

ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



Northwood

The suburb of **Northwood**, **Northwood Road** and **Northwood Point** all take their name from **Northwood House**, built for and named by Mrs. Jane Davy in 1878.

Between 1872 and 1874 Abraham Davy purchased 34 acres comprising most of the land which is now Northwood Point. Abraham died in 1874 and his widow, Mrs. Jane Davy commissioned architect, Edmund Blackett to design a house on part of a seven acre block. Blackett was famous for his Victorian Gothic architecture and is best known for his designs for the University of Sydney and St. Andrew's Cathedral. The design was constructed by brothers, John and James Eaton and completed in 1878, when it was named **Northwood House**. The area had earlier been cleared by timber-getters who referred to it as "the north wood".

In 1903, Northwood House and an adjacent property were purchased by **Abdul Wade**. He was perhaps the most successful of the Afghan cameleers in Australia during the late 19th and early 20th century. Wade arrived in Australia in 1879 and initially worked for Faiz and Tagh Mahomet. In 1893 Wade moved to Bourke and began importing camels and recruiting Afghan cameleers for the recently formed Bourke Camel Carrying Company. At the height of his success Wade had four hundred camels and sixty men working for him. According to local legend, he sometimes landed camels at **Northwood Wharf**. Wade subsequently subdivided the property adjoining the house. He reputedly lost **Northwood House** in a poker game and moved to Chatswood.

Northwood Point was originally known as Penry's Point or Pendray Point, but after the Davy family had established themselves in **Northwood House**, the surrounding area also came to be called **Northwood**. Jane Davy built the first ferry wharf at Northwood Point at her own expense so the family, and later the community, could take advantage of river steamers to the city. She later donated 3 acres of land for the nearby park.

Northwood Road was originally called Hicks Wharf Road, after Joseph Hicks, the first land

grantee on the point. It first appeared as Northwood Road in 1882 in both the Lane Cove rate books and the Sands directory.

Another Northwood street name connected to the Davy family is **Wyndarra Place**. It takes its name from **Wyndarra House**, built by Abraham & Jane Davy's son, William in 1893 on part of his mother's land. In 1959 and 1960 extensive subdivision of its surrounding land created Wyndarra Place. It first appeared in the Lane Cove rates books and **Gregory's Sydney Street Directory** in 1962.



'Northwood' [House]. Bevan, Stacy and Norton Neave with their aunts, Polly and Jenny Davy in the 1880s.

