

Darling Harbour: A Journey Through Time

Today you will explore the land where the Chinese Garden sits. You will learn how it has changed, who changed it, and how we can care for it.



Sydney Today

Tumbalong ⇒ Garden



Timeline

People



Profile

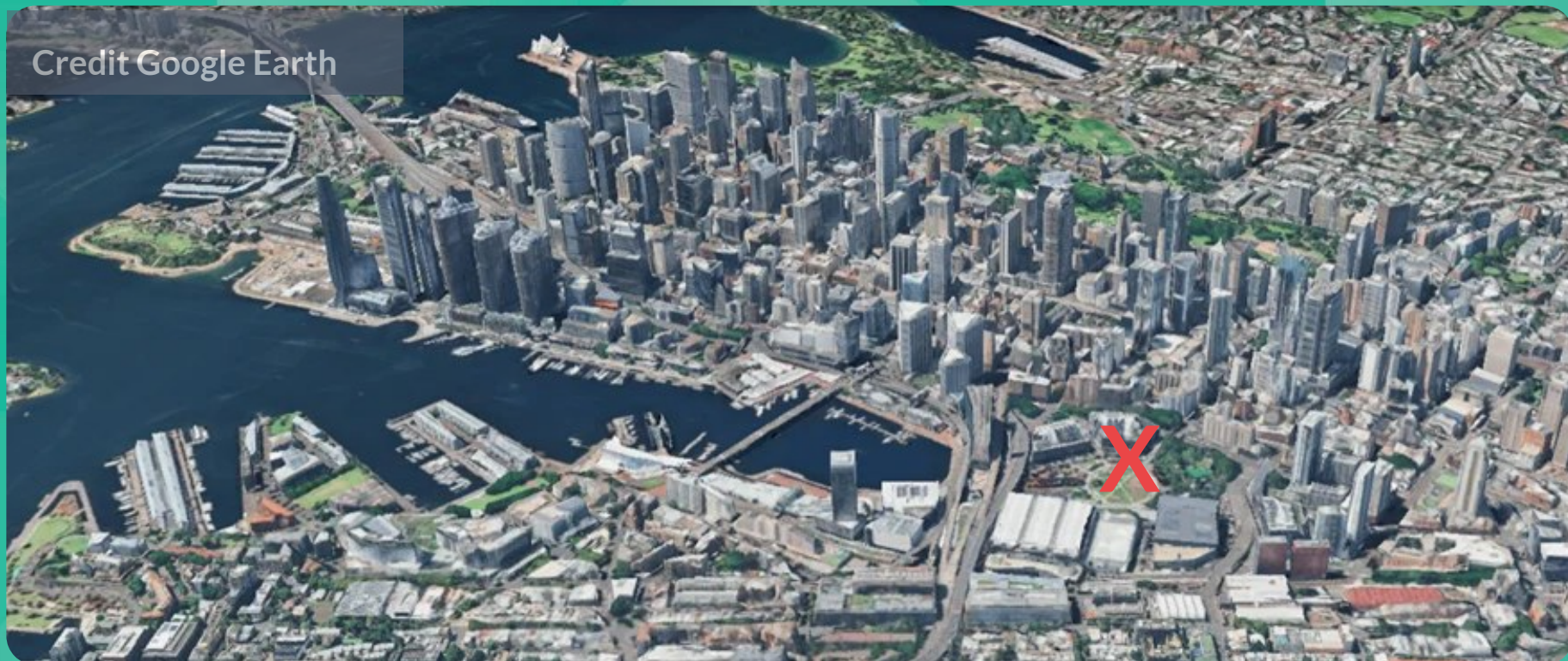
Postcard



Sydney Today



Here's a bird's-eye view of the city as it looks today. Look for the **X** that shows where you are right now



These areas have had different names over time:

Gadigal Name	British Name	Current Name
Tumalong <i>(harbourside shellfishing)</i>	Cockle Bay <i>(inlet of water)</i>	Darling Harbour <i>(harbour precinct)</i>

Why do you think place names change?

Sydney has changed over time, and the names we use for places reflect the people who have lived and worked here—from the **Gadigal people** to **migrants from around the world**. But it's not just names that change. **Migration has shaped Sydney's food, businesses, and global connections**. The Chinese Garden of Friendship exists because of these connections, showing how history and culture continue to shape the city.

Fill in the blanks by finding signs in the Chinese Garden.

At the entrance of the garden, there is a pavilion called the _____ Pavilion. It tells the story of Sydney's _____ communities and their role in celebrating Chinese culture in Australia. The Chinese Garden of Friendship opened in _____. The Garden was a gift to New South Wales from _____ in China. It was created through the effort of Sydney's Chinese _____.

DISCOVERY MISSION! - How do you experience Sydney as a global city?

- **Food:** What kinds of restaurants did you see on your way here?
- **People:** Look around. Are the visitors tourists or locals? What does that say about Sydney's diversity?
- **Signs:** What do signs in the Garden about Guangdong say about NSW's global connections?



Tumbalong - Chinese Garden



This image of Native Camp at Cockle Bay from 1812 shows Gadigal people living and caring for the same land you are standing on today.



Look closely at the picture. Can you find:

- Water
- Plants and trees
- Rocks or natural land features
- People using natural resources



Now explore the Garden, can you spot:

- Water feature (pond, stream or waterfall)
- Trees or plants providing shade
- Large rocks or stone features
- Spaces designed for rest and reflection

Name one thing you saw in both the picture and the Garden: _____

How are these similar?

How are they different?

How do both the Gadigal people and the Chinese Garden show care for nature?

DISCOVERY MISSION! - Find two trees that look similar at first glance... but actually come from totally different worlds!

- CLUE 1: ILLAWARRA PLUM**
- Mountain area, by the Rinsing Jade Pavilion
- From: Australia (Native species)
- Known by Aboriginal names: Daalgaal, Goongum, Gidneywallum

- CLUE 2: BUDDHA'S PINE**
- In a pot near the Dragon Wall
- From: Chinese garden tradition
- Often planted for symbolism and peace



Timeline



The change from Cockle Bay in 1812 to Darling Harbour today was slow. People from around the world came to Sydney and helped shape the area.

Look at the three pictures below. Each one shows the same place at a different time.

1873



A A busy area with houses and factories where many workers and their families lived. Pyrmont Bridge connected parts of the neighbourhood, helping people and goods move across the harbour.

1988



B The area became crowded with markets, trucks, and workers. Many Chinese-Australian families ran fruit and vegetable stalls here.

1930



C The area was redesigned for visitors. The Chinese Garden of Friendship was built to celebrate Chinese culture and Australia's diversity.

YOUR TASK: Match each picture to the correct description



Photograph:
(year)

Description:
(letter)

People



History isn't just about changing places—it's about the people who help create change. Over time, different people helped shape Sydney, like migrants and free settlers, and people who came during the gold rush.

MEI QUONG TART came to Australia as a child and grew up in Sydney. He worked hard and opened popular tea shops where people from different backgrounds could meet. At a time when many Chinese people struggled for equal rights, he spoke up for fairness and bridged cultural divides.

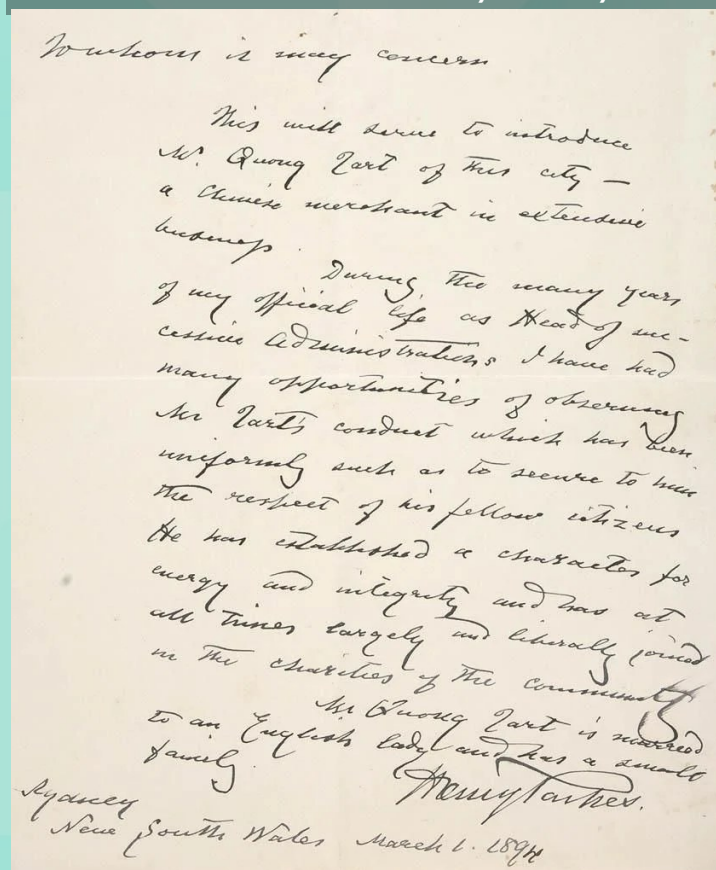
Source 1: Mei Quong Tart with members of Sydney's Chinese community



What do you notice about the people's clothing?

Do they look similar or different? How?

Source 2: Letter written by Henry Parkes (1894)



Excerpt from letter: "Mr Quong Tart... is respected... He has shown energy and honesty... and helps others in the community."

Write two words to describe Mei Quong Tart.

What does this tell us about him?

DISCOVERY MISSION! - Find the Friendship Bridge

People in the Chinese Australian community are still helping shape Sydney. Look for a bridge with a Panda and Koala. This friendship bridge was added to the Garden in 2024 and was supported by members of the Chinese community.



Profile



Build Your Own Historical Profile

People from different backgrounds helped shape Sydney in many different ways. Imagine you are a Chinese immigrant living in Sydney in the late 1800s or early 1900s. Circle the options below to create your own historical character.

Your Name:

- ◆ John Shying (also known as Mak Sai Ying)
- ◆ Tom See Poy (also known as Taam Sze-Pui)
- ◆ Louis Ah Mouy (also known as Louey Amoy)
- ◆ Gwok Ah Poo (also known as George Harper)

Why Did You Come to Sydney?

- ◆ To escape poverty in China and find work.
- ◆ To financially support your family in China
- ◆ To start a business and build a new life.
- ◆ I was forced to leave due to war or hardship.

Year of Arrival in Sydney:

- ◆ 1850s (Gold Rush)
- ◆ 1880s (Market Gardening Boom)
- ◆ 1900s (Business and Trade)

Your Job in Sydney:

- ◆ Gold Miner – Searching for fortune in the goldfields.
- ◆ Market Vendor – Selling fresh produce in Haymarket.
- ◆ Hawker – Walking through Sydney selling goods door-to-door.
- ◆ Herbalist – Running a shop with traditional Chinese medicine.
- ◆ Boarding House Owner – Providing housing for new arrivals
- ◆ Factory Worker – Working long hours making furniture.

Birthplace in China:

- ◆ Guangdong (where most migrants came from)
- ◆ Hong Kong (a British-controlled city at the time)
- ◆ Fujian (a coastal province with many seafarers)

Describe one part of your day at work.

What Do You Hope For?

- ◆ To earn enough money to return to China.
- ◆ To own my own shop or business in Sydney.
- ◆ To bring my family to Australia for a better life.
- ◆ To see fairer laws for Chinese immigrants

Challenges You Face:

- ◆ Discrimination – Some people don't want Chinese workers
- ◆ Hard Work – Your job is difficult, and the pay is low.
- ◆ Language Barrier – You struggle to speak English.
- ◆ Strict Immigration Laws – It's hard to stay in Australia

Would you stay in Australia or return to China and explain why?

Postcard



Reflection: The Garden's Story

This Garden is more than just a nice place—it tells a story about Sydney's past. It shows how the Gadigal people cared for the land, how people came from other countries, and how different cultures are part of Australia today.

Create a Postcard from one of the following:

- A Gadigal person before the British arrived
- A Chinese migrant writing home
- A visitor today

Think about what you've learned

- How does the Garden show Chinese migration to Australia?
- What parts show how the Gadigal people and Chinese migrants cared for the land?
- How does the Garden show different cultures in Australia today?

Write your postcard using what you can see, what life is like, and your hopes or worries.

POSTCARD

Today I visited _____
and learned about _____
It was interesting to see how _____
_____ has changed _____
over time. I saw _____
_____ which reminded me of _____
_____ I wonder what _____
this place will be like in the future. _____



to: _____

from: _____

Draw one place as it looks in in your time:

- Tumbalong
- Cockle Bay
- Darling Harbour
- Haymarket