



Military Homes

Several former military residences exist on this stretch of Middle Head Rd. The simple timber-framed dwellings on one side of the road were prefabricated in Sweden and arrived in large packing cases before being erected here in 1951–52 as married quarters for Naval instructors at HMAS Penguin. The brick veneer homes opposite were built in the mid 60s and are currently leased as private housing.

Golf Clubhouse

Originally a clubhouse for Mosman Golf Club, this two-storey Federation house was converted to two residential units for officers during WWII. Take a walk around the grounds of this charming building or step inside for a snack. Read the signs for more about the history of this spot.

Bungaree's Farm

Although its exact location is uncertain, this area of Georges Heights is the likely site of an Aboriginal-run farm established in 1815 by Governor Macquarie. Bungaree, along with 16 other Aboriginal men and their families, were presented with a piece of fertile land with access to the harbour for fishing, along with related farming tools and equipment, and convicts to teach the men basic farming practices.



Lower Georges Heights (B42) Battery (1877)

This battery housed two guns serviced by a labyrinth of underground rooms and tunnels. The original 9-inch muzzle loading guns could fire a projectile as far as South Head. These were later replaced with 6-inch breech loading guns which fired heavier shells almost four times as far.



WWI Hospital (1916–1921)

This collection of hutted buildings served as the 21st Australian Auxiliary Hospital during WWI. Wounded men, who were unable to recuperate overseas within a six month period, were brought here to convalesce. See over for more detail.



Mosman Drill Hall (1913)

This Drill Hall was constructed in 1913 as one of five new Drill Halls in Sydney. It was used for the recruitment, training and mobilisation of troops.



Former 1 Commando Company Headquarters (1955–2005)

These brick gate posts are a reminder of 1 Commando Company Headquarters, a small complex of garages, workshops and accommodation buildings originally constructed in 1955 for the Citizen Military Forces. The commandos departed in 2005.



HMAS Penguin

HMAS *Penguin* is the Navy's main medical facility. It is home to the Balmoral Naval Hospital, the Submarine and Underwater Medicine Unit and the Navy's Recompression Chamber Facility. Commissioned in 1942, it remains the last active military presence on the Middle Head Peninsula.

10 Terminal

The collection of building at 10 Terminal was first established in 1959 as a base for the Army Intelligence Centre. When the centre relocated to South Australia a decade later, the site—a collection of double-storey weatherboard barracks buildings, brick workshops and office buildings—was taken over by the 10 Terminal regiment as the Squadron Headquarters.

ASOPA or AusAid

During WWII this site was an internment camp for Italian nationals who were employed as maintenance staff. Post-WWII, this set of 15 weatherboard barracks buildings set within lawn areas and lush garden beds and connected with covered walkways, was used as accommodation and training for the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) from 1947 to 1997. Prior to its closure in 1998, it was occupied by the AusAid Centre for Pacific Development and Training.



Middle Head fortifications

The buildings and fortifications on Middle Head are managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The area boasts two fortifications, gun pits and the notorious 'tiger cages' where soldiers were trained to resist torture. Collect a self-guided tour brochure from the information stand opposite the boom gate at the end of Middle Head Rd.

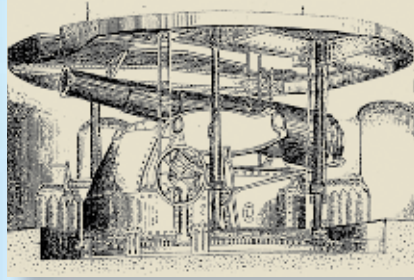


Lower Georges Heights

This complex of former military buildings known as 30 Terminal was most recently home to the army's stevedoring or dock squadron. It incorporated several small utilitarian structures including an artillery store, rigging shed, married quarters, a gardener's cottage and All Ranks Club which have now been converted to artists' studios. The nearby Landship was used to train soldiers in the handling of ships' cargo using derrick cranes to lift goods through timber hatches.

Upper Georges Heights (A83) battery (1871)

This battery comprises two concealed gun pits, connected by an underground tunnel and gunpowder magazine storage. From the wire fencing, you can see the concealed zig-zag sandstone entry. From 1889 to 1920, this battery was refitted with two hydro-pneumatic or 'disappearing' guns that were raised on mountings to fire then recoiled underground to avoid detection and allow safe reloading.



WRAAC

Until women began to be integrated in the general Army in the 1970s, female soldiers were recruited into a specific unit known as the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) which moved to Georges Heights from Victoria in 1958. The corps' training school was housed in this set of four H-shaped buildings and operated here as a training centre with accommodation until 1984, when the corps was disbanded.



Beehive Casemate (1871) and Armoured Casemate Battery (1885)

The Beehive Casemate can only be seen from the water as it is carved into the cliffs adjacent to Obelisk Bay. You can see glimpses of the bitumen-covered Armoured Casemate as you drive along Chowder Bay Rd but pedestrian access to the area is limited. For a closer look, contact NSW NPWS on 9247 5033 to book a guided tour.



Parade Ground

For over 80 years, soldiers marched on this Parade Ground, constructed in the 1920s. The two large pits in the centre of the Parade Ground were discovered unexpectedly in March 2006 when the Harbour Trust was removing paving to reinstate grass. The origin of the pits is still unknown, but it is thought they were built in the 1930s to house 3-inch anti-aircraft guns. On the corner of the Parade Ground is the 1888 Artillery Position Finding Station, built in association with the nearby gun emplacements.



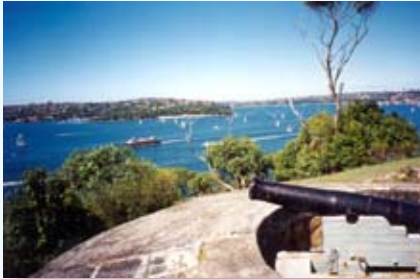
Gunshot Alley

This row of six single-storey terrace houses was constructed in the late 1890s. The houses were originally used as the Married Mens' Quarters for the Submarine Miners' Corp based at Chowder Bay and later refurbished as office space for the Army's War Games Simulation Centre.



Georges Head (A84) Battery

Constructed in 1871, the battery originally housed six guns in open circular pits connected by zig-zag passages and tunnels that lead to an underground magazine. The WRAAC took over the site in the 1950s—one of the gun emplacements was used as a goldfish pond in the 1970s.



Georges Head

Perched 65m above the escarpment with 270° views over the entrance to Sydney Harbour, Georges Head was an ideal location for defensive fortifications. The white brick building for officers' accommodation constructed on this spot has been demolished and replaced with a lookout and ceremonial space, opened in 2007.

Gunners' Barracks (1873)

Designed by colonial architect, James Barnett, this sandstone building was used as barracks for the artillery men operating the adjoining Georges Head (A84) battery. They were protected by the 7m high walls which contain loopholes through which muskets could be fired. It was the last military building in Sydney to be constructed entirely of stone.



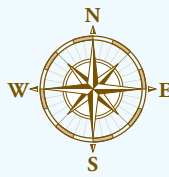
Chowder Bay

In the early 1890s, this complex of buildings and structures was purpose-built for the Submarine Miners' Corps, the unit responsible for laying and maintaining mines on underwater cables that spanned the harbour. The mines were to be detonated if an enemy ship entered the harbour. When the corps dissolved in 1922, the complex was used by the Royal Australian Engineers until 1939 when it then became the School of Military Engineering and later the Army Maritime School.



Native bushland

The native bushland in this area has been conserved due to years of relative isolation. Tracks now criss-cross the area, allowing visitors to enjoy the bush and scenic views. Teams of bush regenerators work regularly in this area to reduce weed infestation and support native plant growth which in turn conserves habitat for native animals. Common plant communities include eucalyptus forest as well as scrub containing banksia, kunzea, acacia and hakea species. Some areas also support endangered plant species such as *Acacia terminalis*.



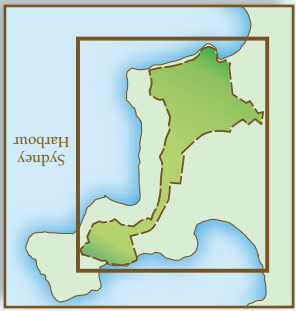
Headland Park



LEGEND

- Walking Route
- Point of Interest
- Lookout/Viewing Area
- Information
- Parking
- Toilet
- Café / Restaurant
- Bus Stop
- Harbour Trust Boundary

Harbour Trust Land
Neighbouring Landholder



- Surviving hospital building
- Demolished hospital building
- Later construction
- Hospital on the Hill exhibition



The Hospital on the Hill Precinct

- LEGEND
- A Cook House
 - B Meat Store
 - C Mess Hall (Building 28)
 - D Ward D (Building 28)
 - E Ward E (Building 26)
 - F Bath House (Building 27)
 - G Ward G
 - H Ward H (Building 23)
 - I Ward I (Building 21)
 - J Guard House (Building 1)
 - K Message Hut (Building 3)
 - L Dressing Station (Building 4)
 - M Store Building
 - N Officers' Quarters



Headland Park

Headland Park, Mosman, straddles the ridgeline along Middle Head Peninsula and includes the plateau areas of Georges Head and Georges Heights. The park stretches from Balmoral Beach to Chowder Bay.

Created by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust on land formerly occupied by six Defence bases, the park has been progressively opened to the public following the restoration of buildings and facilities, and rehabilitation of the landscape. It was the site for Governor's Macquarie's experimental farm for Aborigines and the traditional land of the Borogegal clan.

Headland Park is rich in natural and cultural history and is one Sydney's great vantage points from which to view the harbour.

Headland Park incorporates Middle Head, Georges Head, Georges Heights and Chowder Bay.

Things to do

Guided tours, outdoor education, restaurants, cafés, functions, dance lessons, gym, scuba diving, snorkelling, bushwalks, swimming, art classes, exhibitions, special events and more. www.harbourtrust.gov.au or (02) 8969 2100

Headland Park is open daily during daylight hours

Getting there

Bus: Sydney Buses route 244 from Wynyard.

Transport Info: www.131500.info or 131 500.

Foot: Walk along the bush track connecting Headland Park with Taronga Zoo (via Bradleys Head), Clifton Gardens or Balmoral. Or walk from Mosman along Middle Head Rd or via Rawson Park.

Water: Water taxis and private vessels can pick up and drop off at Clifton Gardens Wharf.

Car: Via Middle Head and Chowder Bay Rds, Mosman. Unlimited parking on Middle Head Rd. Paid parking on Chowder Bay Rd. Off-street car parks at Lower Georges Heights, Georges Heights, Golf Clubhouse and at the intersection of Middle Head and Chowder Bay Rds.

Accommodation

Accommodation for schools and organised groups at Lands Edge: Sydney Harbour, Chowder Bay. www.landsedge.com.au or (02) 9969 0038

Emergency

In case of emergency, phone 000 (or 112 from your mobile phone, even if phone is out of range).

Headland Park Ranger: 0432 750 714 (8.00am – 4.00pm)

Headland Park Security: 0433 631 572 (4.00pm – 8.00am)

Want to know more?

To find out about Headland Park and the Harbour Trust, contact us at: www.harbourtrust.gov.au or info@harbourtrust.gov.au

Phone (02) 8969 2100

PO Box 607, MOSMAN NSW 2088



History of the Area: Time line

1801: Battery of two guns and a magazine built above Obelisk Bay to guard the entrance to the harbour. Later, six guns were installed in the battery.

1815: Governor Macquarie established a farm for Aborigines and placed Bungaree in charge. The experiment did not succeed.

1853: Outbreak of the Crimean War and reports of Russian warships in the Pacific led Britain to authorise improved defences in Sydney. Governor Denison favoured the inner line of defence strategy and stopped work on batteries for Middle and Georges Heads.

1861: Land resumed at Bradleys, Middle and Georges Heads for military purposes. A reaction to war rumours in Europe and America.

1870: Last British troops stationed in Australia departed. Two Commissions formed to report on the defence of the colony. Recommendations favoured the outer line of defence strategy – batteries at inner and outer Middle Head, Georges Head, Georges Heights, inner and outer South Head, Bradleys Head and Shark Point.

1871–73: Work commenced on batteries for the outer line of defence including a six gun battery on Georges Heights, a four gun battery at Georges Head and a three gun rock casemate at Georges Head at water level. Outer Middle Head battery contained eight guns and inner Middle Head four guns.

Construction began in 1872 of the James Barnet designed Gunners' Barracks to house defence personnel.

1877: Sir William Drummond Jervois appointed Governor of South Australia and defence advisor to the Australian colonies. Reported on the defences of New South Wales, assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Scratchley.

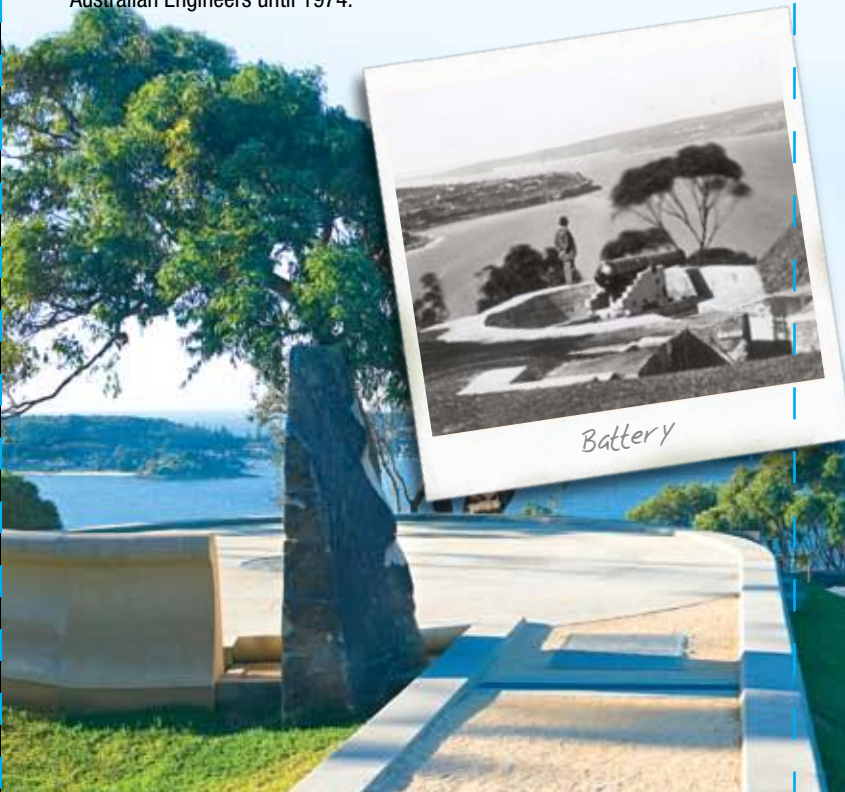
1885: A School of Gunnery was started at Middle Head. Buildings now used by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

1880s: Outer line of defence batteries regularly assessed, reviewed, upgraded and criticised.

1891: Detonation of submarine mines in a simulated explosion by Submarine Miners in Middle Harbour went wrong, killing four of the crew and injuring others.

1892: Royal Commission established to investigate and reorganise the military services of the Colony.

Submarine Miners' Depot established at Chowder Bay. Operated until 1922 after which the site was occupied by various groups of the Royal Australian Engineers until 1974.



1901: At Federation, guns mounted in the defence of Sydney included outer and inner Middle Head, Georges Head casemates, Georges Heights and Obelisk Bay.

Over the next decade, Sydney coastal defences and harbour defences were reduced and rationalised.

1915: Mobilisation camp erected on Middle Head.

1916: 21st Australian Auxiliary Hospital established at Georges Heights. Operated until 1921.

1925: Committee of Imperial Defence report on the defence requirements of Australia. Among its recommendations, the mounting of two 9.2 inch guns at North Head.

The guns were in place in 1936 and prepared for operations by Royal Australian Engineers based at Chowder Bay.

1941: Middle Head the base for the Anti-aircraft and Fortress Engineering School and the Army's Signal Unit.

1942: Camouflaged fuel tanks completed at Georges Heights.

HMAS *Penguin* commissioned on land the home to the Mosman Golf Club since 1923. The club house became married quarters.

1945: Italian prisoners of war housed in huts near Obelisk Beach.

1947: The Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) established on a campus at Middle Head.

1951–52: Seven Swedish weatherboard houses erected on Middle Head Road as married quarters for the Navy.

1954: Gunners' Barracks became Artillery Officers' Mess and was subsequently occupied by the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC).

1955: Georges Heights oval formed.

1958: School of Military Intelligence occupied 10 Terminal (an area of Middle Head) until 1967. In 1963, 1 Terminal Group moved to the site.

1974: Chowder Bay the site for the Army Maritime School.

1979: Former defence lands at Middle Head added to Sydney Harbour National Park.

1985: Headquarters Training Command replaced the WRAAC and the Gunshot Alley terraces were refurbished as a war games simulation centre.

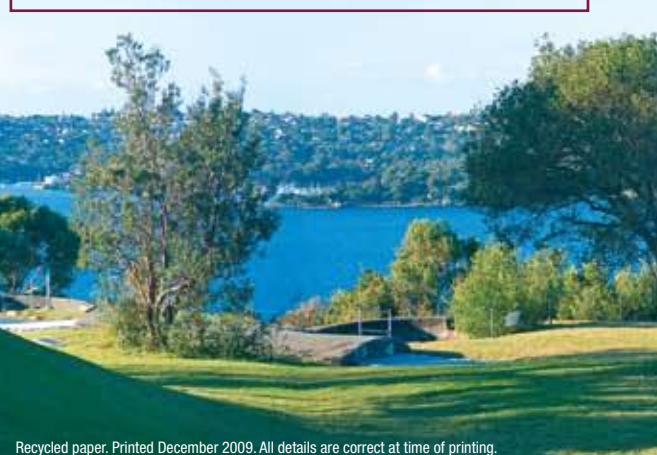
2001: Sydney Harbour Federation Trust established. Surplus Defence lands on the Middle Head peninsula were transferred to the Trust for long term conservation and rehabilitation.

2002: Headquarters Training Command relocated to Victoria Barracks.

2006: 1 Commando Company relocated to HMAS *Penguin* and buildings demolished by the Trust to create parkland.

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

We acknowledge the Borogegal people, the traditional custodians of this area.



Recycled paper. Printed December 2009. All details are correct at time of printing.

Now incorporated into Headland Park, the former Hospital on the Hill precinct retains its harbour views and the peacefulness that assisted in the recovery of those wounded in war.

buildings interpreted with timber boardwalks.

see original hospital buildings and the footprints of some demolished

Take time to read the exhibition book and study the photographs. Then walk around the former hospital precinct. Using the map, you can

women who occupied this historic place.

The exhibition in Building 21 (Ward I) commemorates the medical staff and soldiers who worked and recuperated in the Hospital on the Hill. Though small, this tranquil space evokes the lives of the men and

basic building materials and simplicity.

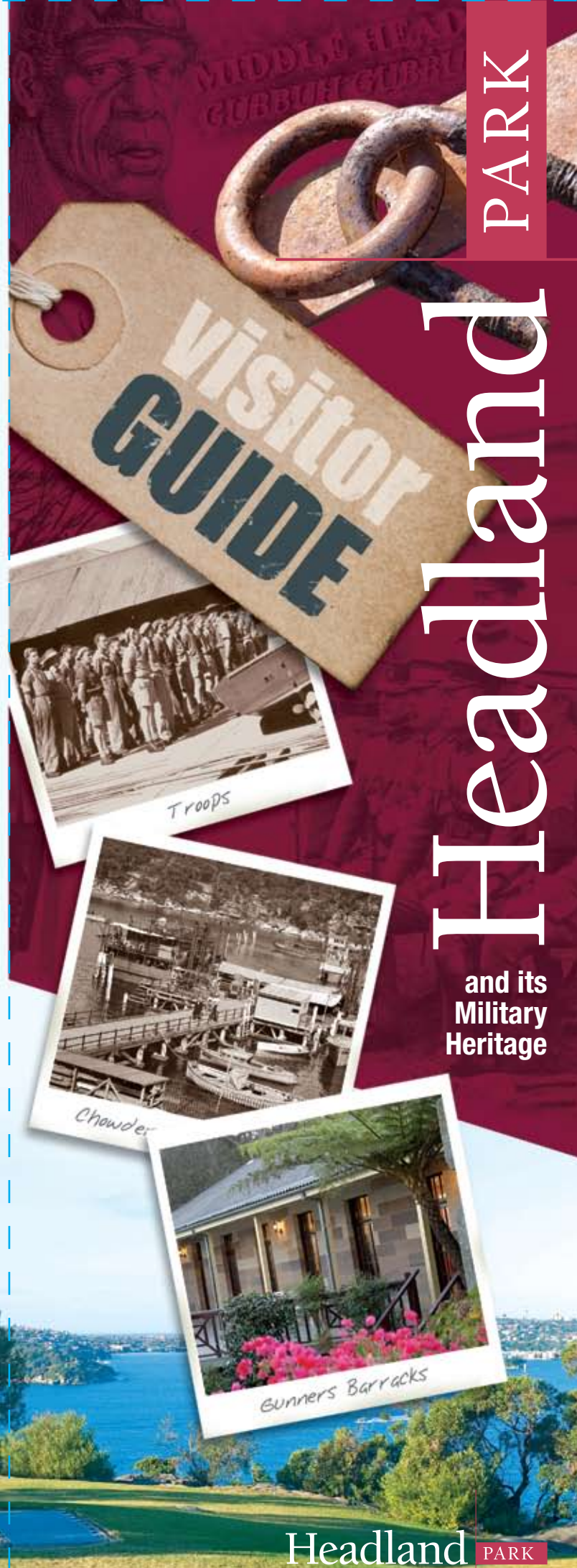
huted hospital complex, with distinctive verandahs, courtyards, rehabilitated extant hospital buildings. The buildings have been

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has conserved and the Western Front.

the increasing number of casualties returning from the trenches of Hospital was established in 1916 at Georges Heights to accommodate area in one guise or another for 200 years. The 21st Australian Auxiliary

valued for their strategic significance. Defence forces occupied the After European settlement, Middle Head and Georges Heights were

The Hospital on the Hill – Headland Park



PARK

Headland

and its Military Heritage

Headland PARK