

## aberdoon park & buchan square fact sheet

Set in 1.6 hectares of open space, Aberdoon House is an intact example of an old Colonial Georgian Cottage typical of the early settlement of the Rouse Hill district.

The building has been renovated by Council and is a café. A new community centre has been built adjacent to the original cottage.

### History – Aberdoon

The land surrounding was granted to Thomas Clower on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1818. Clower, a former convict and stonemason, arrived in the colony in 1798 after being convicted of an unspecified crime at Buckinghamshire Assizes.

The subsequent owner, Hugh Kelly was a well known early settler and landowner. The township of Kellyville owes its origins to his name. Kelly purchased the property in 1826 and also owned the nearby "Bird in the Hand" inn located near the corner of Wrights and Windsor Roads. He named his farm "Vinegar Hill Farm" to distinguish it from the many properties he owned around the district.

The property passed to Alexander and William Gamack in 1841, who subdivided the part of the original Clower grant adjacent to Windsor Road into several smallholdings of approximately a quarter acre.

Whilst the date 1887 appears above the lintel of the front door, it is generally assumed that this is the date of a major renovation and not the original date of construction.

Who actually built the homestead remains a mystery to this day.



### Buchan Square (now known as Aberdour Village Reserve)

In the early days of colonial Australia, development in this district was limited to small allotments of land of approximately 50 acres in size along the dusty track that we now know as Windsor Road. The land surrounding Rouse Hill was mainly limited to the cultivation of wheat and maize whilst on the larger holdings nearby, cattle and sheep grazed on the abundant natural grassland.

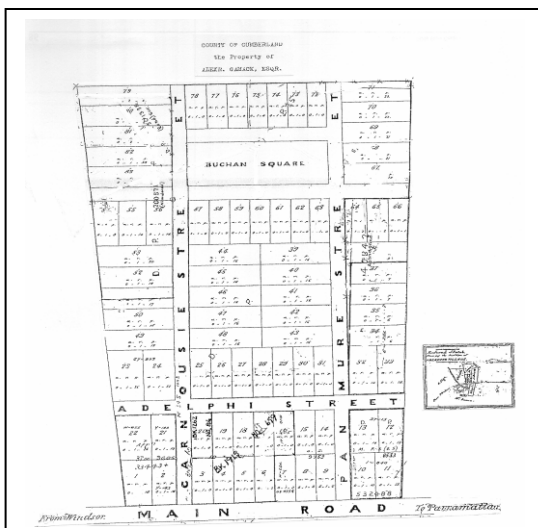
By the 1820s, the most successful settlers were buying out their neighbours and then engaging in both cultivation and grazing.

The land adjacent to Aberdoon Park, originally granted to Thomas Clower, was eventually purchased by the brothers, Alexander and William Gamack. The former is known to have been Surgeon at the Port Macquarie penal settlement, Norfolk Island, Windsor, Parramatta as well as Liverpool.

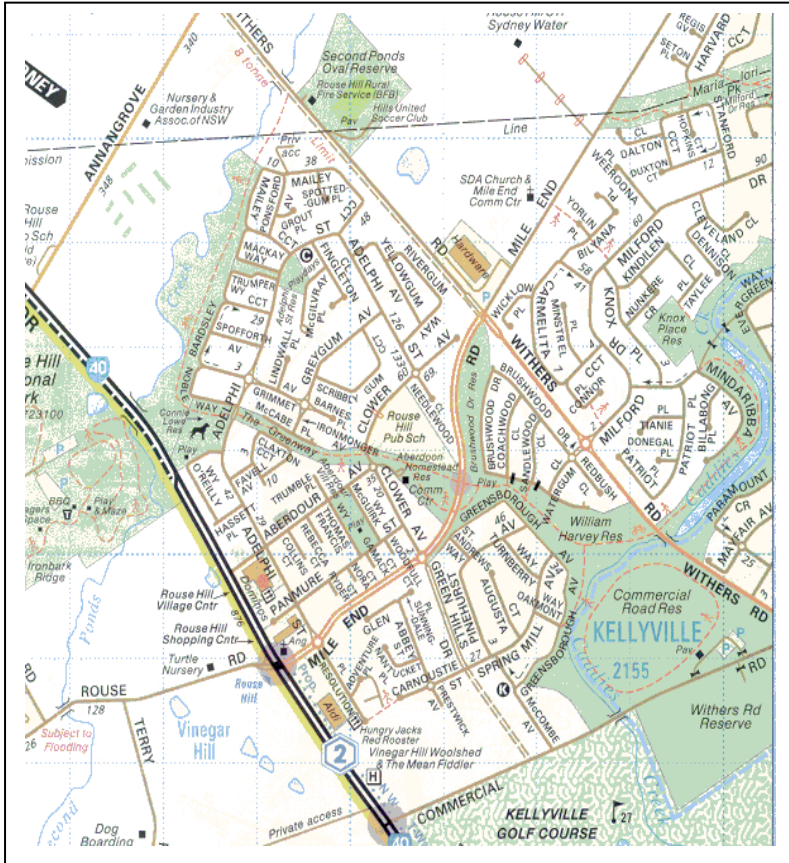
The Gamacks subdivided a portion and named it the "Village of Aberdour" after the place near Edinburgh, Scotland where they were born. Surveyor Charles Whitaker of Windsor prepared the plan and auctioneers White and Co. of Windsor advertised the land for auction. It was auctioned in April 1841 and it was said to be a great success.

Central to the layout of the village was a public park known as "Buchan Square". The street names included Adelphi Street, Panmure Street and Carnousie Street.

The modern streetscape reflects that original 1841 layout including the park.



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### Location and access

Aberdoon Park is located at Clower Avenue, Rouse Hill.

### Things to do and see

**Education:** Take a leisurely walk around the district and visit historical places like Rouse Hill House, Rouse Hill Cemetery, the 1840's "Buchan Square (now a modern park with playground equipment) and the gravestone in William Harvey Reserve.

The walk is self guided with information plaques at points of interest.

**Picnicking:** There is a sheltered picnic table available at the Aberdour Village Park nearby. There is however no barbecue facilities at this stage.

**Playground:** A children's playground is provided in Aberdour Village Park.

**Walking:** Many concrete walking tracks circumnavigate the district. For a challenging walk travel along the Greenway Link between Rouse Hill House and Bella Vista Farm.

**Bird watching:** Many interesting native birds may be found in the William Harvey Reserve nearby.

### Getting involved

- Join a bush care group and assist with the management of the bushland. For more information contact Council's Bushcare Officer on 9686 4842
- Keep pets out of the bush
- Report vandalism to Council's 24 hour hotline 1300 884 885

### For further information:

Visit the Local Studies Collection at the Castle Hill Library.