

# ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



## Coronation Viewpoint

Located on a ridge of the busy Pacific Highway at Greenwich is a small park scarcely noticed by the thousands of commuters who pass it each day. If you stop in its small semi-circular roadway you get extensive views over both the Lane Cove district and the city of Sydney.

In the 1930s the site was recognized as 'a wonderful vantage point, offering unsurpassed panoramic views of the Metropolis and the surrounding countryside.' Representations were made to Council and government to acquire the few remaining undeveloped lots in the vicinity for posterity. By 1936, with the urging of the Parks & Playgrounds Movement of New South Wales, three lots were acquired by the state government and one by Lane Cove Council. The site was handed over to council for use as a public reserve.

The name Coronation Viewpoint was given to the site in 1938 to commemorate the coronation of King George VI, the father of Queen Elizabeth II. During 1953 further suggestions were made to commemorate the coronation of Elizabeth II as Queen through the addition of a locality indicator. The task was taken up by local groups and sporting bodies who contributed to the cost. On December 12 1954, a plaque was dedicated to record these events and was unveiled by the Mayor Ald. G. O. Venteman. Children from local youth organisations and schools also planted commemorative trees on the day.

During World War II, Lane Cove Council had zig-zag air-raid trenches dug in a number of locations. Coronation Viewpoint was one of these public sites. The trenches were for motorists, residents or shoppers who may have been caught outside in the unlikely event of an air-raid.

In 1965 Coronation Viewpoint Park was awarded a 'highly commended' in *The Sydney Morning Herald* Garden Competition for the small public park category. In addition, the Rotary Club of Lane Cove proposed a plan for the beautification of Coronation Viewpoint as its annual Community Service Project in 1967. The plan included making a focal point for the park which included a fountain. The final design was a combination of sculpture and water, with a 'flame' of bronze to give it height and substance. The

sculpture was designed by Otto Steen and named the Rotary International Fountain. The overall project was overseen by Loyal G. Figgis of Figgis & Jefferson Architects and was completed in 1968, with the official opening and unveiling by Mayor Archibald W. Mackinnon on 9 July 1968.



*Unveiling the commemorative plaque and locality indicator at Coronation Viewpoint in December 1954*



*Rotary International Fountain at Coronation Viewpoint, 1987*

