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### A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY

With an apartment in the Dickson heritage building at the heart of the redeveloped former Prince Henry Hospital site at Little Bay, Professor Martin Nakata loves the feeling of being a part of living history. The three-storey 1930s block, which used to make up the nurses' accommodation, is so well known, he often meets people who have stayed, or worked, there in its other life.

"It makes its heritage feel very real rather than a relic of the distant past," he says.

"All the people who've bought there have respect for its history and feel a sense of responsibility for it."

Nakata, 53, the director of Nura Gili at the University of NSW and

the chairman of Australian Indigenous Education, says it was the history of the site, and the sensitivity with which it was treated, that attracted him.

"There's some Aboriginal significance to the area, too, and that was really important," he says.

"There's been acknowledgment of the Aboriginal communities and middens and respect for the archaeological sites, as well as the work to preserve many parts of the buildings, including the chapel and other hospital wards."

Homes on neighbouring Little Bay Cove are due to start selling off the plan soon, with agency NG Farah acting for developer Charter Hall. [littlebaycove.com.au](http://littlebaycove.com.au), 1300 2036 2036.

*three-bed-plus-study (212 square metres) \$1,975,000; one four-bed (339 square metres) \$2.3 million; two penthouses (178-273 square metres) \$2.3 million to \$2,750,000, with quarterly strata fees from \$1200 to \$1900. Completion will be in late 2012. See [stjohnspaddington.com.au](http://stjohnspaddington.com.au) or phone 8215 8894*

### LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL, LIDCOMBE

Once part of the Lidcombe Hospital, 10 old single-level weatherboard and brick cottages grouped around a green are now being restored and transformed into a series of nine strata-titled homes as part of the new Botanica master-planned community.

Built at the end of the 1800s, The Gallery cottages, all with large verandahs, were used during the Sydney Olympics for the media village. "What we are going to end up with are some very unique buildings with over three-metre [high] ceilings that reflect the charm of yesteryear in arched windows, wooden panelling and timber floors," says the NSW general manager of Australand, Nigel Edgar. "But they'll all have modern fittings."

The first strata releases of the seven-hectare heritage portion of the 44-hectare Botanica site will be one-, three- and four-bedroom homes, converted from five of the buildings. The two-storey superintendent's home on the site will be a five-bedroom house on a Torrens title.