

Sydney Settlers – Suburb Review

Allambie and Allambie Heights

A Brief History

'Allambie' is an Aboriginal term meaning 'peaceful place' and although it is not as peaceful as maybe it once was, it is certainly a long way from the hustle and bustle of the coastal suburbs or those closer to Sydney.

The busy Warringah Road and Pittwater Road are joined by one long quieter road which begins as Allambie Road in the north, running into the original Kentwell Road in the south. This road is the central seam of Allambie Heights and Allambie, with residential streets leading off it on both sides. It is bordered to the west by Manly Warringah War Memorial Park, a large area of bushland with many Aboriginal rock carvings, where locals put the world to rights while walking the dog, taking a swim, cycling, or as volunteer bush regenerators.

Up until the early 20th century, the area now known as Allambie Heights was still undeveloped, being home to just a few poultry and flower farms. There was no electricity or water supplies, nor nearby schools. Further down the hill towards Manly, Allambie was the first of the two suburbs to be developed as a residential area, using water from the newly-built Manly Dam, but much of the development of Allambie Heights only began in the 1940s.

Today the suburbs are attractive to families, being just a 10 minute drive to the nearest beaches at Dee Why and Curl Curl; to the Manly ferry and to the large shopping mall at Warringah. Allambie Heights in particular is very appealing, with its small shopping complex, school and tennis courts.

In a nutshell...

Postcode: 2100

Travel time from:	Kms/ Time:
Sydney Airport	30/40mins
Central Business District	21/30mins
Nearest Beach (Curl Curl)	6/10mins
Nearest Hospital (Manly)	7/15mins

Local Governing Body	Warringah Council
% Married Couples	56%
Australian Born	72%
UK Born	8%
60+ Years	21%
40-59 Years	27%
20-39 Years	26%
5-19 Years	19%
0-4 Years	7%

(Data used with permission from a variety of sources including the Australian Bureau of Statistics.)

Property Facts	Sept. 2007
Fully-owned properties	51%
Mortgaged	25%
Rented	18%
Separate houses	83%
Flats	8%
Semi-detached	5%
Median house price	\$732,500
Average weekly rental (4 - bed house)	\$800

[\(Link to area map provided\)](#)

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Housing

Allambie Heights and Allambie consist of wide, leafy streets set either side of the steep and winding Allambie Road. Most of the houses were built at the same time and around 50% of the properties are single storey, with more recently-built or re-developed homes having two levels. As Allambie Heights is at the top of a hill leading down to Allambie, many of the houses have wonderful sea or city views. Most properties are well looked-after with neat gardens, some with pools.

To view property currently available to rent, go to: <http://www.realestate.com.au/>

Health Care

The nearest doctor's and dentist's surgeries are in Allambie, but there are others just a short distance away on Bantry Bay Road, on Forestway and in Brookvale, and plenty of optometrists, physiotherapists and osteopaths nearby. These all advertise in the Yellow Local although like anywhere, word-of-mouth can often be the best recommendation.

The nearest public hospital is at Manly, around 5kms away. Alternatives are Sydney's Royal North Shore and Mona Vale Hospital, both of which are around 10 kms from Allambie and there are many private hospitals a short drive away. In an emergency, which hospital to visit will depend on the time of day, as the roads into Sydney or towards Manly get very busy during rush hours, although there is a very efficient emergency department at the Medical Centre at Warringah Mall. There are plans for a hospital to be built in nearby Frenchs Forest, but these are awaiting final approval. If the hospital build goes ahead, it should be finished in around 2012.

Shopping

For residents of Allambie Heights, there is a very good, small shopping complex on the main road, with ample free parking alongside the shops. These shops include an IGA supermarket, a butcher, newsagent, pharmacy, greengrocer, bakers and bottle shop. For slightly cheaper food items, there is a Woolworths Supermarket 3kms away in Forestville and several supermarkets in and around Warringah Mall, 5kms away.

Warringah Mall is a large shopping centre selling a wide range of products. It is a popular meeting place for all ages, including as it does several department stores and supermarkets, a multiplex cinema, a library and many cafes, and is a very pleasant place to shop. Parking is free for the first three hours and is generally very easy, although unsurprisingly, it's at its busiest on Saturday afternoons.

For household furniture, linen etc., the new complex in Belrose, Supa Centa, is around 8kms from Allambie and highly recommended, with more than 40 outlets selling household items. There are also furniture shops and those selling larger household requirements (BBQs etc) along Pittwater Road in Brookvale, just across the road from Warringah Mall.

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Restaurants

There are several cafes in Allambie Heights with indoor and outdoor seating and also restaurants, including an Italian, a Thai, an Indian and an excellent fish and chip shop, very popular on Friday evenings!

For greater choice, Manly is a 15 minute drive away and has a wide range of dining options, ranging from pizza take-aways to fine seafood restaurants. There is also a great choice of restaurants along the seafront in Dee Why, 10 minutes away. Small restaurants tend to operate a BYO policy (Bring Your Own). They will sell soft drinks but not alcohol and charge a nominal fee for you to bring your own beer or wine. This makes eating out cheaper than in the larger, licensed restaurants.

Theatre, Cinema and Entertainment

The nearest multiplex cinema to Allambie is Hoyts in Warringah Mall. There is also a small, independent cinema in Collaroy, 6km away. The Glen Street Theatre is in Belrose, 10 minutes' drive from Allambie Heights. For greater choice, many people go to Chatswood or Sydney.

There are pubs on the Northern Beaches, but these are very dissimilar to British pubs and tend to be a little characterless. Many families enjoy them for the good-value meals on offer though, often together with football on the large TV screens around the walls!

Some pubs offer live entertainment, but this is really the domain of the area's RSL Clubs (Returned and Services League), where acts ranging from comedians to bands playing jazz, rock or country perform on a regular basis. There are RSL Clubs in many of the Northern Beaches' suburbs, particularly the coastal ones, including Manly, Balgowlah, Forestville, Dee Why, Collaroy, Pittwater, Avalon and Palm Beach. All RSL Clubs require membership, for a nominal annual fee of around \$30, and many offer a free shuttle bus service, so the car can be left at home.

Public Transport

There are no rail links on the Northern Beaches and the nearest train station to Allambie Heights is at Roseville, around 10kms away. The services to and from the city from there are very frequent and take 20 minutes.

For residents of Allambie Heights and Allambie who live fairly near Allambie Road, travel by bus is easy, with frequent services to Dee Why and Manly to the east or Chatswood and the city to the west.

There is a regular ferry service and a fast jet-cat service to the city from Manly, twenty minutes drive away. This is a wonderful way of travelling to work, but parking in Manly is highly restricted and can sometimes be a problem. Also, when there are high winds or fog, the ferries are replaced by buses, which increase the total journey time substantially. Taxis are easy to book, reasonably priced and reliable.

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Places of Worship

(Details of 6 churches in the area provided in the full report.)

Sport and Leisure

Tennis

(Details of 2 local tennis clubs provided in the full report.)

Swimming

(Details of the local swimming centre provided in the full report.)

Golf

(Details of 4 local golf clubs provided in the full report.)

Child Care Providers (all fee-charging)

(Details of local child care providers and other resources provided in the full report.)

Education

Primary Schools – Public (minor administration fees)

(Details of 1 local school for the area provided in the full report.)

Primary Schools – Private (fee-charging)

(Details of 1 local school for the area provided in the full report.)

Secondary Schools – Public (minor administration fees)

(Details of 4 schools for the area provided in the full report.)

Secondary Schools – Private (fee-charging)

(Details of 4 schools for the area provided in the full report.)

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Secondary Schools – Special Needs

(Details of 2 schools for the area provided in the full report.)

For a detailed report on every primary and secondary school on the Northern Beaches, order our [Education Overview](#).

Further Education

Manly Warringah Community College offers a range of adult education courses, in subjects that include business, computing, the arts and lifestyle. There is also a course on finding employment for skilled migrants with permanent visas. There are four main locations of the college: next to Narrabeen Sports Centre; at Brookvale behind Warringah Mall; at the Forest High School and at Manly Selective School.

There is a college of further education (a TAFE) at Brookvale, behind Warringah Mall. This offers vocational courses in a wide range of subjects and is popular with students who choose to leave school at sixteen to follow a career not requiring an HSC qualification and mature students also. Holders of temporary visas can study there, but are required to pay fees.

There are no universities on the Northern Beaches, but many students live at home and commute to lectures at their university when necessary.

Our Summary

You would enjoy Allambie and Allambie Heights if:

- You like living in a quiet location, yet not far from local conveniences and the beach
- You drive a car, travel by bus, and/or enjoy walking short distances to the local shops
- You have children and want them to receive a great education

In Our Opinion...

Allambie Heights is a suburb popular with families and it's not difficult to see why, with its quiet, tree-lined streets, high-quality local schools, swimming pool, parks and good transport links. It is an appealing place to live for those with primary or secondary-aged children, with several shopping centres nearby easily accessible on foot, by car or by bus.

Many properties have fabulous views of the sea or Sydney, and takes just 30 minutes to reach the city by car or 20 minutes by train, although the best way must be by ferry, for the magical harbour views! Manly has it's parking restrictions, but these are less of a problem in Mosman or Old Cremorne (although restrictions still apply) and the harbour crossing from there takes just 10 minutes.

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Homes tend to have more space and are cheaper than those nearer Sydney or the coast. There are several parks ('reserves') in the area, for dog-walking, playing with younger children or enjoying a game of cricket.

A word of warning: dog owners are plentiful, but many Australians living in urban areas tend to walk them locally, on the lead. This is because dogs are frowned upon on the beaches (not that that stops them being exercised there and there are several dog-friendly ones to choose from) and there aren't many fields to tramp across in the Northern Beaches. Also, to protect Australia's endangered indigenous creatures like the bandicoot, dogs *must* be kept on the lead when walking along bush tracks.

The academic standard of the local schools tends to be higher than that of schools nearer to the coast, where sporting achievements hold great importance.

Local transport is good, although many people choose to drive to their destinations. Allambie Road itself is a single carriageway, but most main roads are 3-lane highways, meaning that bottlenecks, when they occur, clear fairly quickly.

For those who like to keep fit, there is a great choice of local walking and cycling trails, either through the bush or by the coast, along with golf courses, tennis and squash clubs, gyms and swimming pools. And of course, water-based activities abound on the beaches or on nearby Narrabeen Lake, including body-boarding, surfing, snorkelling, kayaking and, naturally, swimming!

And Finally...

If this review of Allambie Heights and Allambie leaves you with un-answered questions, please email us. We are happy to personally investigate anything you need help with, at little or no extra cost – just ask. There are many sources of information at migrants' fingertips, but even the internet in all its wisdom can't match the personal service that we offer.

Sue and the team at Sydney Settlers

<http://www.sydneysettlers.com.au>