



## Historic granite sits pretty

Category:  
**AUSTRALIAN STONE**  
**Best Civic Project**

Project:  
**Batemans Bay Foreshore**  
**Park Seating**

Architecture:  
**Ayling & Drury**

Designer:  
**Mark Swadling**

Developer:  
**Eurobodalla Shire Council**

Stone Description:  
**Large Moruya granite boulders**

Stone Supply:  
**Quarry operated by NSW**  
**Department of Infrastructure**  
**& Planning**

Stonemason:  
**Peter (Bluey) McMahon**

Visitors to Batemans Bay Foreshore Park will smile when they see a number of giant granite boulders that have been cut and recessed to support cantilevered timber seating. Children will be reminded of a giant dog carrying a stick.

The specified Moruya granite came from an old quarry located 332 kilometres south of Sydney. The first granite quarry opened on the north side of the Moruya River in the 1850s. Brothers John and Joseph Fielt Louttit from the Orkney Islands – north of Scotland – produced stone that was used for the pillars of the General Post Office in Martin Place and the base of the Captain Cook statue in Hyde Park, Sydney.

A second Moruya granite quarry opened on the north side of the river in 1876. It became known as the government quarry. From 1925 to 1932 work on Sydney Harbour Bridge saw 250 stonemasons employed to produce

18,000 cubic metres of Moruya granite – including 173,000 blocks – some of which were used to construct the towers at either end of the bridge.

During the work a small town of about 70 houses sprang up around the quarry. Little remains of Granitetown today, but the quarry keeps providing stone for a variety of purposes.

At the last count over 70 quarries are actively producing stone in Australia. While we tend to think of stone in terms of tiles, slabs and pavers, much of the stone produced locally is used in civic and public works projects where it often goes unnoticed.

Sydney Harbour Bridge is an iconic international landmark, yet how many people know about the role this historic granite played in its construction? 