

Walking in the footsteps of the Curlew Camp Artists

New interpretation signs enhances Sirius Cove heritage walk

Project	Interpretation funding
Type of work	Interpretation landscapes
Funding	\$10,000
Project cost	\$35,000
Heritage listing	LEP state significant heritage site
Local government area	Mosman
Applicant	Mosman Municipal Council

Project aim To interpret the heritage values along the route of the proposed Curlew Camp Artist's Walk at Mosman

Funding focus This interpretation funding program is targeted to state significant heritage items that have a tourism focus

"Heritage interpretation is a visual and sensory medium that provides a means of sharing Australian history, culture and values with other peoples and with passing on this knowledge to new generations," quote from Bill Nethery, Heritage Office



Interpretation signs along the Sirius Cove walkway



Board walk around Sirius Cove

The 19th century Impressionists of Europe may have been the first to create the fashion of venturing out to live and paint 'en plein air', or outdoors.

But the practice soon caught on among Australia's own artists. By the late 1880s Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin, Charles Conder and Arthur Streeton sought inspiration from the rugged beauty of the Australian landscape, setting up bush camps in Heidelberg Victoria and on the coastal shores of Sydney Harbour.

One of the most well known of these camps was established in the tranquil setting of Little Sirius Cove which became known as the Curlew Artists' Camp.

Access to this bohemian hideaway was difficult. Armed with their easels, paints and other supplies the artists had to negotiate a rocky pathway from the headland or a boat ride across the harbour.

The artists have long since gone from Little Sirius Cove and the views that inspired Tom Roberts famous 1894 work "Mosman's Bay" have given away to the stretch of suburbia. But visitors can still glimpse the sandstone rock in which Streeton carved "Curlew Camp" in 1880 and the Red Coral tree he planted around the same time and which appears like a signature in his own paintings.

Visitors can also trace the route of those early artists – in a much more comfortable fashion thanks to "new pathways" and boardwalk and installed by Taronga Zoo and Mosman Council as part of their foreshore walks improvements program. The visitor experience is enhanced further by a series of several interpretive signs along the route.

These signs, which were funded through the Heritage Incentives Program, are a window to another time and place, a piece of Sydney through the eyes of some of this country's greatest artists of their generation.

With thanks to Mosman Municipal Council and Taronga Zoo
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