

EXPLORE

Carrington

We acknowledge the Awabakal and Worimi peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters within the Newcastle Local Government Area, which are featured in this guide. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection to the land and waters, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

*Carrington Aerial Photo, 1979.
University of Newcastle, John Turner Collection*



ONEBYGAMBA, meaning “a large island”, was the original name given by the local Aboriginal people for this area. The Worimi and Awabakal peoples have lived in this area for thousands of years and their settlement has been sustained by the resources of the land, nearby ocean and creek.

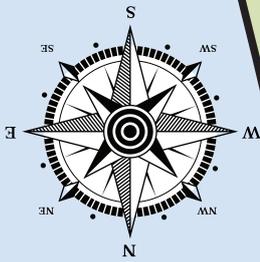
In the early days of European settlement, the area was named Chapman Island by Colonel Paterson, who visited in 1801. This name honoured William Chapman, who was the secretary to Governor King.

Around the 1840s, Bullock Island was the local descriptor for the island. It is assumed this name originated from the story that cattle grazed here before going to the slaughterhouse near Hannell Street Wickham. Ted Coulin, who did extensive research on Carrington, states that this idea cannot be substantiated and perhaps the fact

that the Aboriginal word for swamp was Bullock gives a reason for the name.

When the Post Office and Public School were established, they both used the name Onebygamba in their official title. This continued until 1887 when the Municipality of Carrington was incorporated and the name Carrington, after the state governor, was used for the suburb.

There were numerous issues associated with drainage on the island. It was composed of muddy ridges, swamps and mangroves which were inundated by tidal waters of the Hunter River. By the 1890s, only 40 out of Carrington's municipal area of 440 acres, were high enough to remain dry. Reclamation has been undertaken to raise the land and much of the material used was ships' ballast, dumped so that other cargo could be loaded for export.



Dyke Berths



The Basin



Throsby Creek

1 Henderson's Terrace

Five shops and houses were built for Alderman William Henderson, the owner of Wickham Timber Mill and Joinery Works. In 1890, the Carrington Post Office, Telegraph Office and Savings Bank opened in one of these terraces. Today, two terraces remain – numbers 30 and 32.

2 Cosmopolitan Hotel

Opened in 1905, the hotel was designed by Thomas Smith, a builder, architect, Council Alderman and Mayor of Newcastle. The building, comprising 35 rooms, has unusual arched windows. It ceased trading around 1984 and has been converted for residential use.



Cosmopolitan Hotel. Newcastle Region Library Collection

3 Wheat Silos

A major industrial development was the construction of wheat silos on land previously used for housing. The facility took two years to build, as thousands of piles had to be sunk before the foundations could be laid, and dredging had to be undertaken to allow vessels to berth safely. The facility became operational in 1937.

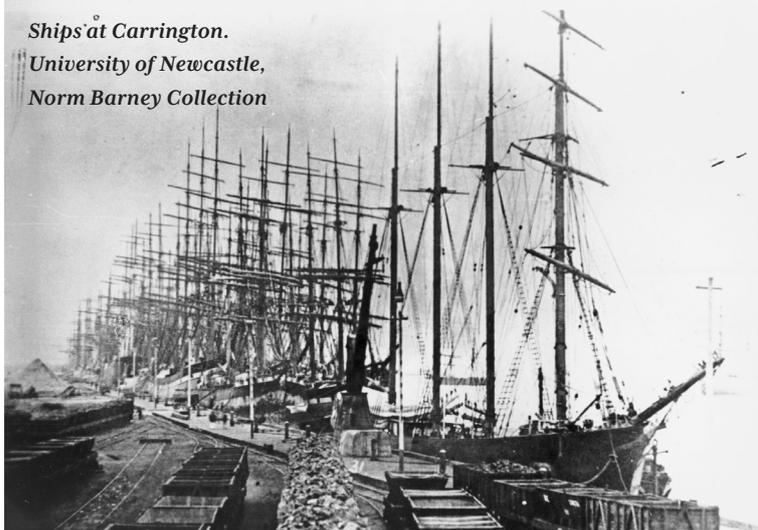
4 Shaving Salon & Wine Shop

Thought to have opened around 1874, this was one of the first shops to trade in Carrington. A Stobbs operated a hairdressing and shaving salon on the left, while a wine shop, owned by R Jordan, was in the two-storey section. Signage in window indicates Jordan was also a retailer of tobacco medicines, books, fancy goods and stationery.

5 First Glasgow Arms Hotel

The original hotel with this name started trading in 1875 and its success led to the building being extended on both sides. It continued to trade until 1939 when the second Glasgow Arms Hotel opened across the road. The old hotel was then divided into flats, and is still used for residential purposes.

*Ships'at Carrington.
University of Newcastle,
Norm Barney Collection*



6 Second Glasgow Arms Hotel

The building has a curved façade following the curve of the corner it was built on and started trading in 1939. It is not known when the hotel closed, but the building still stands and has been used as a Salvation Army Hostel and today operates as a child care facility.

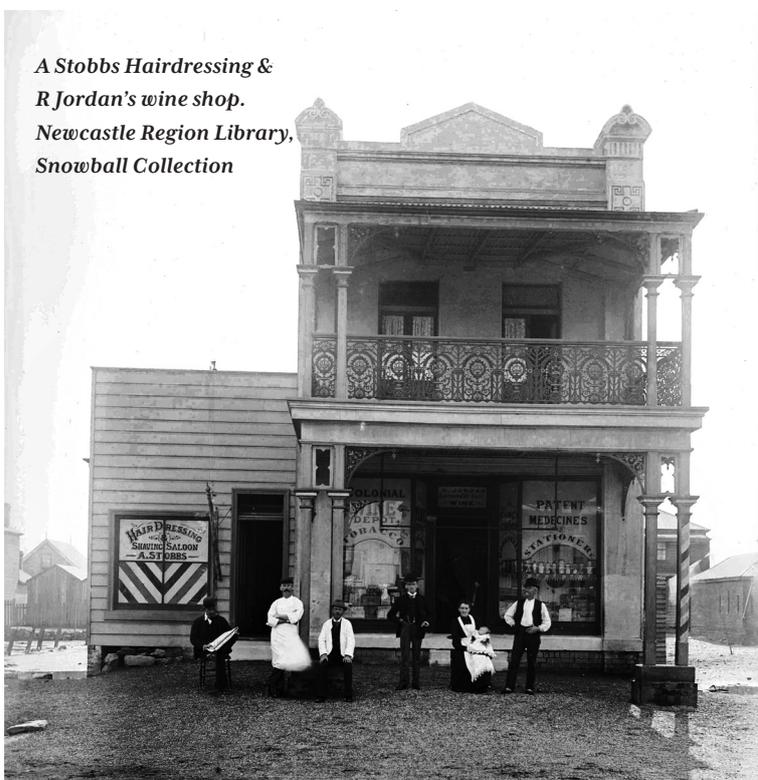
7 Seven Seas Hotel

Built by Tooth & Co in 1937, this Art Deco structure replaced the Cross Keys Hotel which started trading in 1886. As there was another establishment with the same name at Tighes Hill, it was decided to use the name Seven Seas Hotel. This was testament to the main clientele that supported the business – sailors from all countries of the world.

8 Morison & Bearby

Engineering works were established by John Howden in the 1860s and specialised in making and repairing pumps for ships. In 1873, Robert and James Morison and Edmund Bearby purchased the business. They extended the range of goods manufactured and by the 1920s employed around 300 men. The façade of the Morison and Bearby warehouse still stands today in Hill Street, but the business was taken over by Brambles in 1963.

*A Stobbs Hairdressing &
R Jordan's wine shop.
Newcastle Region Library,
Snowball Collection*



9 Pump House

Built in 1877, it housed the first large-scale hydraulic power system to be established in Australia. The Pump House has been described as the most significant, surviving building from Newcastle's 19th century industrial past. Initially, power was supplied to 12 hydraulic cranes located on The Dyke, which was a mile long facility constructed by major reclamation works using ballast dumped by ships. The Downiemoor was the first ship to load coal at the facility in 1878.



Hydraulic Engine House University of Newcastle, John Turner Collection



Hydraulic Cranes. Newcastle Region Library, Snowball Collection

10 Hughes Family Hotel

The first licence was granted in 1887 to James Hughes, who was licensee only for its first year of operation. The building was a dominant feature of the local landscape as it was the only three-storey hotel built in Carrington. The hotel changed name in 1892 to Carrington Club Hotel and continued to operate until 1977. It was well supported by miners from Hetton Colliery, which was located opposite. This mine opened in 1888 and at its peak employed 464 men.



Hetton Colliery. Newcastle Region Library, Snowball Collection

11 Criterion Hotel

This is situated on the opposite corner to the Carrington Club Hotel and started to trade in 1892. The hotel building was known for its substantial two-storey verandah on two street frontages. This has now been removed and the hotel continues to trade today under its original name.



Criterion Hotel. Newcastle City Library Collection

12 Avenue of Trees

A number of Canary Island date palms were planted along Gipps Street around 1918. Further mass plantings of trees occurred in Gipps and Hargreaves streets in 1927.

13 St Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Opened in 1887, the building was used as a church on weekends and school during the week. Nuns from the Order of St Joseph opened a two-storey weatherboard convent next to the church two years later. The church ceased being used for school purposes in 1907 when a new school opened. This facility provided education for locals until it closed in 1970.

14 Carrington Municipal Council Chambers

Carrington Municipality was incorporated on March 30, 1887 and the first council meeting was held two months later at the Temperance Hall. The new municipality was named after the state governor, Lord Carrington and council chambers opened late in 1888. They were used until 1938 when eleven suburban councils amalgamated to form the Greater Newcastle Council. The building eventually fell into disrepair and was refurbished in 1986. Today, it operates as the Carrington Community Centre.



Carrington Council Chambers, 1938. Greg and Sylvia Ray's www.phototimetunnel.com

15 Public School

Initially, the school was named Onebygamba Public School, and when opened in September 1873, 23 students attended. Due to increasing enrolments, a brick building was constructed in 1879 and the name changed to Carrington Public School in 1887. An infants' department was added in 1891, and another new wing in 1902. Aboriginal art is displayed on part of the outdoor play area facing Young Street.

16 Sunnybrae

This substantial two-storey brick house of eight rooms, was built for Alexander Mathieson. He was employed as an engineer for Hetton Colliery and later became manager. Hetton Colliery was regarded as one of the safest collieries in the area even though its workings extended under the harbour and ocean. Mathieson Street was named in his honour.

17 Fire Station

A Fire Brigade formed around 1889 and a major feature of the first station was a look-out tower built as part of the bell tower. The single-storey brick building that is used today was constructed in 1917, adjacent to the old station.

18 Everyone's Theatre

Built with donated materials and using some volunteer labour, the theatre opened in March 1930. It continued to operate until 1962 and was then converted for use as a soap factory. In 2004 the building was renovated for use as a residential complex.

19 Jubilee Park

Formerly Lang Park, this area was developed in 1937 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Carrington Municipality. The wooden pergola and adjacent bus shelter have carvings of native birds and marine creatures on their supports. Such food resources have sustained the Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Concrete paths in the form of a cross run from the four corners of the park and the central meeting point is marked by a rockery with a lamp post.

20 Quambi/Almora

Built in 1901 for Alderman David Murray as rental properties, these Victorian terraces feature timber lined ceilings, arched hallways, timber floors and fireplaces. Murray was a blacksmith and operated his business from premises next door to these terraces.

21 St Thomas Church of England

This was the first church established in Carrington and opened in 1877. The original structure was demolished in 1924 and rebuilt along the lines of the old building. A major feature is the stained-glass window facing the street. The building was deconsecrated in 2014 and has been converted for business and residential purposes.



Carrington Fire Station. Newcastle Region Library, Snowball Collection



Carrington Street Scene, 1937 Greg and Sylvia Ray's www.phototimetunnel.com

LETTER TO EDITOR,

"Let no one charge the Postmaster-General or the Government with wasteful or extravagant expenditure of public money in post-office buildings at Carrington. The new building just erected, looked at passing by from the inside of an omnibus, has certainly a low-down "squat" looking appearance, and gives one the impression that there has been a subsidence of the land since the foundation-stone was laid. Much better looking P.O.'s, and with more accommodation for the public, have been provided in the back blocks"...

Newcastle Morning Herald & Miner's Advocate
December 11, 1897

22 Post Office

Newspaper accounts of the day detail how Carrington residents were dismayed by the small, single-storey structure built to provide mail and telegraph services for the town. This was the first purpose-built post office for Carrington and services moved to this building in 1897 from a shop in Henderson's Terrace, which had opened eight years earlier.

23 First Oriental Hotel

The Walsh Family Hotel started trading on the site in 1886 and six years later it changed its name to the Oriental Hotel. In 1923 the building was converted for use as residential premises and in the 1980s operated as Carrington House Restaurant. It was converted to office space in 2012.

24 Second Oriental Hotel

In 1922 the Oriental Hotel moved to new premises, next door to its old site. Some alterations have been carried out to the original building but the basic structure is the same. The Oriental closed early in the 2000s and reopened under the name Carrington Place Bar and Restaurant. It is now called the Young Street Hotel.

FURTHER AFIELD:

A Tippler Bridge

This footbridge has provided a link to the Hunter River foreshore since it opened in 1967. It is close to Tippler House, which was built as part of the Basin Coal Loader complex. The bridge enables port workers to get to the amenities block and other facilities, without having to cross railway lines. It provides the community with outstanding views of the harbour and the coal loading facility at The Dyke.

B Totem Artwork

Located at the western end of Hargraves Street, is a display of paintings and carvings constructed by the Dates Family. Financial assistance was provided by a placemaking grant from the City of Newcastle. The totems displayed are the Goanna Totem - Worobunng, symbol of creation and sacredness; Eagle Totem - Kooyina, symbol of life, the keeper and creator of land, water and air; Two Doves, representing peace and harmony; and Resting Place - Yallarwah, the bench of the seat depicts two people sitting around a camp fire, with the backrest showing the creek flowing through the mangroves.

C Walk around Throsby Creek & Mangroves

Since European settlement, Throsby Creek has been used as a dumping ground for industrial waste. Recent decades have seen extensive rehabilitation of the creek as it is an important part of the drainage system for inner suburbs. The Council designated walk starts at the end of Arnold Street (near the Newcastle Rowing Club) and ends at Elizabeth Street. Close to the end of Hargreaves Street, is the start of a boardwalk, which weaves through the mangroves and provides a close view of the ecosystem and bird life in the area.

Walk takes approximately an hour and is on flat terrain.

Main References: History of Carrington by Edward (Ted) Coulin and Newcastle's Harbour Foreshore: the first hundred years by Julie Keating

Compiled by Julie Keating. 2022 • Graphic Design by kd DESIGN