

Monday 10th February 2025

Sculpture Walk 1 - The City of Sydney

Party: Brian Everingham, Sue Bosdyk, Dave Noble, Valerie Atkinson, Judy Evans, Melanie Williams, Elaine Yeoh, Mikael Kjaerbye, Nikki Lengkeek, Suzanne Wicks, Esther Chow and Hean Lay Gan

Apologies: Helen Yoxall, Helen Fletcher and Vivienne Connolly

Meeting place was Martin Place at Macquarie St, where we ended the walk at roughly midday, just in front of the storms that swept through and brought heavy rain. We had made it to just after midday without a drop! Which was not too bad really!!!!



Elaine discovers Lindy Lee!!!!¹

¹ <https://www.lindylee.net/about-1>



Statue of Sir James Martin in Martin Place²

And from that area, we explored the foyer of an office building before entering the space built over the old P&O building site with the Martin Place Metro underneath.

That's where we discovered many works associated with that old building, especially what we fondly call "the urinal"!

This is a work by the artist, Tom Bass (1916-2010), born in Lithgow, while his father was working at the Small Arms Factory. It was installed at 55 Hunter Street, by the P. & O. building, in 1963. The building had just been officially opened by the conservative Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

² [Sir James Martin | Monument Australia](#)

The statue commemorates Sir James Martin, who was three times Premier of New South Wales between 1863 and 1872, and Chief Justice of New South Wales between 1873 to 1876 after whom Martin Place in Sydney was named.

It's claimed that as a schoolboy Sir James Martin walked from Parramatta, the location of his childhood home, to Sydney every day to attend school. His passion and thirst for learning set him on the path to a professional life as a journalist, barrister and politician, as well as helping to create a nation.



A satirical magazine called OZ had been founded the same year by Richard Neville. It was edited by Neville, Richard Walsh and Martin Sharp. These young university students were unable to resist taking a cheeky photo of themselves at the sculpture.

OZ

No. 6 . . . FEBRUARY

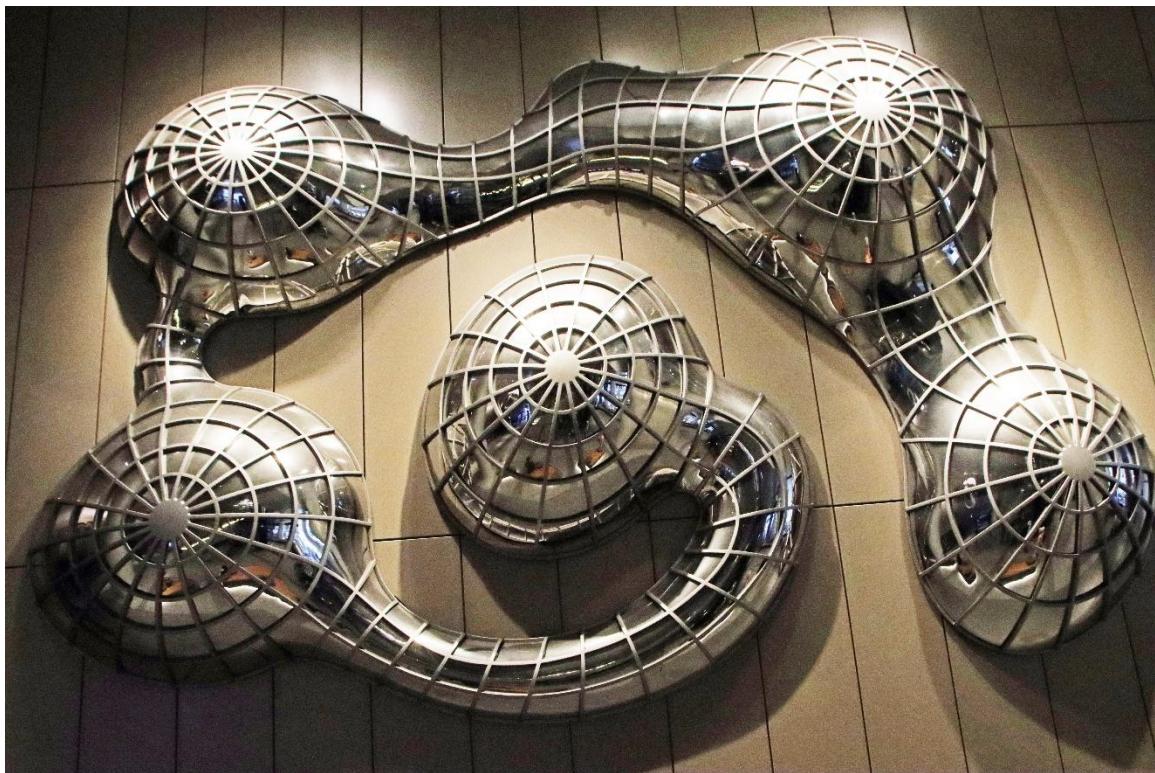
1/3



On the corner of Hunter and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney, the P. & O. Shipping Line has completed its contribution to the Australian Ugliness—the P. & O. Building, officially opened by the Prime Minister in January. To alleviate the severe drabness of its sandstone facade, sculptor Tom Bass has set an attractive bronze urinal in the wall for the convenience of passers-by. This is no ordinary urinal. It has a continual flushing system and basins handily set at different standing heights. There is a nominal charge, of course, but don't worry, there is no need to pay immediately. Just P. & O. Pictured is a trio of Sydney natives P. & O'ing in the Bass urinal.

The photograph was the subject of a legal battle during which the editors of Oz Magazine were accused of promoting 'public pissing'. Indeed, for this and other supposed offences the editors of the magazine, Richard Neville, Richard Walsh and Martin Sharp were

charged, tried and sentenced to jail with hard labour for "obscenity and encouraging public urination", although the defendants subsequently appealed against the sentences, which were revoked. In the trial Tom Bass appeared in their defence/.



Having annoyed the security staff in the Macquarie Bank, we head off to the slightly more sacred ground that is St James Church and into the comfort of Jesus Christ who was resting on the bench outside the church!



“Homeless Jesus” is a bronze sculpture near the King Street entrance of St James Anglican Church. It was created by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz and unveiled in 2018. Over 100 Homeless Jesus statues have been installed throughout the world including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy (in the Vatican), Spain and Poland. The sculpture is intended to be a translation of a chapter of the bible where Jesus likens himself to a homeless person to teach about the need for compassion.

Well, naturally, we then had to say hello to Victoria where I suspect I shocked some in the party when referring to her liberal attitudes towards sex (though, what I did not mention, was that the obscenity laws of England that banned male homosexuality did not cover female homosexuality because dear Victoria could not imagine what they might do!)



Over into Hyde Park we went, to view the fountain most famous for “selfies”. And, well, for tight buttocks!

It is named after J. F. Archibald, owner and editor of *The Bulletin* magazine, who bequeathed funds to have it built. Archibald specified that it must be designed by a French artist, both because of his great love of French culture and to commemorate the association of Australia and France in World War I. The artist chosen was François-Léon Sicard, who completed it in Paris in 1926 but never saw the sculpture be placed in Sydney, where it was unveiled on 14 March 1932 by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Samuel Walder.³

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald_Fountain



Apollo holding the lyre



Diana, goddess of purity, of peaceful nights, symbol of charity



Theseus vanquisher of the Minotaur. The spirit triumphs over bestiality.



Elaine becomes “cultured”



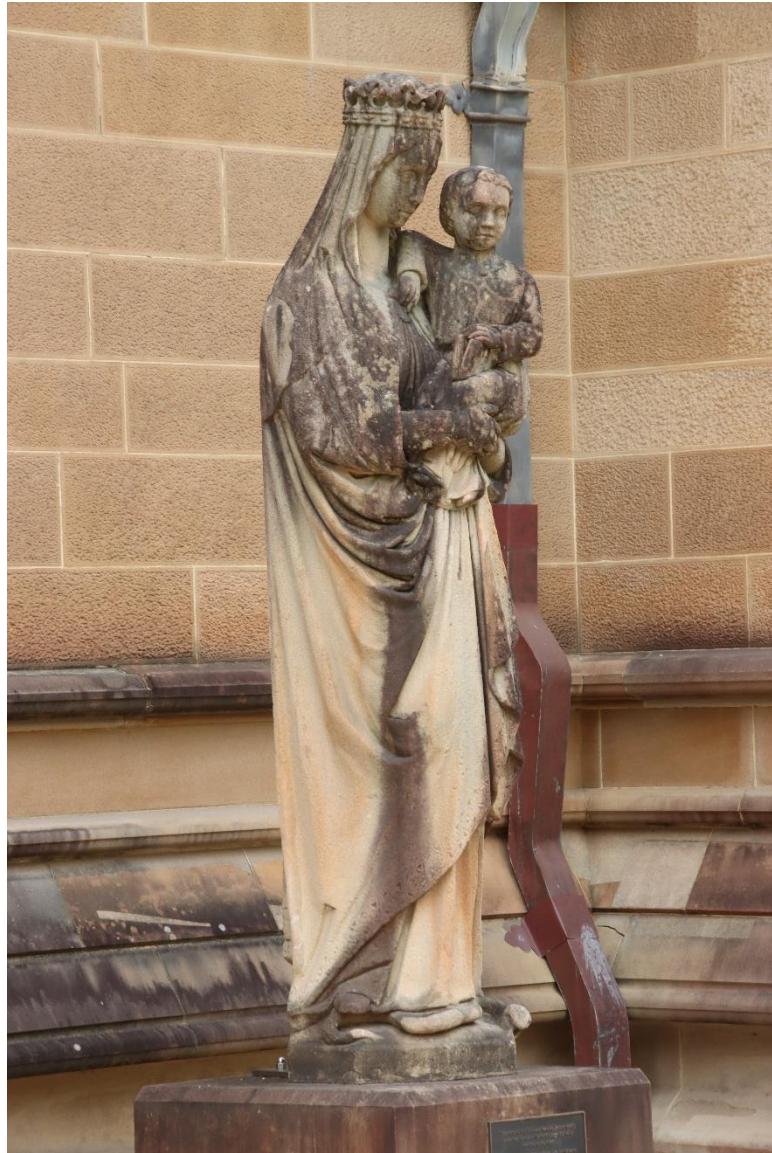
William Bede Dalley – the one no-one had heard of!⁴

It is a reminder that when we go, we, too, shall disappear from the minds of those left behind!

⁴ Virtually unknown in the early 1850s, William Bede Dalley's stirring street-corner speeches on the Constitution bill had thrust him into prominence while his natural geniality and generosity endeared him to most colonists. In 1856 at a banquet for C. G. Duffy he stamped his reputation as an orator by replying in place of Daniel Deniehy to the toast 'Our Native Country'.

In December Dalley was nominated by Henry Parkes for the seat of Sydney, and won after stressing the rights of the native-born to an active political career.

<https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/people/government---colonial/display/23325-william-bede-dalley>



St Mary's Cathedral take on Mary and the baby Jesus



And Mary MacKillop



Pope John Paul II,

It was created by Fiorenzo Bacci and donated by the Italian-Australian community of Sydney. It commemorates the pope's visit to Sydney in 2008 for World Youth Day.

Time, now, to check out Robbie Burns! This bronze statue commemorates Scotland's famous poet and was erected by the Burns Memorial Committee. Appropriately located nearby the Speakers' Corner area of the Domain. It portrays Burns resting against a plough share. It stands on a tapered square granite pedestal with rock faced surfaces and simple pressed cornice.⁵

⁵ <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/people/foreigners/display/23262-robert-burns>



Having then looked at the statues to war and peace and the stones of Lee Ufan, we had morning tea in the Art Gallery of NSW before visiting the north building to check out the work by Yayoi Kusama.





Made by the noted New Zealand artist Michael Parekōwhai, in 2015. The artist first produced the image from block polystyrene, from which 96 pieces of stainless steel were moulded. These were welded together before the whole was polished to the mirror finish.

And with rain threatening, we added some works in the Botanical Gardens to our day out!





Well, yes, here were many such works! All the seasons were present, as were two boxers, and a few faun creatures. One even had a roosting kookaburra on its raised arm!

But before we left, we did have to stop off and “admire” the statue of Governor Arthur Philip.

This statue was unveiled by Lord Hampden on the 22nd June 1897 on the celebration of the 60th year of the reign of Queen Victoria. The sculpture was commissioned by Sir Henry Parkes as part of the 1888 Centennial celebrations and completed in 1897.

The statue of Captain Phillip stands at the top of a rectangular marble pedestal which contains three bronze reliefs of Justice, Patriotism and Education. This pedestal is flanked by the reclining bronze figures of Neptune, Agriculture, Cyclops and Commerce. Supporting this are paired dolphins separated by four marble consoles embellished with

bronze plaques of Aboriginal people. Four giant marble clam shells surmounted by four bronze prows of ships feed the water into white marble basins.⁶

Yes, it is a “Noble Savage” image!



⁶ <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/people/government---colonial/display/23146-governor-arthur-phillip>



That left us just enough time to visit Flinders and his loyal cat, Trim!



We need part 2!