

ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



Tantallon Oval

Many residents would be familiar with Lane Cove's popular Tantallon Oval which formed part the Tantallon Estate. The Tantallon Estate subdivision was first offered for sale in 1924 – it comprised '158 splendid lots in an elevated and picturesque position, together with five acres dedicated as a cricket and recreation reserve'. The subdivision created three new streets: Johnston Crescent, Fraser Street and Tantallon Road, along with Tantallon Oval. It included a number of housing blocks fronting what is now Epping Road, although at the time it was part of Moore Street.

The land was originally part of a 33 acre Crown land grant made to Edward Cohen in 1856. Edward Aaron Cohen (1822-1877) was a prominent merchant, parliamentarian and Jewish community leader. Edward was born in London, the second son of Henry and Elizabeth Cohen. In 1833, his father, Henry Heinz Cohen was convicted at London's Old Bailey Court for receiving stolen promissory notes and sentenced to transportation to New South Wales for fourteen years. Henry's wife and eight of his children followed him to Sydney, arriving in December 1833.

The family initially established a large store in Port Macquarie, where Henry had been assigned. The Cohen family became well known and successful merchants and later established a wholesale grocery firm, *H. Cohen & Son* in George St Sydney, which Edward managed for a time. The extended Cohen family amassed considerable wealth and property across the country.

In 1847 Edward married Rebecca Benjamin (1831-1902) in Melbourne where he became active in civic and municipal affairs, representing East Melbourne in the Victorian Legislative Assembly in 1861-65 and 1868-77. Edward was also the Mayor of Melbourne 1862 - 1863. After Edward's death in 1877 his land at Lane Cove was inherited by his youngest son, Alfred Isaac Cohen (1864 -1952) and two grandsons; Rupert Alfred Hart (1880-1945) and Brigadier Harold Edward Cohen (1881-1946).

In 1920 Cohen's Lane Cove land was sold to the Union Land Company Ltd. and in May 1924 'Tantallon Estate, Longueville' (as Lane Cove was then known) was advertised for sale in several Sydney newspapers. The advertisements praised the beauty of the Lane Cove River, claiming the estate to be only 'five miles from the G.P.O.' and in 'a high class and progressive suburb' located 'only seven minutes walk from the Electric Tram, and about 200 yards from Burns Bay Road, along which Motor Buses run to Figtree, the terminus of the Lane Cove ferry service'.

The reason for naming Tantallon is unclear, but the name can be traced to a fourteenth century Scottish castle in East Lothian. The fortress was built by William Douglas, 1st Earl of Douglas and located on a headland looking out to the Firth of Forth. *Tantallon Castle* was also the name of a British passenger ship which ran aground in fog and was wrecked at Robben Island, near Cape Town, South Africa in



*Looking east from Tantallon Road, August 1939
(Courtesy of the Department of Main Roads)*

1901. During the 1920s *Tantallon* was also the name of a well known 3,200 acre sheep and cattle property near Orange - the *Tantallon Handicap* was an annual horserace held in Orange. Recipes for *Tantallon biscuits* also appeared regularly in newspapers of the day.

Tantallon Oval has been much improved over the years. Its original tin dressing shed was relocated from Longueville Cricket Ground (now Kingsford Smith Oval) in 1925. It is now an award-winning oval with a surrounding recreational park.

Tantallon Road first appeared in the Lane Cove rates books of 1925 and was listed in the Sands Directory from 1932.

The beauty of the Lane Cove River!
A pleasing prospect of Artistic Homes set in Lovely Gardens!
A High-class and Progressive Suburb,
ONLY FIVE MILES FROM THE G.P.O.

These are some of the attractions associated with the
TANTALLON ESTATE LONGUEVILLE

158 Splendid lots in an Elevated and Picturesque position, together with Cricket and Recreation Reserves. Approached by wide and well-made roads lined with superior modern villas.

Only seven minutes' walk from the Electric Tram, and about 200 yards from Burns Bay-road, along which Motor Buses run to Figtree, the terminus of the Lane Cove ferry service.

Gas, Water, and Electric Light are available — houses being built right on the boundary of the Estate.

LANE COVE'S PROGRESS
Population and Land Values more than doubled in the past four years!

This charming subdivision of the choicest land available in Lane Cove is about to be offered for private sale on our usual easy terms—Small deposit and instalments of £1 per month for every £100 of purchase money.

Newspaper advertisement for the Tantallon Estate, 1924