



A series of creeks meandered into a river surrounded by shallow estuarine and fresh water mangrove wetlands. Turpentine-Ironbark forests dominated on the deep clay soils of Wianamatta Shale. The people of the Wangal Clan of the Kuring-gai Tribe lived on the lands and fished in the waters. Europeans arrived, explored the waterway and named it the Parramatta River. The 'swamp lands' became an unauthorised dumping ground and landfill site for domestic, commercial and industrial waste. No grand conspiracy, no arch criminals, just two centuries of relentless urban attack. The fate of Powells Creek is typical of wetland and estuarine systems in urban areas of Sydney. The design strategy applied the concept of 'triple bottom line' sustainability to resurrect the true potential of Powells Creek as a valuable natural and community resource.

