

# Edmondson Park Narrative

02

An attractive spot beyond the head of the harbour was found, ‘a gently undulating plain extending westward to a river flowing at the foot of the steep scarp of the Blue Mountains. To both the north-east and the south-east the plain was edged with foothills fringing highlands as high, and as rugged, as the Blue Mountains themselves. For almost thirty years this plain was the vital centre of the colony; it contained almost the whole of its population, grazed most of its sheep and cattle, and grew all its crops.’

Source: HLA-Enviroscienes, 2003, Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment Edmondson Park, New South Wales, Liverpool City Council, Pymble

Pre-European History

The Edmondson Park Frasers Town Centre occupies part of the former Ingleburn Defence Site located in a transitional area between different Aboriginal language groups. The Georges River/Appin/Camden area was used as an arbitrary boundary between the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra language groups.

Early Settlement

Edmondson Park, located in the County of Cumberland, is one of the earliest areas of European settlement in NSW. Its establishment relates directly to Sydney’s early agricultural and social development.

- The first set of Crown Grants in the area included:
- ‘Macquarie Fields’ to James Meehan (8th October 1816)
  - ‘Parkers Farm’ to Charles Parker (1817)
  - ‘Claremont’ to Henry Kitching (1819)
  - ‘Forest Home’ to Robert Bostock (1819)
  - ‘Glenfield’ to Charles Throsby (1819)
  - ‘Montore’ to Simeon Lord
  - ‘God of Love’ to Daniel Cubbit
  - ‘Swafflam’ to William Lily

The dairy farm at Edmondson Park once was resumed by the Department of Defence as it was the best land to build a camp and military area.

Ingleburn Military Area

Edmondson Park South was once predominately comprised of the former Ingleburn Defence Site.

The Ingleburn Army Camp, one of Australia’s major army camps from 1939-1970s, is of considerable historic significance as the first purpose-built training camp for World War II. It played a central role in the mobilisation of Australia’s citizens in their military training throughout the war and was the assembly point for the first military contingent assembled for overseas service in the war.

Edmondson Park and the Edmondson Family

The Edmondson family occupied land within the study area from 1906 when Joseph Edmondson, a hotel proprietor, purchased 562 acres of land. In 1916, his son Joseph William Edmondson relocated his family to his fathers land.

The Liverpool Historical Society recalls the Edmondson’s weatherboard farmhouse became known as ‘Forest Home’, ‘wreathed in poinsettias and situated in a historic environment’.

Source: HLA-Enviroscienes, 2003, Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment Edmondson Park, New South Wales, Liverpool City Council, Pymble

“ And the bush hath friends to meet him, and their kindly voices greet him  
In the murmur of the breezes and the river on its bars,  
And he sees the vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended,  
And at night the wond’rous glory of the everlasting stars.”

Banjo Paterson, Excerpt from ‘Clancy of the Overflow’



01 Edmondson Family House - original tiles  
02 Edmondson Family House - wreathed in poinsettias  
03 Vaucluse House - typical colonial picturesque garden  
04 Ingleburn Army Barracks

# Connecting Endemic Ecologies

## Creating an east-west link for Cumberland Plain Woodlands

The Edmondson Park proposal aims to link remnant pockets of Cumberland Plains Woodland predominating the site and surrounds. The Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands are nationally unique, and hold great importance in the landscape.

The preservation of woodland remnants within the Edmondson Park Reserve, will contribute to native vegetation corridors improving quality of life as the area becomes increasingly urbanised.

Retention of the woodlands within the adjoining Regional Park and within Edmondson Park Reserve shall help to maintain valuable connectivity among native vegetation remnants that are essential to retain the fauna that live or migrate through the region. For example, birds and bats, including some threatened species, use the ecological community to move from north to south through western Sydney and beyond, and from east to west across the Great Dividing Range to the coast, as seasons change.

The tree canopy is typically dominated by Eucalyptus moluccana (grey box), E. tereticornis (forest red gum), and/or E. fibrosa (red ironbark). Smaller trees and shrubs grow underneath the tree canopy. The vegetation on the ground is a mix of grasses and herbs.



*“There is waving of grass in the breeze  
And a song in the air,  
And a murmur of myriad bees  
That toil everywhere.  
There is scent in the blossom and  
bough,  
And the breath of the Spring  
Is as soft as a kiss on a brow --  
And Spring-time I sing.”*

Banjo Paterson, Excerpt from 'A Singer of the Bush'



View of proposed Greenway looking west

# Picturesque Mews

## Picturesque planting within a native forest

Edmondson Park, located within the County of Cumberland, is one of the earliest areas of European settlement in New South Wales. Development began in the Ingleburn area, known as “the bend in the river”.

It’s establishment directly relates to Sydney’s first agricultural development. The area was described as “a beautiful romantic spot suitable for country residence, fruit or vine growing”, by a local realtor in the 1880’s.

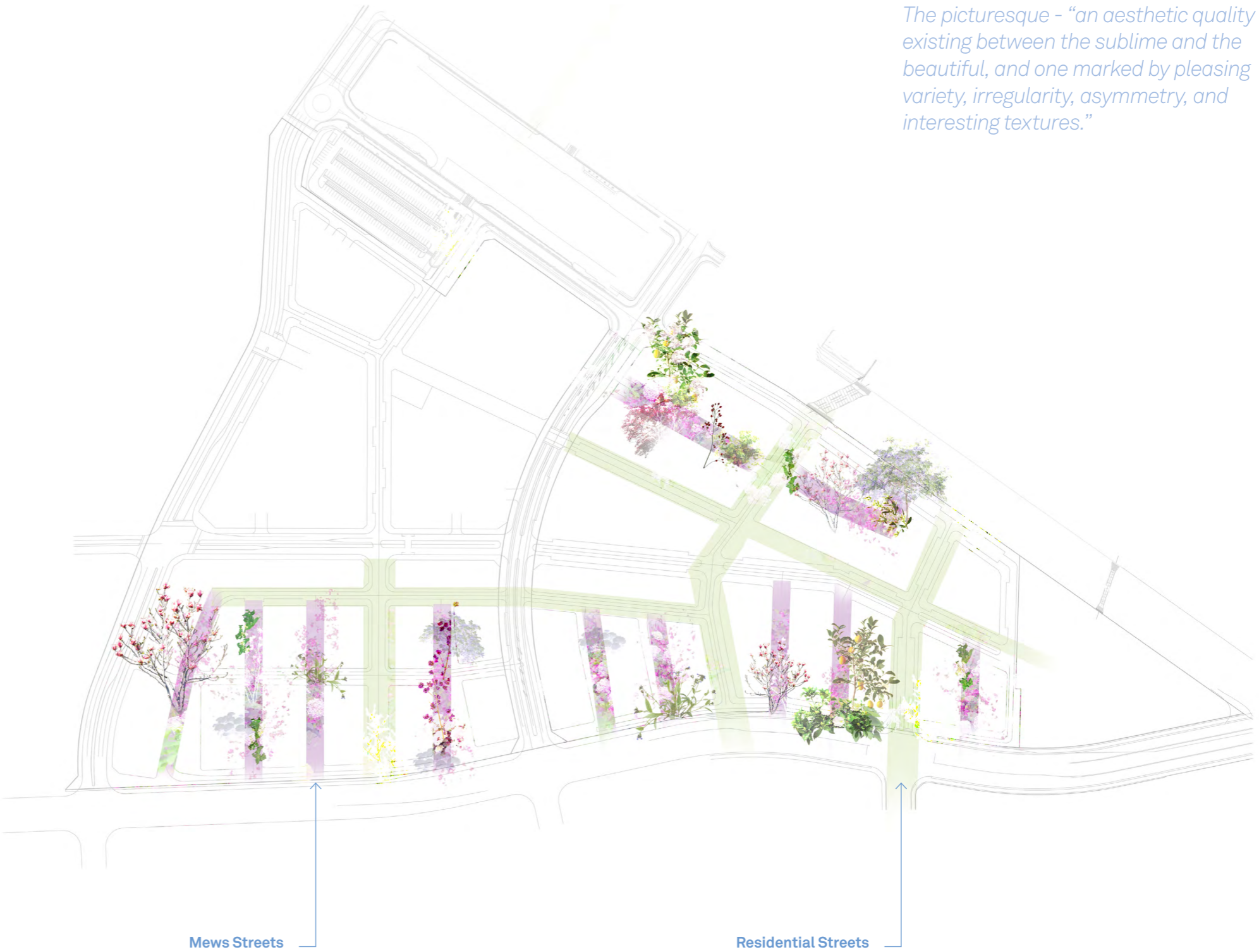
At the time of colonisation the English Landscaping School had reached its zenith, the first notable landscape fashion in Australia. The style aimed to unite houses and landscapes. Estates were transformed to informal picturesque arrangements of clumped trees, curving paths, lakes and sweeping pasture land.

As Sydney’s colony prospered, influence of this landscape movement grew and layout of houses were designed with free planning, wide lawns and clumped trees. Flower, fruit and vegetable planting remained an essential component of colonial gardens.

The early settlers who followed this style were creating the aesthetic ideal, the dream of a classical landscape in the English parkland. Specimens from Australian native forests were incorporated in gardens.

- Key design techniques included;
- \_Small groups of trees planted as a small woodlands, contrasted against low growing dense foliage
  - \_Curving paths, undulating lawns, paths and pastureland
  - \_Design layering textures and character
  - \_Punctuate the soft contours of the landscape

*The picturesque - “an aesthetic quality existing between the sublime and the beautiful, and one marked by pleasing variety, irregularity, asymmetry, and interesting textures.”*





View of proposed Mews looking north

# A Place for Play

## Surprise and delight around every corner

The diverse collection of spaces provided within the public realm places a strong emphasis on the outdoors, recreation and social engagement.

The urban fabric of Edmondson Park shall provide playful spaces for people of all ages to come together - to stop, slow down and engage with the environment and each other.

Passive and active recreation, playfulness, colour and whimsy will be scattered throughout the public domain. Key spaces include:

### \_Town Square & Eat Street

The Town Centre will be alive day and night - providing an array of opportunities for play including; integrated playground, water features and outdoor dining.

### \_Town Park West

The Town Park West will be a place for visitors and residents to enjoy. It shall include informal sports and activity zones, multiuse court, and playground.

### \_Town Park East

Town Park East shall be a resident facility which may include; fitness equipment, playground, pool and community room.

### \_Local Park

The Local Park shall be a resident facility, offering community recreation for gathering and play, which may include; swimming pool, multiuse court, group gathering zones, BBQ and playground.

### \_Edmondson Park Reserve

This reserve will provide a large, informal recreation space for activities such as bicycle trails, kick about facilities, BBQs, picnic spots and dog tracker trail.

### \_Edmondson Regional Park

This reserve adjoining the site to the west will provide visitor access to parklands without compromising ecological connectivity. This reserve will provide pedestrian and cycle paths, nature based adventure playground, picnic and BBQs.

*“Play is the gateway to vitality. By its nature it is uniquely and intrinsically rewarding. It generates optimism, seeks out novelty, makes perseverance fun, leads to mastery, gives the immune system a bounce, fosters empathy and promotes a sense of belonging and community.”*

The National Institute for Play, USA

