) erected on the estates.
1864	Parliamentary report on the 'Present State and Management of Lunatic Asylums'. Public controversy over conditions in asylums.
1865	Garry Owen bought by Gordon and renamed Callan Park. Barnet becomes Colonial Architect. Visits Gladesville Hospital and is shocked at the conditions there.
1873	NSW Government buys 104 hectare Callan Park Estate as site for a hospital for the insane.
1878	The owner of Broughton Hall buys Kalouan.
1880-85	Callan Park Asylum (including Kirkbride Block Cottage Wards) is built to house 666 patients.
1888	With 998 patients, Callan Park Asylum already grossly overcrowded.
1900	Complaints of overcrowding at Callan Park, result in enquiries and Royal Commissions.
1915	Broughton Hall becomes Australian Army Hospital No.13 – Caring for 'shell-shock' soldiers from WW1.
1918	Commonwealth Government resumes Broughton Hall.
1921	Broughton Hall Psychiatric Centre opens for first voluntarily admitted patients.
1920 -1940	Superintendent Evan Jones develops Broughton Hall gardens for their therapeutic value to patients.
1960s-1970s	Gradual decline in patient numbers due to changes in mental health practices.
1976	Broughton Hall and Callan Park amalgamated to become Rozelle Hospital.
1983	Richmond Report recommends scaling down Rozelle Hospital and investigating alternative uses for under-utilised buildings.
1988	Barclay Report sets out standards for psychiatric hospitals and related community facilities. Capital works program to meet recommendations of Barclay Report sees construction of new hospital buildings, phasing out of Kirkbride Block, repair of Garry Owen House and its subsequent adaptation for use by the NSW Writers Centre.
1989	530 hospital beds. NSW Department of Works invited to prepare a Master Development Control Plan for Rozelle Hospital.

Year	Events
1992	Kirkbride Block leased to University of Sydney for occupation by Sydney College of the Arts.
1999-2000	Hospital beds reduced to 244.
2001	NSW Government becomes the consent authority for development at the site. Leichhardt Council surveys 30,000 households and helps the community develop a shared vision for the site.
2002	July: NSW Government releases draft Master Plan which includes some residential development. Associated plans to build a purpose-built mental health unit at Concord hospital to replace Rozelle also released. August: Leichhardt Council polling reveals high levels of public support for Council's opposition to Master Plan. October: Draft Master Plan withdrawn by the NSW Government. <i>Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002</i> No.139 passed by NSW Parliament.
2003 – 2004	Leichhardt Council, Friends of Callan Park and others discuss with the State Government the importance of retaining a mental health facility at Rozelle Hospital.
2004	April: Leichhardt Council establishes and resources a taskforce to pursue government funding, establish a Callan Park Trust, and to initiate a Master Plan for Callan Park.
2005	October: Leichhardt Council gains support of Local Government Association of NSW for the vision that Callan Park remain as a specialist mental health facility managed by a new Callan Park Trust.
2006	February: Leichhardt Council renews commitment to prepare a Masterplan for Callan Park and continues to pressure the NSW Government to retain and upgrade Callan Park psychiatric hospital. September: Council undertakes another community survey to assist with the development of a Masterplan for Callan Park
2007	July: NSW Government establishes a Community Reference Panel to comment on Masterplan and tenancy proposals including those by the University of Sydney. Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority appointed to prepare a Masterplan for Callan Park. November: Draft Callan Park Land Use Plan placed on public exhibition. December: Leichhardt Council resolves to object to the Land Use Plan.
2008	February: Leichhardt Council submits an objection to the NSW Government, based on results of a telephone survey that indicates public concern with over-development and loss of heritage features within Callan Park. October: NSW Government announces it will grant care control and management of 40 of Callan Park's 60 hectares to Leichhardt Council under a 99 year lease.
2009	Leichhardt Council convenes Callan Park Taskforce and a variety of public meetings over the future of Callan Park. December: Leichhardt Council prepares Master Plan scoping document.
2010	March: Leichhardt Council calls for open tenders for the Master Planning of Callan Park. May: McGregor Coxall and team appointed to develop Master Plan. June: Master Planning begins.

Sources: *Rozelle Hospital Conservation Management Plan Jan 2002 Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd (pages 24-29)*; *Rozelle Hospital Sydney Master Development Control Plan March 1990 Health Works, NSW Department of Public Works*; *Friends of Callan Park The Future of Callan Park: A suggested Vision and Way Forward 4 August 2003.*

2.3 Strengths and significance of Callan Park

Key strengths of Callan Park are its:

- variety of landscaped areas, including formal landscaped gardens and open parkland.
- assets for passive and active recreation.
- remnant native bushland.
- connection to Sydney Harbour.
- community facilities and a place for community events and recreation.

Callan Park has a significant social, cultural and environmental heritage.

In summary, the Statement of Significance (Tanner Architects, CMP 2002) states:

'The site as a whole has very high levels of social significance and has special associations for the local and broader community both as an open space resource and for its cultural and aesthetic value.'

The vistas across the expanse of open space, the exceptional heritage buildings and their generous surrounds, and the presence of the foreshore are part of this. Localities such as the Broughton Hall Garden, Kirkbride Garden and Charles Moore Garden are valued as places and space adjacent to heritage buildings. Scale of community and cultural uses range from the community garden to Sydney College of the Arts.'

