

## Hillcrest

### A brief history

Hillcrest is situated at the foot of the escarpment in Railway Crescent, Stanwell Park. The property was once owned by the Hargraves family who were prominent in early Australian aviation history. Hillcrest is now over 100 years old and, in need of major renovation.

Hillcrest was originally built by Ralph Hargrave and was completed at the end of 1887. In 1888, Ralph died in mysterious circumstances in Hong Kong and the house was willed to his brother Lawrence. Lawrence lived there with his wife and five children from 1893 - 1899.

Hillcrest was a 72 foot square brick building surrounded on all sides by a verandah. During the time Lawrence Hargrave lived there, a part of this verandah was enclosed for a workshop. Six basement rooms below were reached by a staircase from the living area. It was here that much of his work on box kites took place.