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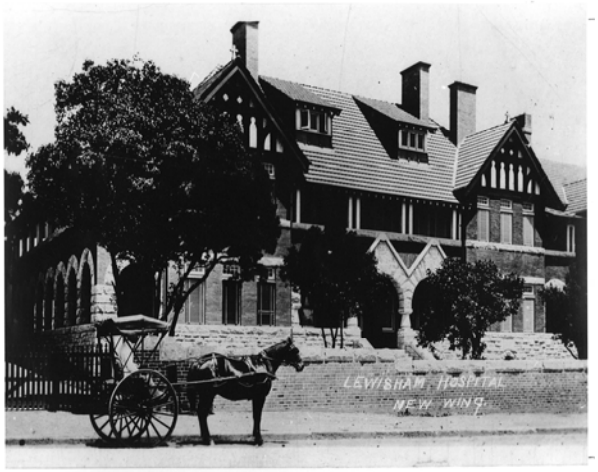
Fact Sheet | Lewisham

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.

Lewisham was named in 1834 after the estate of Joshua Frey Josephson, businessman and judge, and owner of Enmore House. He named the suburb after the London Borough of Lewisham, which means Leofsa's village or manor.

Lewisham is notable in Australian railway history. It was the termination point for the first train journey in the NSW colony in 1855, although the railway station was not built until 1885. The whipple truss bridge over Long Cove Creek was constructed 1885-1886 featuring North American technology developed by Squire Whipple. It is probably the most significant railway bridge site in Australia, certainly in NSW. It has the unique distinction of having four different types of bridges from different eras. The Institution of Engineers Australia designated the Viaduct as an historic engineering marker in 1994.



Lewisham Hospital (1927)
Courtesy Ray Sowdon Collection
Marrickville District Historical Society
Image held by Marrickville Council

Railway bridges, Lewisham (1887)
Courtesy Government Printer
Image held by Marrickville Council

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Present

Population

	Number	% of total Marrickville population
Total	2,761	3.8%

In 2006, 14.6% of the population in Lewisham were children aged between 0-14 years, and 23.5% were people aged 55 years and over. The median age of people in Lewisham was 39 years, compared with 37 years for all peoples in Australia.

Country of birth

Country	Number	% of suburb	% of Sydney
Australia	1,754	63.5%	60.4%
England	99	3.6%	3.5%
New Zealand	76	2.8%	2.0%
China	70	2.5%	2.6%
Portugal	63	2.3%	0.2%
Greece	57	2.1%	0.8%

English was the only language spoken at home by 68.9% of persons in Lewisham. The most common languages other than English spoken at home were: Greek 3.7%, Portuguese 3.2%, Italian 2.4%, Cantonese 2.1% and Mandarin 2.0%.

Occupation (Top 5)

Country	Number	% of suburb
Professionals	517	35.0%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	238	16.1%
Managers	209	14.2%
Technicians and Trades Workers	134	9.1%
Labourers	96	6.5%

The median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over was $581, compared with $518 in Sydney. The median weekly household income was $1,138, compared with $1,154 in Sydney.

Household composition

Of 655 families in Lewisham: 39.8% were couple families with children, 41.4% were couple families without children, 16.0% were one parent families and 2.7% were other families.

Of 1,125 occupied private dwellings: 50.8% were separate houses, 14.9% were semi-detached, row or terrace houses, 33.5% were flats, units or apartments and 0.4% were other dwellings.

26.1% of occupied private dwellings were fully owned, 28.7% were being purchased and 37.2% were rented

Median sale price November 2009 : Houses: $665,000 , Units: Not available (Australian Property Monitors)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census (QuickStats)