



Help us frame the future at [www.myplace2021.com.au](http://www.myplace2021.com.au) or 9335 2209

## Fact Sheet | Petersham

### Past

The original owners of the land in the Marrickville Council area were the Cadigal Wangal clans, who lived in the area for more than 40,000 years. The Cadigal Wangal clans were part of the Eora nation and spoke the coastal Eora language. The Aboriginal name for most of the present day Marrickville Council area was Bullanaming.

Petersham was named by Lieutenant-Governor, Major Francis Grose after his native village on the Thames, near Richmond, England. Petersham was one of the earliest settlements in the colony. Facing a severe food shortage in October 1793, Grose ordered the construction of a timber yard 200 feet square with nine huts for labouring convicts and 60 acres of government ground cleared of timber, twenty of which was sown with Indian corn.

The prominent water tower was built in 1916 over the old water reservoir. Petersham Reservoir (No. 89) was commissioned in 1888, and has the historical distinction of being the first of the new reservoirs to be constructed upon the commencement of the Upper Nepean Scheme in 1888.

Petersham was a separate municipality from 1871 to 1949.



**Petersham Town Hall opening (1936)**

Courtesy of S. Bain

Image held by Marrickville Council



**Petersham Council street sweeper (1948)**

Image held by Marrickville Council



Help us frame the future at [www.myplace2021.com.au](http://www.myplace2021.com.au) or 9335 2209

## Present

### Population

	Number	% of total Marrickville population
<b>Total</b>	7,391	10.2%

In 2006, 12.8% of the population in Petersham were children aged between 0-14 years, and 18.6% were people aged 55 years and over. The median age in Petersham was 35 years, compared with 37 years for all people in Australia.

### Country of birth

Country	Number	% of suburb	% of Sydney
Australia	4,531	61.3%	60.4%
England	289	3.9%	3.5%
New Zealand	243	3.3%	2.0%
Portugal	188	2.5%	0.2%
Italy	151	2.0%	1.1%
Greece	137	1.9%	0.8%

English was the only language spoken at home by 68.3% of persons in Petersham. The most common languages other than English spoken at home were: Greek 3.6%, Portuguese 3.6%, Italian 3.2%, Spanish 1.6% and Vietnamese 1.5%.

### Occupation (Top 5)

Country	Number	% of suburb
Professionals	1,471	35.2%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	667	16.0%
Managers	551	13.2%
Technicians and Trades Workers	404	9.7%
Community and Personal Service Workers	343	8.2%

The median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over was \$680, compared with \$518 in Sydney. The median weekly household income was \$1,269, compared with \$1,154 in Sydney.

### Household composition

Of 1,734 families: 37% were couple families with children, 43.6% were couple families without children, 16.7% were one parent families and 2.7% were other families.

Of 3,270 occupied private dwellings: 35.8% were separate houses, 19.6% were semi-detached, row or terrace houses, 42.1% were flats, units or apartments and 2.4% were other dwellings.

19.5% of occupied private dwellings were fully owned, 24.3% were being purchased and 46.1% were rented.

Median sale price November 2009 : Houses: \$725,000 and Units: \$418,000 (Australian Property Monitors)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census (QuickStats)