

## Extracted from Wikipedia: Old Pymont Cottages

Until recently it has been assumed that the original [indigenous peoples](#) who inhabited the Pymont Peninsula were the [Gadigal](#) clan group of the [Eora Nation](#) (Eora being a European nomenclature for the original "nation" that inhabited the land). With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Gadigal people were decimated but there are descendants of the Eora still living in Sydney today. The surrounding bush land contains remnants of traditional plant, bird and animal life with fish and rock oysters available from [Blackwattle Bay](#). However, recent research suggests that the Gadigal habitually used the land east of the ridge that runs down the spine of central Sydney, separating Tallawolodah ([The Rocks](#)) and Tar-ra ([Dawes Point](#)) from what became known as [Millers Point](#), while those who lived around Go-mo-ra ([Darling Harbour](#)) may have formed a separate clan from the generally recognised Gadigal. Tentatively named the Gommerigal, early settler documents point to its existence. [Arthur Phillip](#) listed the Gomerrigal [sic] in 1790 as among "other Tribes that live near us". Early records locate these people at Long Cove (Darling Harbour), and as late as 1830 Absalom West recognised a 'Darling Harbour "tribe"'. The probable territory of the Gommerigal included land around Darling Harbour from Millers Point on the east, and Pymont on the west, at least back to Blackwattle Bay.

Disease and dislocation altered the clan and nation affiliation of the Indigenous people who frequented Pymont, probably known to them as Pirrama, but sparse European settlement and the presence of a good natural spring of fresh water, rock shelters, sandy beaches and good fishing grounds ensured that they continued to visit the place until well into the 19th century.

Springs were particularly valuable to Aboriginal people and then the European colonists on rocky peninsulas like Pymont, because freshwater creeks lay some distance away. One of these springs became known as Tinker's Well. This spring was located in a large sandstone overhang, and water collected into a natural dish in the sandstone floor of the shelter. In the early 20th century, an old Pymont resident recalled that "through the mosses and ferns" of the overhang "trickled musically a small stream of pure, cold water". Other Pymont residents recalled evidence of the Aboriginal use of Tinker's Well, describing "numerous mussel shells" and other shellfish that were still visible near the spring in the early 20th century. These were almost certainly signs of an Aboriginal campsite, or midden. Residents also recalled that the natural bowl under the spring had been "roughly carved out" long before it was enlarged by European quarrymen, and it seems likely that this was done by Aboriginal people using the spring.

Aboriginal people continued to live in the Pymont area into the 19th century, but quarrying and intense industrial and urban development in the area has destroyed most traces of their presence both before and after the arrival of Europeans. The shelter containing Tinker's Well was destroyed in the early 20th century, but water continues to flow down sandstone outcrops behind a modern apartment building nearby in the vicinity of the original spring.