



PENRITH UNIVERSITY CITY *Newsletter*

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Werrington Park

“With the buildings already on this site and the expenditure of only \$10M on additional facilities the University could be opened for the first intake of students as early as 1989.”

*Ald. Kevin Dwyer
Mayor of Penrith.*

UNIVERSITY SITE IDENTIFIED IN 1968 PLAN

As early as 1968 the State Planning Authority earmarked an area at Kingswood and Werrington as a Tertiary Education Precinct.

The site was identified by the Sydney Region Outline Plan "Sydney 2000" and in the years that followed the Penrith City Council and the Higher Education Board have fought to preserve this site for a University.

In a review of the Sydney Region Outline Plan in 1980, the Department of Environment and Planning reiterated the need for the Tertiary Education Precinct.

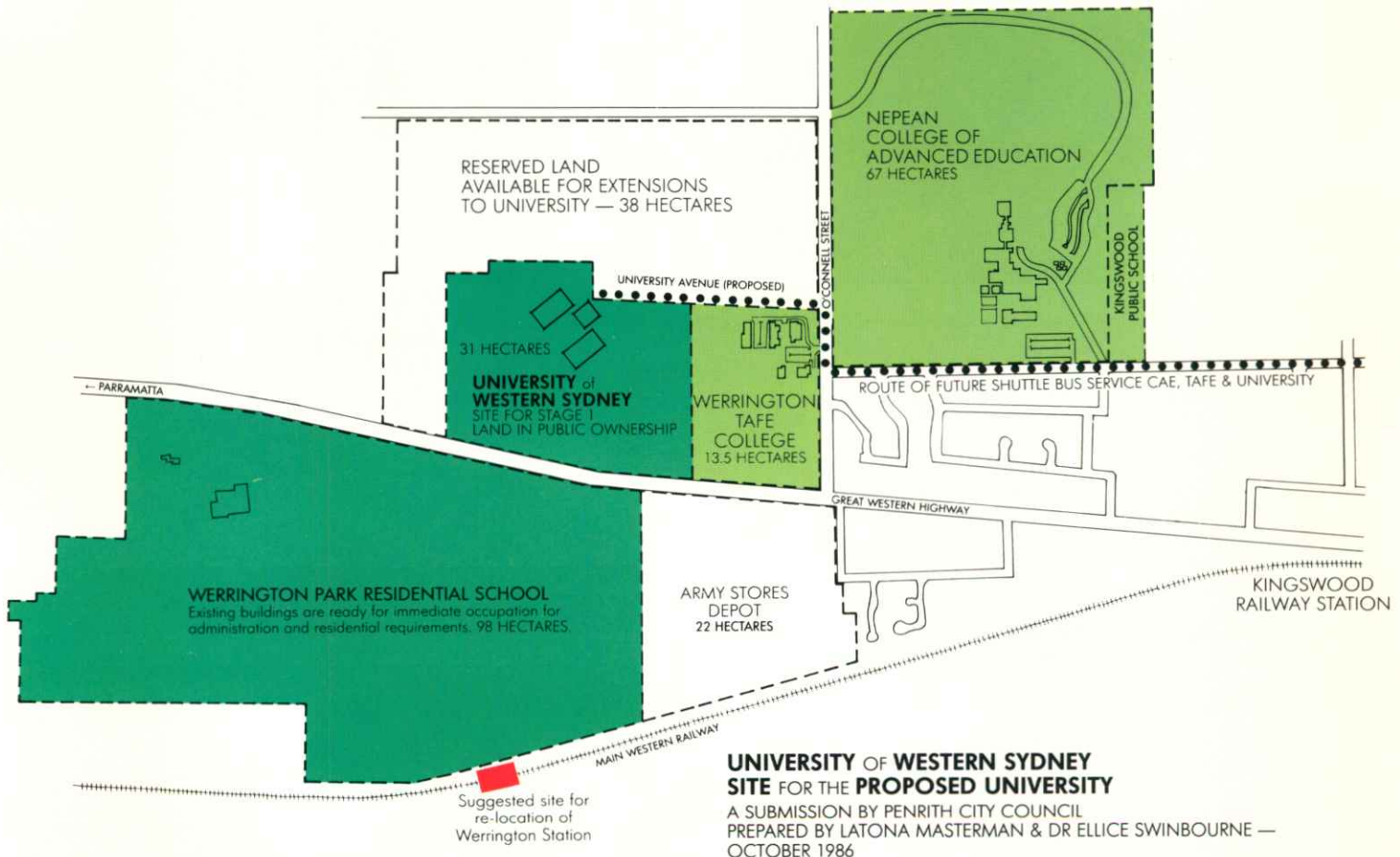
In 1984 the Higher Education Board requested funding from the Federal Government for the purchase of land in the area so that it would be preserved for tertiary education facilities.

SYDNEY REGION: OUTLINE PLAN, 1968 1970-2000 AD

"Universities are large land users and early planning is needed to preserve suitable sites ... As a general rule universities, colleges of advanced education, and teachers' training colleges, will be sited as far as possible on a common site because of the advantages of economy and operational flexibility to be granted thereby."

TERTIARY EDUCATION

"A new University, a College of Advanced Education, and a Teachers' Training College are proposed on a site adjoining the railway line at Werrington. Part of the proposed site is at present occupied by a Child Welfare Home, and negotiations with the responsible department will be necessary."



PENRITH — "UNIVERSITY CITY"

In August, 1986 the Penrith City Council formed a taskforce to press for the location of the University at Penrith.

The taskforce consisted of representatives from business and industry, education, professional people and community representatives.

They commissioned Artransa to produce a video to present a case for Kingswood/Werrington as the University site.

The video — "Penrith — University City" drew attention to the rich heritage of the city, the long history and the strong community identity within the city.

With the existing educational institutions, the many sporting facilities and its natural assets, the city lends itself to the title. The Nepean River has long been a venue of State and National Rowing Titles, and the G.P.S. Head of the River is an annual event in the city.

The taskforce also commissioned Latona-Masterman Town Planners to state the case and to clearly outline the reasons why the University should be located at Penrith.



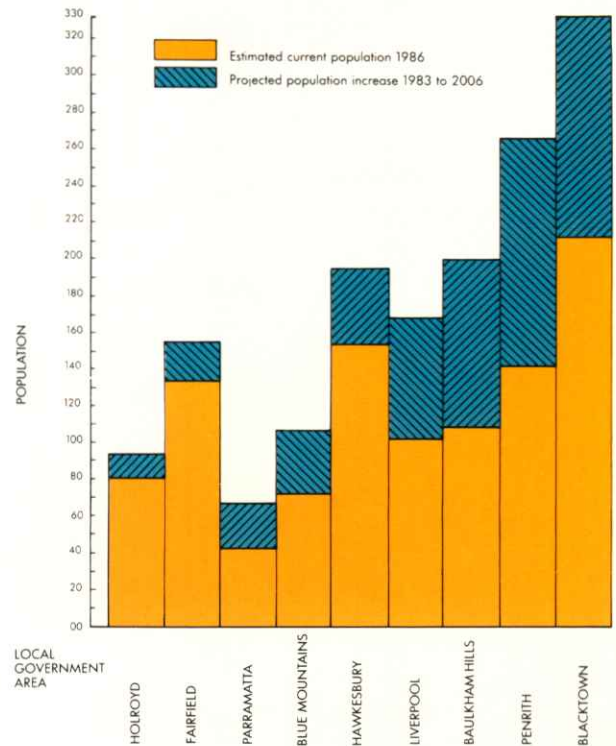
Head of the river.

POPULATION HEARTLAND MOVING WEST

The Latona-Masterman submission spoke of population growth. While the centre of the population in the West is currently nearer to Blacktown, it is evident that the "population heartland" is moving further west.

By the turn of the century the focus will be firmly set on Penrith as the fastest growing population centre in the west.

Penrith City Council sees the University as an investment for the future for the many young families who are moving west and settling in the spacious environment at the foothills of the Blue Mountains. These families are already faced with educational inequities, but they look for some justice for their children in the foreseeable future.



A WEALTH OF HISTORY IN THE STATE ARCHIVES

The Repository of the State Archives is located adjacent to the Kingswood/Werrington site. The Archives contain many sources for historical research. By 1987 the Archives will provide a research annex for up to 50 members of the public. The University located at Werrington would benefit from this facility.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY HAS A Foothold IN THE WEST

Sydney University has two establishments in close proximity to Penrith. The School of Electrical Engineering has a Radio Telescope at Kemps Creek, just south of the city, which would be within easy access of the University, and the Sydney University Veterinary School has facilities at Camden. Both would be able to be utilised by students of the new University.

ACCESS TO SITE — AN IMPORTANT FEATURE

Access is measured in many ways — road or rail distance, travel time, convenience and cost of travel to include both real and social cost.

The proposed site for the University at Kingswood/Werrington is located on the main western railway line in close proximity to the station at Kingswood. Road access is also good. The site has a frontage to the Great Western Highway and is easily accessible from the F4 Freeway. It is also most convenient to students who would travel from the Blue Mountains, Camden or Campbelltown as well as those from the inner Western Suburbs.

A key factor that benefits the Penrith region is the relative ease of travel against the peak-hour flow. While accessibility is a feature of the site, the stress of travel would be minimised for many potential students by locating the University at Kingswood/Werrington.



Werrington Park — Grounds of residential buildings.

COST EFFICIENCY A KEY FACTOR IN LOCATING A UNIVERSITY

In reply to a question from Senator Mason in the Senate, the Minister for Education, Senator Susan Ryan, replied that it was the intention of her government to continue to work very actively to increase higher education opportunities in the western suburbs, "and to look at the best in terms of standards, meeting the needs of the community in the most cost-efficient way to develop a University facility in an appropriate part of the western suburbs."

177 HECTARES OF LAND IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR NEW UNIVERSITY

The size of the Kingswood/Werrington site at Penrith compares more than favourably with other University sites in New South Wales.

New England — 260 ha

Macquarie — 135 ha

Newcastle — 104 ha

Sydney — 50.6 ha

Uni. of NSW — 39 ha

Wollongong — 33 ha

The Tertiary Education Precinct at Kingswood/Werrington has 280 hectares of which 114.5 ha are already in public ownership and immediately available as a University site. Another 63 ha are available although still in private ownership. The significant feature of this land is that it is all immediately available, it is all usable, and has been set aside for Tertiary Education facilities.



Dr Ralph Rawlinson, Hugh Hudson and Ross Free M.P. (Photo courtesy of Penrith Press).

SITE INSPECTION LENDS SUBSTANCE TO GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

On December 10, 1986 Mr Hugh Hudson of the C.T.E.C. and Dr Ralph Rawlinson of the University of Western Sydney Advisory Council visited Penrith to inspect the proposed site for the new University. Both visitors were impressed with the facilities and the land available. Not only does the site have immediate access to both road and rail transport, it has a most pleasant aspect. It overlooks the Nepean Valley to the West with the Blue Mountains behind. To the east it looks towards the expanding suburbs of St. Marys, Colyton and St. Clair. This is the highest point in the district and the University would be visible through the whole area.