

# ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



## Blaxland's Corner

**Blaxlands Corner**, Northwood, at the intersection of River Road, Longueville Road and Kenneth Street has officially been recognised by the Geographic Names Board as a locality since 1995. It was named for **Francis Henry Blaxland** who originally owned three acres of land in area from the 1880s, and was a grandson of the famous explorer.

Francis Henry Blaxland was born at *The Hermitage*, in Ryde in 1858, the son of John Blaxland, MLC and Ellen Falkner. In 1885, he married Mary A. Fitzgerald at All Saints Church, Hunters Hill. Mary was the daughter of Robert and Emily Fitzgerald and her father was the Deputy Surveyor General of Sydney. After his marriage, Francis purchased about three acres of land bounded by the roads now known as Northwood Road, Kenneth, Arabella and Woodford Streets. In 1887, Blaxland built his home, *Kialora*, later spelt, *Kailora*. In 1886, Francis sold a part of his land on the corner of Kenneth Street and Woodford Street to his brother-in-law, Sydney Bernard Levick, who built his home, *Minembah* on that portion of land. Both houses were designed by the noted architect, Edward Jeaffreson Jackson and were completed within six months of each other. Levick married Francis's sister, Lucy Margaret in 1887. Both houses still exist today and are listed on the local heritage register.

As an early settler in the district, Francis Blaxland played an important part in establishing the new Borough of Lane Cove. In 1893, he was signatory to the second petition sent to the Governor requesting self-government for the western part of the Borough of Willoughby and was elected as one of two auditors for the newly formed Lane Cove Municipality in 1895. Francis also had a career for 40 years as a draughtsman in the Lands Department.

Both Francis and his wife, Mary, imbued themselves in local issues, including the interests of the Red Cross and other patriotic movements. Mary Blaxland was a member of the local Red Cross League, the first branch of the British Red Cross to be formed in Australia by Mrs. Venn Brown of Northwood. Francis and Mary had no children and remained in their home until Francis died on 20 June 1918. After Francis's death, his remaining land was subdivided into 17 choice blocks including the homestead *Kialora* and sold as the **Blaxland's Estate** in 1919. Mary moved to Leura, where she died in 1944.



William H. Stevenson's cash store, the first at Blaxlands Corner, Northwood, was erected in 1910, circa early 1900s.

**Blaxland's ESTATE**  
**NORTHWOOD - LONGUEVILLE**  
 17 CHOICE BLOCKS  
*Including the Homestead "Kailora"*  
 AUCTION SALE. ON THE GROUND.  
**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1919**  
 AT 3.15 P.M. **W. ROB JOHNS, LTD**  
 AUCTIONEERS, 78 PITT ST SYDNEY.  
 Phone City, 1024.

**TERMS**  
 FOR ALLOTMENTS \$10 PER LOT DEPOSIT Balance 16 quarterly payments of 6 per cent.  
 FOR THE HOMESTEAD 60% can remain of price realized Balance 3 years at 6%.

**TORRENS TITLE.**  
 F.H. SPIER, Solicitor to the Estate, 350 George St. City.

**LOCAL SKETCH.**

*Chapman & Fenwick, Engineers, Surveyors & Valuers, 55 St. Marks St. City.*

All Dimensions subject to Re-surveyed Plans.  
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The Blaxlands Estate, first auctioned for sale 26 April 1919.