

A vintage black and white photograph of a park path. The path is lined with trees and a white picket fence. A person is standing in the foreground on the left. In the background, there are tall utility poles and a building. The sky is bright and overcast.

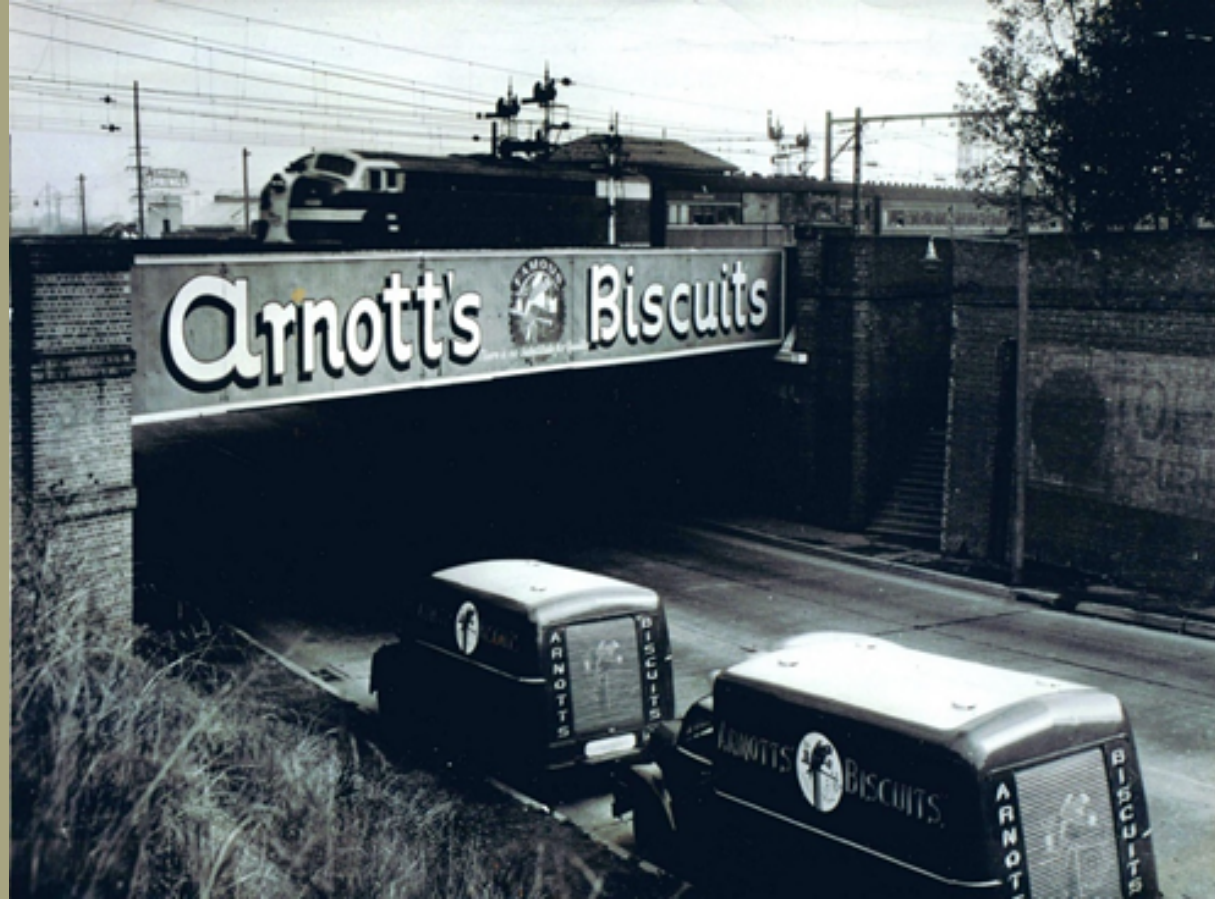
STRATHFIELD HISTORY TALK -
SEPTEMBER 2021

Q&A SESSION

The Windsor building, located in Loftus Crescent and Knight. What's the story and do you have photos?



The 'Windsor Flats' are located on the corner of Loftus Crescent and Knight Street (formerly Rochester Street) Homebush and built in 1937 by Michael Barry, a Strathfield based owner/builder at an estimated value of £7500. The 12 units and garages had a single owner and were rented. By 1954, ownership transferred to Dr Michael Barry (presumably son of the original owner) and by 1958, ownership transferred to Windsor Flats Pty Ltd. The flats would have been later strata titled which permitted separate ownership of individual flats.



How did Arnotts come to be at Strathfield?

Arnott's Biscuits were originally established in Newcastle. The first Sydney factory was opened at Forest Lodge in 1894. In 1905, the Arnott family wanting to expand, decided that a larger factory was required. Requiring access to the railway for transportation, the Arnott's purchased a six and half acre site at Homebush in 1906. The factory was designed by architect Charles Slatyer and built in 1907 at a cost of £10,400. The purchase was known as 'Arnott's Folly' as the site was considered too far from the City to attract workers. However, the Homebush factory was eventually the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.



Arnotts Biscuits -
was a significant
local employer.
Many families in
the Homebush
area worked for
Arnotts.

This photo from
the 1930s shows
the size of the
Homebush
factory.



Who owns Arnotts now? When did the factory stop operating at Homebush?

In 2019, Global private equity firm KKR & Co paid \$3.14 billion for the international arm of US food giant Campbell Soup, which owns Arnott's. Campbell's had bought majority holding in Arnott's in 1997.

In 1997, factory operations moved to Sydney's west. However, head office is still located in George Street Homebush.

What was the address of the original house “Strathfield”?



Original address was The Boulevarde. Address changed as land was subdivided. Last residential address in the 1950s before demolition was 24-26 Strathfield Avenue.

Information re Victoria Street Strathfield

Victoria Street is located on part of the lots bought by Thomas Henderson who built Seven Oaks Farm, the first property built on Seven Oaks Farm. Victoria Street is officially dedicated as a street on a land title in 1913 when part of the land was subdivided as the Hatherley Estate, but the street, formerly called Agnes Street previously existed and was likely used as a private road leading to Seven Oaks Farm.

HATHERLEY ESTATE
HOMEBUSH ROAD
STRATHFIELD

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, ON THE GROUND,
SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 1913

RICHARDSON & WRENCH LTD
AUCTIONEERS 98 PITT ST SYDNEY.
MARSHALL & DEMPSTER
112 PITT ST SYDNEY.
& **C.W. RILEY** Homebush.

AT 2 P.M.
in conjunction with



Local Sketch.

TERMS
10% DEPOSIT
Balance in monthly instalments
extending over 5 years
at 5% per annum.

Building Covenant
£500 Brick or Stone
No Weather board

SPRIN. 1837.25-1913/96.0



Background information on Keary's Corner?

Keary's Corner operated from 1912 until the death of the owner Vic Keary in 1990. The building was built in the 1890s, but opened by Keary's father Sidney, a former publican, in 1912 as a fruit and vegetable shop but later and more famously as a milk bar and lolly shop, which was described as 'the shop where time stood still' as its furnishings and fitout dating back to the Edwardian era. Keary's Corner stayed the same, while the world around it changed.

Besides the Council Chambers and St Anne's Church did Sulman design any other buildings in Strathfield?



Sulman designed the Strathfield Council Chambers in 1887, St Anne's Anglican Church (1893) and St Columba Anglican Church (1906) in Flemington

Also when was the first Anglican Church built in Strathfield?

The first Anglican Church was located on the corner of Vernon and Brunswick Streets Strathfield (date not confirmed)

Interested in the transport network to Rookwood Necropolis and when it was dismantled?



A railway line to Rookwood Cemetery opened in 1864. In 1869, a railway station was built in the middle of the Cemetery. Special trains carried coffins and mourners from the Mortuary Station at Redfern to Rookwood. Services ran twice a day for mourners and coffins until the late 1930s but was revived during World War II. The service was officially terminated in 1948.

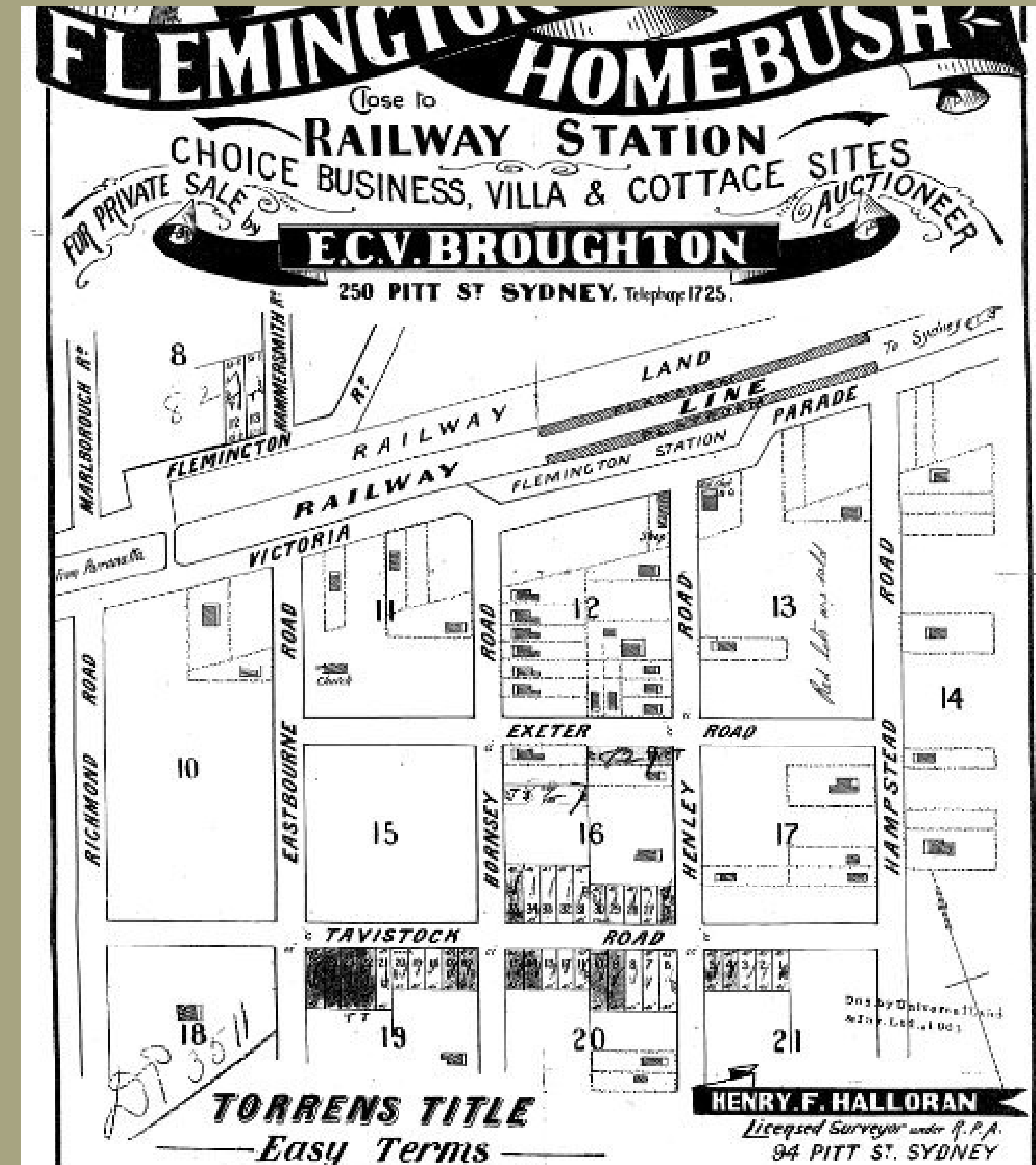
What was the land use around Ada Avenue and Newton Road before urbanisation?

Newton Road is mainly located on the 1841 Joseph Newton grant. Most of the land came under ownership of Judge Josephson and subdivided from the 1910s onwards, in different land releases. North side of Newton between Wallis to South St - Josephson's 1 estate; South St to Myrna - Strathlora Estate; Myrna to End - Strathlea Estate. North side of Newton Rd - Chalmers to South St - Josephson's No. 1; South to Wilson St - Josephson's No. 2; Wilson to End - Super Land (Arthur Rickard & Co Ltd)

Ada Avenue was formerly Enmore Street and created by the Riverside Estate subdivision which was one of the boundaries of Seven Oaks Farm.

When did the suburb of Flemington change its name to Homebush West?

Around 1995 the suburb boundaries in the Strathfield area were reviewed and gazetted. This changed the name of Flemington to Homebush West. Areas such as Strathfield West were deleted at this time. The suburb name of Flemington still exists but usually applies to the area of Sydney Markets and the railway station.



Do you have any information about the history of Cave Rd?

The Cave Road precinct of Strathfield, which includes Hedges Ave, Cave Road and Morgan Place, was built on the former Northcote Golf Course which measured about twenty-one acres of land and located in an area between Liverpool Road and Cooks River. Approval was granted in 1957 by Strathfield Council for a shopping centre facing Liverpool Rd with 2,500 parking spaces. However, the Club opted to develop the land for residential purposes. In May 1958, the Cumberland Country Council approved the rezoning and the land was sold in July 1958 for £70,000 for residential and commercial development. Most houses were built in early 1960s.



Northcote Golf Course - now Cave Road precinct

Was industry, and the effects of, the reason they did not settle closer to the Parramatta River?

Most history accounts link the development of Strathfield to the expansion and availability of express rail services to the City, which made it attractive to professionals and merchants to live and transmute to their workplaces. Land initially was reasonably cheap which encouraged development of large homes and gardens. Development commenced mainly after Redmire Estate in 1867.

Strathfield is not near the Parramatta River. The closest rivers are Powells Creek (which flows into Parrramatta River) and Cooks River.

Presentation and Q&A content prepared by Cathy Jones 2021



Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society website



Strathfield Heritage website