



The Cammeraygal People: The Cammeraygal people of the Guringai nation lived in the Willoughby area until the 1820s and are recorded as being in the northern parts of the Sydney region for approximately 5,800 years. By 1830 there were no Aboriginal people following a traditional lifestyle in the area.

Geography: Chatswood is a north shore suburb lying 10 kilometres north of the Sydney CBD. Chatswood CBD is defined by Archer Street in the east, the Pacific Highway in the west, Albert Street to the south and Help Street/ Ferguson Lane in the north.

Demographics: In 1865, 400 people lived in the Municipality of North Willoughby and almost all of the land in East Chatswood was owned by a few large landholders. The NSW Statistical Register states that the population of Willoughby comprised 3,921 people in 1890. In 1961 the population of the Municipality had grown to 53,683. Since those days the population of central Chatswood has grown rapidly, especially since the 1980s with the construction of numerous modern apartment blocks. In the 2011 Australian census, the total population of Chatswood was 21,194 people; 10,068 (47%) were male and 11,126 (53%) were female. The number of residents born in Australia was 7,850. Of those born overseas, the most common countries were China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan) (2,888), South Korea (1,642), Hong Kong (1,148), England (598), and Taiwan (526). The most common ancestry groups were Chinese (6,645), English (3,723), Australian (3,118), Korean (1,816), and Irish (1,258). 8,658 people speak English only and 12,536 can speak other languages, the most common being Mandarin Chinese (2,957), Cantonese (2,710), Korean (1,761), and Japanese (604).

Name: The name Chatswood commemorates Richard Harnett's (former Willoughby Mayor and land owner) reference to his second wife's nickname and his sentimental attachment to the surrounding woodland area of his estate: Chattie's Wood.

The Early Days: In 1834 Willoughby consisted of Mr Gore's farm at Artarmon, Mr Archbold's grant in the vicinity of what is now Boundary Street and a number of small cottages along Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway). Development in these early days was mainly around Flat Rock Creek, Willoughby and Artarmon.

The Municipality of Willoughby was incorporated in 1865 with a population of 400 people (Lane Cove was part of the municipality until 1895). In the late 1800s industries such as tanneries and brick pits offered employment to settlers. Subdivision and sale of land in the area we know as Chatswood today was commenced by the Willoughby Park Land Company in the 1870s. One of the more progressive Estates was owned by Richard Hayes Harnett. Much of the area including the present Chatswood Station originally formed part of an 1805 grant to Isaac Nichols, convict and first postmaster of the colony of NSW. When Chatswood Post Office was established in 1879, Chatswood was adopted as the official name at the suggestion of the Willoughby Municipal Council.

Development of the Town Centre: Council Minutes of 21st June 1879 record a letter from Mr. Harnett and others to have the road called "Victoria Avenue" surveyed and proclaimed "from Lane Cove Road opposite Mrs. Fuller's" to present day Warrane Road and Victoria Avenue was eventually proclaimed in 1881. Most activity at this stage was confined to the eastern end where the pattern of light industry that was established still exists today.

Victoria Avenue and Chatswood generally started to expand with the coming of the North Shore railway and the siting of the railway station at Chatswood in 1890. The first shop appeared in Victoria Avenue in 1894 and by 1896 there were several shops on the western side of Chatswood railway station.



By the early 1900s Chatswood was recognised as a desirable suburb with easy access to public transport. The Council Chambers moved from Mowbray Road to Victoria Avenue in 1903.

The opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 accelerated expansion on the North Shore. However, development was slowed down by the Depression of the 1930s and the Second World War. After the war, the potential of Chatswood was recognised in the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme and in 1948 it was recommended that Chatswood be developed as a District Centre. In 1983 Chatswood was declared a Town Centre and in 1989 Willoughby was declared a City.

Theatres and Cinemas: By the 1930s Chatswood supported three cinemas, the Arcadia, the Kings, and Hoyts. All of these had closed by 1982. The Zenith Theatre was opened in 1987. A complex of cinemas was opened in the Mandarin Shopping Centre in 1995, followed by an eight-cinema complex in Westfield shopping centre.

Retail and Commerce: The west end of Victoria Avenue was, for many years, the retail centre of Chatswood. It was not until 1959 that activity began to focus on the eastern side of the railway station with the opening of Waltons and Grace Bros (now Myer). The opening of Wallaceway, Lemon Grove and later Chatswood Chase (1983) and Westfield (1986) heralded a new era of shopping centres east of the railway line. In 1989 the Chatswood Mall was constructed by the closure of part of Victoria Avenue to traffic. The opening of the (bus/rail) Interchange in 1988 and the Gore Hill Freeway in 1992 increased access to Chatswood. A large new extension of the Westfield shopping complex (incorporating Myer) opened in 1999.

Chatswood is one of the North Shore's major commercial, retail districts and commercial office space of the Chatswood CBD has expanded greatly since the 1970s. Multi-storey office blocks now dominate the western side of the railway line. In 1997 Willoughby Council administration moved to Chatsworth Plaza in Victor Street.

Education: There are a number of long established schools on the perimeter of the CBD but none fall within the CBD area.

Recreation: The Garden of Remembrance (Albert Avenue Chatswood, next to the Chatswood Interchange) commemorates the Australian men and women from the Willoughby district who died during the Boer War, World War I, World War II, and in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam.

The Concourse: The Concourse involved the redevelopment of Willoughby City Council's 12,500 sq m site in Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. This project includes a new 5000 sqm public library, approximately 6000 sqm landscaped and terraced open space, a 1000 seat concert hall, a 500 seat theatre, a multipurpose/exhibition hall, rehearsal space, a boutique hotel, cafes, retail and commercial space and 460 car spaces. It was completed in September 2011: <http://www.theconcourse.com.au/>

Transport: Chatswood railway station is on the North Shore Line and the Northern Line of the [CityRail](#) network. Rail services run south to the Sydney CBD and continue west to Strathfield and beyond. Rail services run north to Hornsby and peak hour services run to Gosford, Wyong and Newcastle. The Epping to Chatswood railway line, opened in 2009, connects Chatswood to North Ryde and Epping via an underground rail line.

Chatswood is a major bus terminus with services to Bondi Junction, Sydney, North Sydney, Mosman, Balmoral Beach, Manly, Warringah Mall/Brookvale, Belrose, Narrabeen, Mona Vale, Eastwood, Gladesville, West Ryde, North Ryde, Macquarie University, Macquarie Park, Parramatta and Dundas.

The Chatswood Transport Interchange (CTI): The CTI has been redeveloped as part of the Chatswood Project. It involved the construction of a new railway station with two new island platforms and commuter concourses, a new bus interchange and taxi ranks.

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