

# DISCOVER PARRAMATTA

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SPOTLIGHT ON  
PARRAMATTA'S  
HISTORY

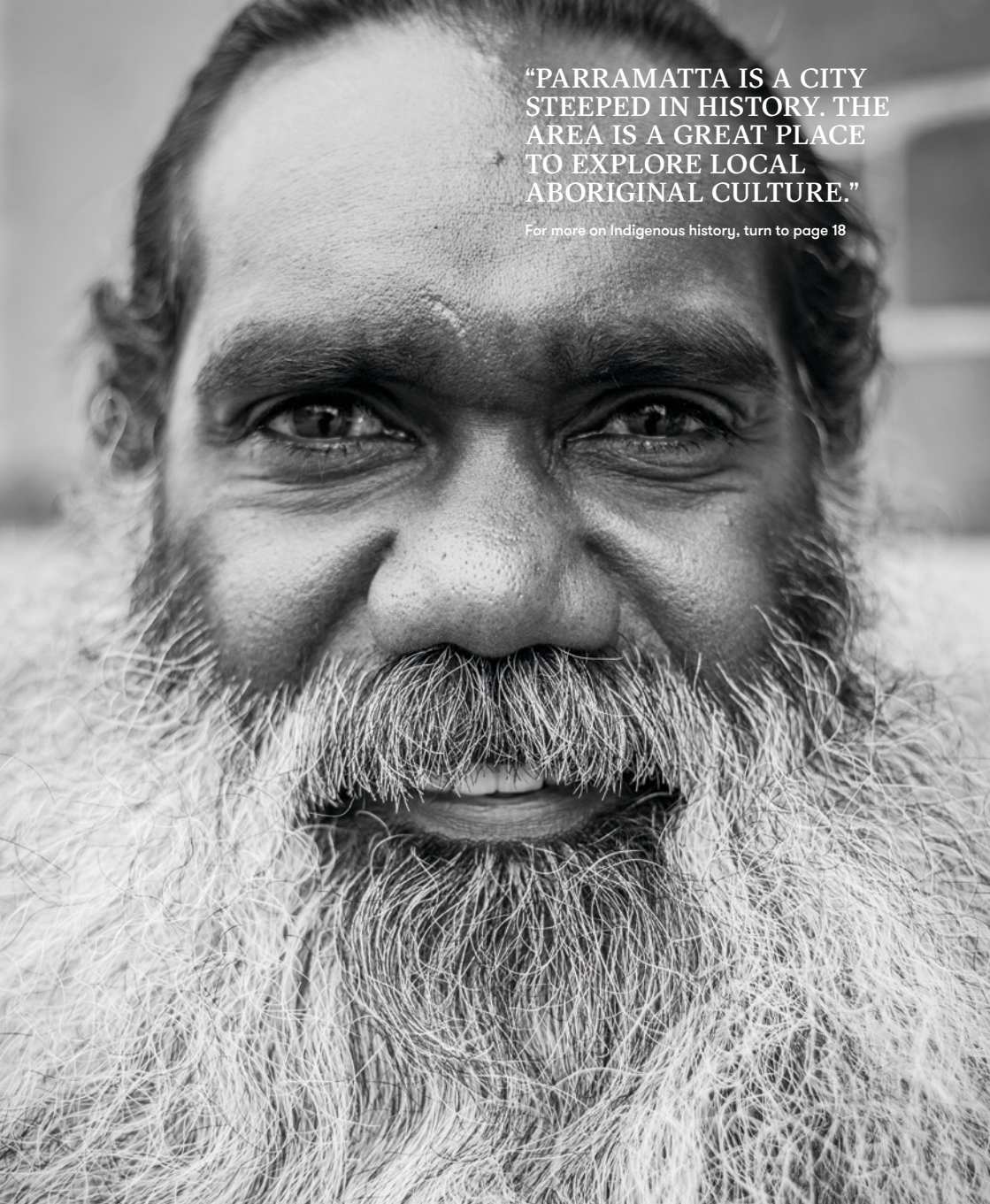
City of stories p6

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WHAT TO DO:  
HERITAGE  
HOTSPOTS

Living history p10





"PARRAMATTA IS A CITY  
STEEPED IN HISTORY. THE  
AREA IS A GREAT PLACE  
TO EXPLORE LOCAL  
ABORIGINAL CULTURE."

For more on Indigenous history, turn to page 18





# WELCOME

Australia's second city. Aboriginal heritage site. Food bowl of the colony. Geographical centre of Sydney. However you describe Parramatta, it's clear to see its importance to Sydney, the history of Australia and the people of this great city.

When you explore the incredible heritage of Parramatta, you'll understand the importance of this region, which has for too long been underappreciated. Whether you're learning of Aboriginal culture, seeing some of the earliest colonial buildings remaining in Australia, touring public art or dining in the surrounds of the first country home of the Governors of New South Wales, you'll be sure to find something incredible.

There's also plenty of contemporary culture to pique your interest and dining hotspots to sate that appetite you've built up. This guide is your ultimate resource for heritage and activities in Parramatta. Look out for *Taste*, the dining guide, and *Explore*, the activity map, for a comprehensive look at Parramatta.



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# NEWS

What's happening on the rich cultural scene in Parramatta?

## TROPFEST'S NEW HOME

Australia's most prestigious short film festival, Tropfest, is coming to Parramatta Park on Saturday 11 February 2017. The popular festival, which was established in Sydney, is relocating from Centennial Park, which City of Parramatta Administrator Amanda Chadwick says "will give the event room to grow and prosper and will enable a whole new audience to discover the future stars of Australian film".

The festival is expected to attract 50,000 people to the heart of Sydney. "Great cities have great festivals and this is a chance for Parramatta to be part of one of the world's best-loved film festivals," Chadwick says. [Discover more events in Parramatta with our calendar on page 24.](#)

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"Parramatta has become such an incredibly exciting part of Sydney. The city is the geographical centre of the city, so it makes sense to hold a big event like Tropfest here – allowing people from all around to come together and celebrate Australia's most exciting new filmmakers and storytellers.

"Parramatta is also becoming a real creative hub, with many filmmakers, artists and creators calling the area home. When we started to discuss moving Tropfest to Parramatta, I was stunned at how short the train ride was from Sydney's CBD. As soon as I laid eyes on Parramatta Park, I knew we'd found our new home – hopefully for years to come. I can't wait to introduce our die-hard audience to Parramatta Park, and to find a new audience. I'm looking forward to being at Parramatta Park in February 2017 for Tropfest's 25th birthday celebration!"

– John Polson, Founder and Director, Tropfest

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**"THE DAIRY COTTAGE DATES BACK TO 1796, WHEN IT WAS BUILT BY AN EX-CONVICT TURNED CATTLEMAN."**



## DAIRY COTTAGE OPENS

The Dairy Cottage has reopened to the public, allowing visitors to step inside one of three surviving 18th-century houses in Australia. Parramatta Park's Dairy Precinct has completed a conservation project which saw the Dairy and Rangers' Cottages refreshed.

"The preservation of the cottages is vital to enhancing our knowledge of convict settlement in NSW," says Suellen Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Parramatta Park Trust.

The Dairy Cottage dates back to 1796, when it was built by an ex-convict turned cattleman. It was later converted into a dairy by Governor Macquarie in the early 1800s.

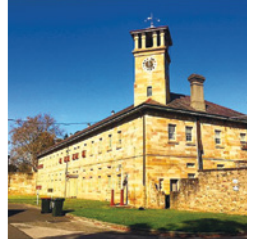




## DISCOVER #PARRAMATTA



@emessbee  
Old Government House



@historyofsydney  
Female Factory Precinct



@glenn\_actually  
Cycling the local area



@discoverparramatta  
Parramatta Post Office



@\_danielmulder\_  
Kayaking Lake Parramatta



@sydlivmus  
Elizabeth Farm Cottage

### THE POWERHOUSE OF PARRAMATTA

The foreshore of the Parramatta River has been selected as the site for the new Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS). Located near Parramatta's CBD, the museum will showcase exhibitions spanning history, science, technology, design, industry, the arts, music, transport and space exploration in a state-of-the-art institution. NSW Premier Mike Baird says this is an ideal site for an iconic museum.

"Locating the Powerhouse at Parramatta will ensure Western Sydney has a new, world-class cultural institution that will be a major drawcard for visitors," he says.



**"There's incredible heritage in Parramatta, and it's easy to become immersed in the continuous culture of Aboriginal people and their stories, and more recent colonial heritage."**

**"It's clear to see how important this area was to colonial settlers when you walk around Old Government House, Elizabeth Farm and convict buildings within the Female Factory. It's fascinating to compare the past to the present day, and be surprised by the similarities, as well as stark contrasts."**

– Toner Stephenson, Sydney Living Museums,  
Elizabeth Farm Cottage

Follow the City of Parramatta on social media for regular updates. Hashtag your Instagram shots with #discoverparramatta to be reposted!



visitparramatta



@visitparramatta

# 60,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Tens of thousands of years of history make up today's Parramatta. What are the stories that make the city unique?

Parramatta may be Australia's second-oldest city, but it has much more ancient origins than that. Situated on the Parramatta River, it has been home to the Darug people for more than 60,000 years as a rich and fertile source of food and a place to gather. From the river to the rolling hills of the Cumberland Plains, it provided strategic vantage points and locations to interact and trade.

More recently, not long after the First Fleet arrived in Sydney in 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip realised the colony was dangerously vulnerable to starvation. In search of fertile farming land, an expedition found the ideal place to produce food for the settlement of Sydney: the Parramatta River foreshore.

Phillip sent farmers Henry Dodd and James Ruse to prove how settlers could, with minimal

## THE DARUG NATION HAS OCCUPIED AND MANAGED THE LANDS AND WATERS OF PARRAMATTA FOR SOME 60,000 YEARS AND HAS A CONTEMPORARY ONGOING CONNECTION TO COUNTRY.

1789

**Experiment Farm Cottage** sits on one of the most important parcels of land in the founding of NSW. It was here that Governor Phillip issued the first land grant to former convict James Ruse in 1789. The existing cottage was built in the mid-1830s.



1799

**Old Government House** was built by convict labour and used by the first 10 NSW Governors as a country residence.



1793

**Elizabeth Farm**, Australia's oldest surviving European dwelling, was constructed by John Macarthur, a pioneer of Australia's wool industry.

1791

The oldest existing European burial ground in Australia, **St John's Cemetery** contains the remains of notable persons associated with the foundation of the colony. The earliest headstone is for Henry Dodd, who was responsible for overseeing the convicts at Government Farm, which is now Parramatta Park, and died in 1791.

1788

**Governor Phillip** travelled upriver and discovered fertile lands that became the foundation for Australia's second European settlement at Parramatta.

1815

The **Parramatta Native Institution** was established by Governor Macquarie in 1815 to educate the local Aboriginal people in the ways of colonial "civilisation". The institution later moved to Blacktown and became influential in future harmful Government policies and laws for Aboriginal peoples.



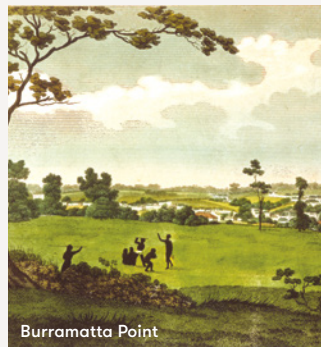
resources and a drive to survive, be self-sufficient, to great success.

Governor Phillip had a grand ambition for Parramatta. Laid out with Georgian town planning principles, it became Australia's first grid city, the site of the first Government House and home to Australia's first 10 Governors.

With the arrival of the first train line connecting Parramatta to Sydney in 1850, the city's focus shifted from the river to

the station and a new wave of commercial development began, leading to new industry and economic development.

Today, all of these histories are woven into a new global city, though Parramatta is not leaving its past behind. It's still possible to experience these stories through the incredible heritage sites in the city, and there are excellent ways for locals and visitors to witness this living history for themselves.



Burramatta Point

## 1818

Commissioned by Governor Macquarie, the **Female Orphan School** provided a basic education to orphaned, convict and Indigenous females. For a century from the 1880s, the Female Orphan School was used as a hospital for the mentally ill.

## 1821

### Brislington Medical and Nursing Museum

was constructed in 1821 for ex-convict John Hodges using money won in a card game at the nearby Woolpack Inn. In 1857 Dr Walter Brown took up residence, naming the house "Brislington" after his hometown in Bristol, England. Three generations of the Brown family, spanning 94 years, practised medicine at the residence. From 1949 it was used as a nurses' home, then as self-contained accommodation for resident medical officers of Parramatta Hospital.

## 1858

**Parramatta Park** is one of Australia's most historically significant public parks. Inaugurated in 1858, it sits on 85 hectares of land designated as the Governor's Domain soon after the founding of the colony in 1788.

## 1820

**Lancer Barracks** is the oldest continuous military installation on the Australian mainland. Planned by Governor Macquarie, it was completed in 1820. The museum in the barracks grounds documents the history of the Lancers, Australia's oldest and most decorated military unit, from the Boer War to the present.



## 1824

Built in 1824, **Hambledon Cottage** was part of John Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm estate. It was used as additional accommodation by the Macarthur family and their friends.

## 1852

Church services have been held at the site of **St John's Cathedral** since the late 1790s, making it the oldest continuous place of Christian worship in Australia. The present-day sandstone cathedral was built in 1852, however the two distinctive towers, still standing today, were added to an earlier structure in 1818.



# HISTORY IN THE PRESENT

Telling stories of feast and famine,  
hard work and history-making,  
Parramatta's landmarks make  
for a fascinating day out

By Jac Taylor







Left: Old Government House was the country home of 10 early NSW Governors.

Watching the cosmopolitan bustle of Parramatta's more than 230,000 residents, plus thousands of workers, shoppers and foodies who visit every week, it's hard to imagine this place as a foreign and probably somewhat frightening land. However, due to the city's continued dedication to preserving its built and natural heritage, it doesn't take much to picture this important area as its first English settlers must have seen it.

Of course, Parramatta's history stretches back far beyond the arrival of Europeans. As the First Fleet arrived from Britain in 1788, setting foot on the land in Sydney Cove and proclaiming it theirs, the Aboriginal Darug people already knew this more western region as their home of Burramatta, named after the eels of Parramatta River (the roar of the crowds watching local football heroes the Parramatta Eels in small part commemorates this part of the city's history).

Thanks to its prime position, away from the sandy soil of Sydney Cove and right where the river turns to fresh water, the fleet chose Parramatta as the second settling place for the nascent colony just 10 months later. Spend some time in today's Parramatta Park and you'll see the curved hill cradling the river where Governor



Phillip himself stood and claimed the area as an essential farming land that would feed the Sydney colony. The hill was marked by a house that grew to become Old Government House, Australia's oldest-surviving public building and one visitors can still enjoy as a museum and dining spot. Nearby is an easily recognisable circular structure; The Bath House, which is often linked to renowned convict architect Francis Greenway, was built in 1823 to help soothe the arthritis of Governor Brisbane.

A visit to Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre on Church Street to see exhibitions, maps and records sets you up to continue your exploration through history – just follow the trails that lead to the dozens of historic sites here.

A favourite is the tale of former convict James Ruse – one that's deserving of a Hollywood movie. Ruse was given 6,000 square metres of land and the command to see how long it would take for a man to be self-sufficient on it. Ruse succeeded in just

15 months and was granted 12 hectares of land as a reward. See where this feat was accomplished at Experiment Farm Cottage, nearby in Harris Park.

Within walking distance of the farm is a historical precinct of sorts; Hambledon Cottage, built in 1824, is a beautifully furnished home in mid-1800s style, while Elizabeth Farm, built in 1793, was home to the wealthiest landowners of the colony and wool pioneers the Macarthurs. The homestead is now a hands-on museum, where every part can be touched and enjoyed.

These sites are all on a clearly signposted Historic Houses Walk, which begins at Parramatta River Ferry Wharf and goes for 6.5 kilometres, also visiting Lancer Barracks. Here visitors can see history in action, with an active Australian cavalry brigade still in training at the barracks, as it has been continuously since 1885.

If Parramatta is testament to the toughness of European settlers and farmers, that description can be applied to the

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## HERITAGE EATS

- Find a heritage-inspired menu at Lachlan's at Old Government House in Parramatta Park.
  - The Bavarian Bier Café on Phillip Street is a restaurant housed in a beautifully restored 1920s Presbyterian church.
  - Elizabeth Farm Tearoom offers light lunches and Devonshire tea. Coffee and cake under the jacaranda trees lets you take in the view over the gardens.
- 







early women visitors too. As part of the explosion of settlement and development in the area in the 1820s, the Parramatta Female Factory for women convicts was established a short walk north of the main city area. A pleasant stroll around tree-lined streets alongside the present Cumberland Hospital, overshadowed on one side by the imposing sandstone walls of Parramatta Gaol and also bound by the river, this workhouse complex may not have had auspicious beginnings but it's a great place to visit now. The quiet of the area thins the veil of time a little, especially at twilight when the locally quarried sandstone of the remaining buildings takes on a golden hue. About 5,000 convict women passed through these grounds between 1804 and 1856, and some historians estimate that as many as 20 per cent of Australians are related to convict women from female factories.



Clockwise from top left: Of-the-era furniture at Old Government House, a historical etching of the Female Orphan School, the Orphan School building, visitors explore the grounds of Elizabeth Farm.

### LACHLAN'S RESTAURANT

Old Government House  
9687 2662  
[lachlans.com.au](http://lachlans.com.au)

### LANCER BARRACKS

2 Smith St  
0405 482 814  
[lancers.org.au](http://lancers.org.au)

### OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Parramatta Park  
9635 8149  
[nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house](http://nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house)

### PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY

Fleet St, [parragirls.org.au](http://parragirls.org.au)

### HERITAGE & VISITOR INFO CENTRE

346A Church St  
8839 3311  
[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

### PARRAMATTA PARK

Cnr Pitt & Macquarie Sts  
9895 7500  
[parrapark.com.au](http://parrapark.com.au)



# TALES OF THE SECOND SETTLEMENT

With a long history that you can still see today, explore Parramatta by spending time in each of its historical precincts

By Jasmine O'Donoghue

Parramatta is a place of stories. The city was originally inhabited by the Burramattagal people, a clan of the Darug, and has thousands of years of Indigenous history. It's the second settlement to be established by Australia's British colonists and is just 10 months younger than Sydney. Today's Parramatta is an eclectic mix of history, people and food, with significant landmarks speckled throughout the buzzing streets.

The stories that make up how life once was can be divided into four fascinating precincts. Pick and choose between the precincts, or for the full narrative, pack all four into one captivating day. Each should take roughly two hours to explore, so no matter how long you have in the city, you're sure to discover something fascinating.

Clockwise from top left: Old Government House (OGH) interiors, and furnishings, Boer War Memorial, a portrait of Queen Victoria at OGH, local wildlife, the Dairy Cottage, OGH entry.



## OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Parramatta Park, cnr Pitt & Macquarie Sts, 9635 8149, [nationaltrust.org.au/nsw/OldGovernmentHouse](http://nationaltrust.org.au/nsw/OldGovernmentHouse)

**Open:** Tuesday to Sunday, 10am–4pm.  
Last tour at 3:30pm.



## PARRAMATTA PARK

Enter cnr Macquarie & Pitt Sts, Parramatta or Queens Rd, Westmead, 9895 7500, [parrapark.com.au](http://parrapark.com.au)

**Open:** Main gates open 6am–6pm. Westmead gate opens weekdays 10am–3pm. Weekends and public holidays gate opens 6am–6pm (gate closes at 8pm during daylight-saving hours).

## THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN

World Heritage-listed Parramatta Park is one of Australia's most historically significant public parks. It is one of 11 sites in the country which collectively tell the story of the largest forced migration in the world. The park is home to Old Government House which, for seven decades, was the NSW Governors' country residence. Wander the grounds or enter the house to learn about the first 10 governors. Parramatta Park also encloses the Governor's Dairy, an 1822 Observatory and a 1904 Boer War memorial.

Parramatta Park is the perfect place to spend a sunny afternoon. Pack a picnic lunch and sit in the grounds – there are plenty of spots with a lovely view, and several leafy escapes. Alternatively, Lachlan's is the restaurant that sits within Old Government House, or there's the café at The Gatehouse for a meal or high tea.



## THE BIRTHPLACE OF AGRICULTURE

Hidden in a typical suburban street lies Elizabeth Farm, the oldest surviving European dwelling in Australia. It's located towards the south of Parramatta, near Harris Park, and there are several sites of its type in the area. The early colonial bungalow was home to the influential and controversial family of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, pioneers of the Australian wool industry. Elizabeth Farm is a hands-on museum, meaning there are no locked doors or fragile pieces of furniture, allowing visitors to sit down in front of the drawing room fire, relax on the veranda and explore the house as if it were their own. The Elizabeth Farm Tearoom is a great place to relax over a cuppa while the kids try their hand at colonial games such as quoits, hoop and stick, cup and ball, knuckles and croquet.

A few hundred metres away is Hambledon Cottage. Built in 1824 by John Macarthur as a second house on Elizabeth Farm Estate to accommodate family and friends, today it features original furniture of the period. The other nearby site is Experiment Farm, sitting on one of the most important parcels of land in the founding of the colony. It is the site of Australia's first land grant, where James Ruse proved in 1791 that a new settler could farm the land and be self-sufficient. The Indian-style bungalow there today was built by Surgeon John Harris and is fitted out with the largest collection of colonial furniture of its kind in Australia. Take a guided tour or browse the permanent display in the cellar.



Clockwise from main: The interior at Elizabeth Farm, the patio of Experiment Farm Cottage, Hambledon Cottage.



### ELIZABETH FARM

70 Alice St, Rosehill, 9635 9488,  
sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/  
elizabeth-farm

**Open:** Wednesday to Sunday  
10am–4pm and daily during  
NSW school holidays.



### HAMBLEDON COTTAGE

63 Hassall St, 9635 6924,  
parramattahistorical.org.au

**Open:** Thursday to Sunday 11am–4pm  
and any day for groups of 15 or more  
by appointment.



### EXPERIMENT FARM COTTAGE

9 Ruse St, Harris Park  
9635 5655  
nationaltrust.org.au/places/  
experiment-farm-cottage

**Open:** Wednesday to Sunday  
10:30am–3:30pm. Last tour at 3pm.  
Available for group bookings Mondays  
and Tuesdays.







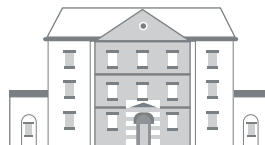
"UPON OPENING, THE FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL PREPARED ORPHANED, CONVICT AND INDIGENOUS FEMALES FOR A LIFE AS DOMESTIC SERVANTS. IT'S NOW PART OF WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY."



This image: The Female Orphan School is now part of Western Sydney University and home to the Whitlam Institute.

## EDUCATION TO ENLIGHTENMENT

The Female Orphan School Building is of immense historical significance. Commissioned by Governor Macquarie in 1813, it was the colony's first three-storey building and has since built up many layers of history. Upon opening, it prepared orphaned, convict and Indigenous females for a life as domestic servants. From the 1880s it spent a century as a mental hospital and it is now part of Western Sydney University. One wing is dedicated to the Whitlam Institute, which records the legacy of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and displays a model of his Sydney office, including his actual furnishings, books and other effects. Adjacent to the institute is the Margaret Whitlam Galleries, presenting temporary exhibitions on Australia's social and cultural life.



### THE WHITLAM INSTITUTE AT THE FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL

Building EZ, cnr James Ruse Dr and  
Victoria Rd, Rydalmere, 9685 9210  
[westernsydney.edu.au/fos](http://westernsydney.edu.au/fos)

**Open:** Thursday and Friday 10am–4pm.  
Group bookings are available on  
request throughout the week.



## VILLAGE LIFE TO CITY LIFE

The history of Parramatta snakes through several significant landmarks which are scattered within the city grid. The walls of St John's Cathedral hold two hundred years of history and religion. Church services have been held at the site since the late 1790s, making the cathedral Australia's oldest continuous place of worship. It boasts impressive architecture and features convict-made twin towers built in 1818. St John's Cemetery is the oldest existing European burial ground in Australia, and the final resting place of some of the colony's earliest settlers.



### ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

195 Church St, 9891 0700  
[stjohnscathedral.org.au](http://stjohnscathedral.org.au)

**Open:** Weekday guided tours 10am–2pm and large groups by prior appointment. Sunday services in English: 8am, 9:30am, 11am, 7pm; Cantonese: 9:15am; Farsi: 5pm; Mandarin: 11am and 2pm.



### ST JOHN'S CEMETERY

1 O'Connell St

Guided tours for visitors are available by appointment with St John's Cemetery Trust. Look out for Sydney suburb namesakes D'Arcy Wentworth of Wentworthville, John Harris of Harris Park and Mary Kelly of Kellyville.



### NSW LANCER BARRACKS AND MUSEUM

2 Smith St, 0405 482 814  
[lancers.org.au](http://lancers.org.au)

**Open:** Sundays 10am–4pm and by appointment on any day for groups of 10 or more.



From left to right: St John's Cathedral, St John's Cemetery, Brislington, a Lancer Barracks display, Lennox Bridge.

Lancer Barracks is the longest continuous military installation on the Australian mainland. Several original buildings from 1820 remain on the site and today the barracks is home to the Linden Museum. The museum documents the history of the Lancers and displays original writings from Banjo Patterson, along with weapons seized from enemy soldiers and vintage armoured vehicles.

Ex-convict John Hodges constructed the two-storey Georgian house of Brislington in 1821 using money won at the nearby Woolpack Inn. More than 35 years later the Brown family took up residence and three generations practised medicine in the building.

Today Brislington gives a "now and then" look at medical science and hospital care in Parramatta, displaying artefacts from early colonial days and equipment and instruments used through time.

The Former Female Factory tells a moving story of the first and busiest of the colonial female factories. It was a place of assignment, a marriage bureau, a factory, an asylum and a prison.

The Parramatta River walk tracks a historic river landscape, from Governor Phillip's 1788 landing point, the 1839 Lennox Bridge, Parramatta Park and Old Government House.

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### BRISLINGTON MEDICAL AND NURSING MUSEUM

Cnr George & Marsden Sts  
4751 4360, [brislington.net](http://brislington.net)

**Open:** Thursday 10:30am-2pm and by appointment at other times for private groups.



### FORMER FEMALE FACTORY

Fleet St, North Parramatta  
0447 189 137  
[parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au](http://parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au)

**Open:** Guided tours arranged by appointment.



### LENNOX BRIDGE

Adjacent to 349-351 Church St

Lennox Bridge was completed in 1839 and was designed by David Lennox, then Superintendent of Bridges for NSW. It replaced two earlier wooden bridges on the same site.



# TWO SIDES TO A CITY

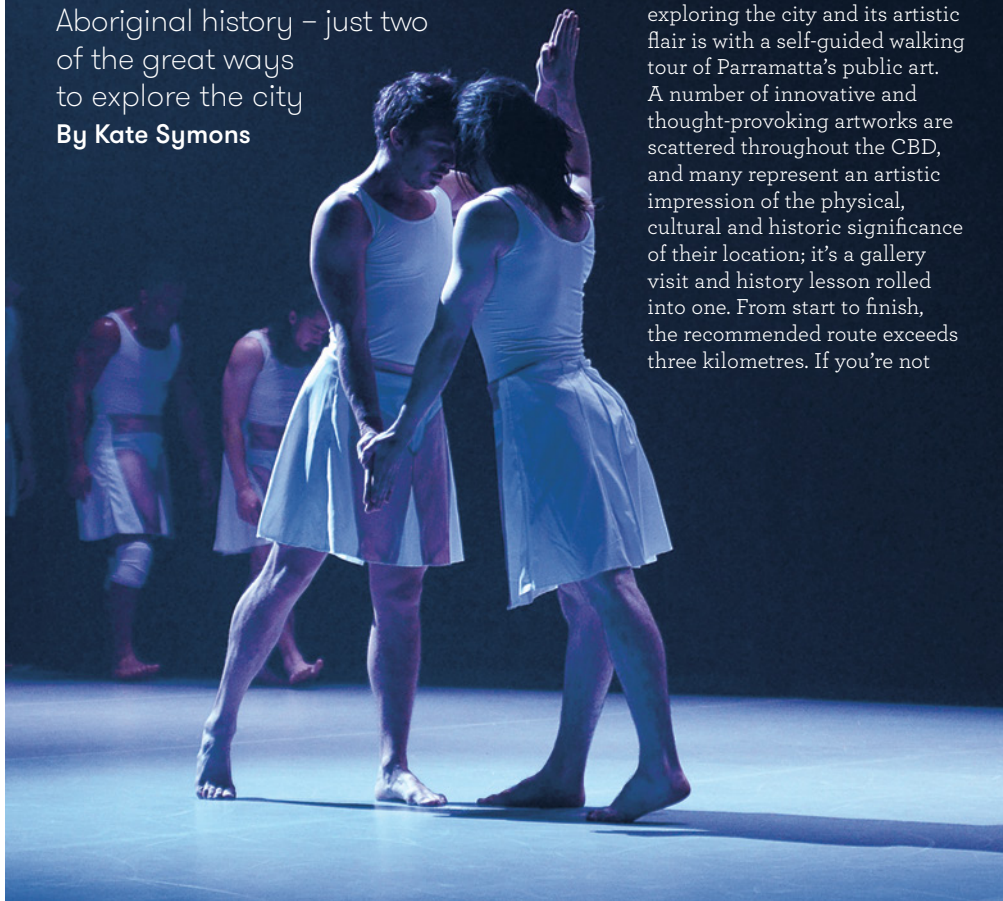
Parramatta is awash with vibrant culture and a storied Aboriginal history – just two of the great ways to explore the city

By Kate Symons

## 1 The call of culture

Parramatta boasts a rich and vibrant cultural scene of its own. Creativity in countless forms can be found all around the area, some of it loud and proud, some of it harder to find. One thing's for certain: the search is well worth it.

One great way to begin exploring the city and its artistic flair is with a self-guided walking tour of Parramatta's public art. A number of innovative and thought-provoking artworks are scattered throughout the CBD, and many represent an artistic impression of the physical, cultural and historic significance of their location; it's a gallery visit and history lesson rolled into one. From start to finish, the recommended route exceeds three kilometres. If you're not



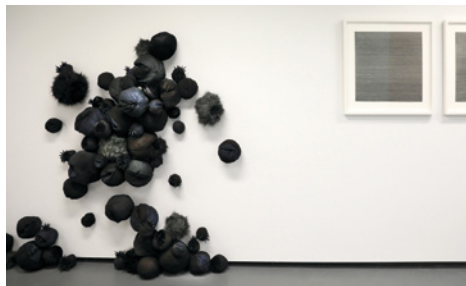
yet ready for the full tour, there are plenty of spots where the creativity is concentrated. Find a map to all the artworks at Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre.

Not far from Ruth Downes' mosaic, *Eels*, you'll find Parramatta Artists Studios. While the workspaces might not be for us mere mortals, the intimate onsite gallery is a great find and open to the public by appointment.

By now, you've probably worked up a hunger, but it's nothing a high tea at the Gatehouse Tea Rooms can't fix. Built in 1887, the beautiful colonial building in Parramatta Park is the perfect setting for scones, cucumber sandwiches and a fresh tea, coffee or, if the mood strikes, Champagne. Such is the building's significance, it was granted UNESCO World Heritage status as part of Parramatta Park in 2007.

While you're in the area, why not swing by Old Government House? The convict-built Georgian house, set on 80 hectares of parkland, is steeped in history – in fact, it's one of the oldest surviving public buildings in Australia.

After a bite to eat on Church Street, catch a show at Riverside Theatres, Western Sydney's premiere performing arts venue. Located on the banks of Parramatta River, the theatre plays host to many of Australia's leading performing-arts companies, including Sydney



From main: Riverside is home to major artistic productions, *Wake* public art, Works by Hannah Toohey and Emma Fielden at the Artist Studios.

Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Australian Dance Theatre and our very own National Theatre of Parramatta. Dance, comedy, music, cinema and family-friendly performances are a constant feature of Riverside's jam-packed events schedule.

After the show, pop around the corner for a nightcap at the Bavarian Bier Café. While a refreshing stein might not sound too cultural, your surrounds certainly will. The popular pub is located in a fully restored historical church – a stunning setting and atmosphere for a post-theatre wind-down.

### GATEHOUSE TEA ROOMS

Macquarie St  
Gatehouse,  
Parramatta Park  
9635 1515  
[gatehousetearooms.com.au](http://gatehousetearooms.com.au)

### SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ART WALK

Locations city-wide.  
Refer to *Explore Parramatta* map.

### OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Parramatta Park  
9635 8149  
[nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house](http://nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house)

### PARRAMATTA ARTISTS STUDIOS

68 Macquarie St  
9687 6090  
[parramattastudios.com.au](http://parramattastudios.com.au)

### RIVERSIDE THEATRES

Cnr Church and  
Market Sts  
8839 3399  
[riversideparramatta.com.au](http://riversideparramatta.com.au)



Clockwise from bottom: Portrait of Ballorderree, a historical painting of gathering tribes, riverside grasses, the interpretive walkway, the eels mosaic, eels in the river.



## 2 Aboriginal history

Parramatta is a city steeped in Indigenous history. The area is a great place to explore local Aboriginal culture.

A walk through Baludarri Wetlands will offer an insight into this heritage. The river, wetlands and surrounds were an important source of food as well as a place for meeting and trade for the Darug nation.

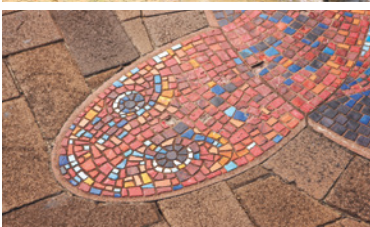
As you stroll along the foreshore, notice the depictions of traditional Aboriginal foodstuffs, native plants and fishing activities underfoot. The eye-catching Jamie Eastwood-designed artwork provides a snapshot of the

history of Parramatta from before 1788 to the present day from an Aboriginal perspective, and includes signage to explain the significance of each section.

As you continue on, take a moment to acknowledge the transformation of those riverbanks when, in 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip sailed in and declared the land suitable for settlement. In the ensuing fight for the land there were attacks on settlers, huts were burnt, crops destroyed and stock speared. Life in the area was changed forever.

It took nearly two centuries before any steps towards true reconciliation were taken. Stop





## BALUDARRI WETLANDS WALK

Connects city centre and river foreshore

## PARRAMATTA PARK

Cnr Macquarie & Pitt Sts  
9895 7500,  
[parrapark.com.au](http://parrapark.com.au)

## ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

195 Church St  
9891 0700,  
[stjohnscathedral.org.au](http://stjohnscathedral.org.au)

## LAKE PARRAMATTA RESERVE

Lackey St  
9806 5050  
[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

## “THE RIVER AND WETLANDS WERE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOOD AND A PLACE FOR MEETING AND TRADE FOR THE DARUG NATION.”

beneath the lemon-scented gums near Lennox Bridge to hear the Reconciliation Soundscape.

Next stop: Parramatta Park, with its strong connection to the region's Aboriginal history. Here you'll see pockets of open bushland that were created by the Burramatta people using traditional 'firestick burning' methods while the native trees, shrubs and grasses seen today were also thriving prior to European settlement. Along

the nearby stream, middens of freshwater shells have been found while stone axes have been uncovered in the area now known as the Crescent. This area was an important trading and meeting point for clan groups in the region.

Sites significant to Indigenous history can also be found off this beaten track. The area around St John's Cathedral is where Governor Macquarie first hosted a gathering of local Aboriginal clans

in 1814. This became an annual event catering to about 300 people.

Like Parramatta Park, Lake Parramatta offers strong evidence of the Burramatta people. There are hand-stencilled paintings, cave shelters, stone flakings, scar trees and shell deposits. While visiting, take a stroll around the Arrunga Bardo Aboriginal Bush Food Garden. Follow the tracks to find which plants were used for food, medicine, weaving or hunting.



# A CREATIVE CALLING

Filmmaker Mike Chin talks of his creative Parramatta

Interview by Alice Wasley

Parramatta is this wonderful, connected hub. It's got this incredible vibe and more creative people are coming out this way to live. It reminds me of Brooklyn in New York.

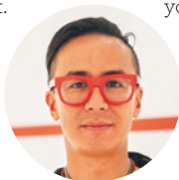
There is so much history in Parramatta. For the last few years I've been working with the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project. It's a project that was started by the Parragirls, who were former inmates of the Parramatta Girls Home. It was this horrid place that would take in children who were deemed wards of the state. These poor children were abused in many ways, but from what was a sad and disturbing chapter, these beautiful women have risen like flowers between the cracks to heal themselves and each other. They're showing that people can use art as therapy and that it's possible to change the energy

of a place to make it more of a healing space.

All around that Parramatta Female Factory Precinct – which began operating in 1821 and was Australia's first purpose-built institution for female convicts – there is amazing architecture. You can see bath areas where convict women were bathed outdoors;

you can see the step where they would stand and wait. It's worn out – probably from them shuffling in the cold. It's amazing things like that that you don't usually get to see unless they're photos or behind glass but this you can actually see and touch.

There is also rich Indigenous history in Parramatta. To learn about local Indigenous culture, I recommend talking to the local people to find out about the history and the Dreaming. Find out about Parramatta being a gathering place for Indigenous families to come and meet during



the time when there were lots of eels in the river. They would come to have a yarn and a feed. I've also discovered that there's a feminine energy in Parramatta; it was somewhere women came to give birth.

These things don't generally have markers, they don't have signs pointing to where they are, they're not published in guides, but walk around Parramatta and you'll feel the energy. Parramatta is a place where people gather from around the region because it's a natural hub, a natural annex.

• •



### THE WHITLAM INSTITUTE AT THE FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL

The Female Orphan School was witness to the lives of disadvantaged girls in the early colony, before becoming a mental hospital until the 1980s. Now part of Western Sydney University, one wing has housed the Whitlam Institute since 2013.

Cnr James Ruse Dr & Victoria Rd,  
Rydalmere, [whitlam.org](http://whitlam.org)

## THREE PARRAMATTA HERITAGE HOTSPOTS

### FORMER FEMALE FACTORY PRECINCT

This precinct (above) contains heritage buildings important to the story of women since early colonial times. The Female Factory, where convict women would work, is now part of Cumberland Hospital, and the precinct also contains the Lunatic and Invalid Asylum and Parramatta Girls Industrial School.

1 Fleet St, Parramatta North



### PARRAMATTA HERITAGE RIDES

The best way to see both the Female Factory Precinct and the Female Orphan School is to join a heritage ride around Parramatta. Both venues are only open by appointment, and Heritage Rides can arrange everything you need to get a glimpse into Parramatta's rich history. Book online in advance.

[parramattaheritagerides.net](http://parramattaheritagerides.net)



# WHAT'S ON

Parramatta is a hub of activity all year round. Head to the city for a fun day out at these major events throughout 2017

By Alana Young

## JANUARY

### The Crescent Live

Check website for dates

This summer, the unique natural amphitheatre will play host to Tropfest Junior and music festival FOMO, bringing acts like Empire of the Sun and Peking Duk to Parramatta. Keep an eye out for more unforgettable performances coming to the park!  
[thecrescentlive.com](http://thecrescentlive.com)

## FEBRUARY

### Lunar New Year Festival

3 February

Celebrate this Lunar New Year in multicultural Parramatta. Play Mahjong and ping pong, practise calligraphy and explore the city as lanterns are hung to welcome the new year.  
[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

## MARCH

### Governance

9 March–16 April

Funded by a City of Parramatta grant and curated by Lizzy Marshall, this show hosts a number of artists creating installations within Old Government House, exploring governance within the country home of the first 10 NSW Governors.  
[nationaltrust.org.au/nsw](http://nationaltrust.org.au/nsw)

### Parramasala Festival

10–12 March

Parramasala celebrates the dozens of unique cultures that are represented in Parramatta. Take delight in everything from yoga and chanting to film screenings and Bollywood dance with audience participation. Celebrate Parramatta's multicultural population.  
[parramasala.com](http://parramasala.com)



JULY

### Burramatta NAIDOC Festival

Check website for dates

Celebrate Parramatta's rich Aboriginal culture and heritage through storytelling, art and performance. Local dance and music groups regularly perform at this NAIDOC Week festival. Make sure you stick around for the guided stargazing program to spot some traditional storytelling characters, too.  
[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au); [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au)

## APRIL

### Australian Heritage Festival

18 April–21 May

Our shared heritage is rich with voices from many cultures. Having a voice is all about taking time to stop and listen to stories from every corner of our society. Various events

are held at heritage sites throughout the city.  
[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

### Anzac Day programming 25 April

Centenary Square hosts a program of activities to commemorate the locals who served in



**Tropfest is moving to Parramatta! Add a sprinkle of the arts to your summer calendar while you help the short film festival celebrate its 25th year in its bigger and better new home. This year's theme: pineapple. Make sure you check out Tropfest Junior as well to spot the next big film legend.**  
tropfest.org.au

**FEBRUARY**  
**Tropfest short film festival**  
**10-11 February**



Clockwise from left: Burrumatta NAIDOC Week; Tropfest; Elizabeth Farm; Old Government House; Australia Day in Parramatta; Anzac Day.

### **Parramatta Day**

#### **Check website for dates**

Treat yourself to a picnic to celebrate all that's great about Parramatta, with food stalls, farmers markets, tours, art and the Parravision talent show.  
[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

### **ONGOING**

#### **Family tours at Elizabeth Farm**

Take a tour of Elizabeth Farm with the family to unlock the farmstead's stories. Go back in time to work as a convict servant for the Macarthurs or do the washing as they did in the 1800s. Explore the house and garden at your leisure. Running daily in school holidays, 10am, noon and 2pm for the House and Garden Tour, and 11am, 1pm and 3pm for the

Kids' Servant's Life Tour. Included with museum entry.

### **Lamplight Tours**

Evening tours of heritage sites, in partnership with Parramatta heritage properties, and tours of Old Government House and Domain will be held in 2017; phone Old Government House on 9635 8149 for more details and to register your interest for future tours.

### **Heritage Tours**

#### **Every Monday, 11am-noon**

Let City of Parramatta's hosts and guides take you on a walking tour taking in highlights of Parramatta's past, uncovering the city's hidden history. Bookings essential.  
[discoverparramatta@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://discoverparramatta@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)



war, and educational activities are held for the kids throughout the month. Make a poppy for the Poppy Wall that forms the backdrop to the Dawn Service.  
[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

### **NOVEMBER**

#### **Tales of India**

#### **16 November-15 February**

This show explores the Anglo-Indian connections made during the time of the Governors' residence in Parramatta, and how they continue to the present day.  
[nationaltrust.org.au/nsw](http://nationaltrust.org.au/nsw)

Locations within  
2.5km north beyond  
limits of map

# NORTH PARRAMATTA







## POINTS OF INTEREST

Discover these heritage activities in Parramatta.

- 1 Parramatta Rowboats
- 2 Lake Parramatta Reserve
- 3 Female Factory Precinct
- 4 Parramatta Park Café
- 5 Parramatta Park
- 6 Old Government House
- 7 Lachlan's restaurant
- 8 Gatehouse Tea Rooms
- 9 Riverside Theatres
- 10 Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Information Centre
- 11 350 Restaurant & Lounge, Novotel
- 12 Parramatta River
- 13 Lennox Bridge
- 14 Brislington Medical and Nursing Museum
- 15 Bavarian Bier Café
- 16 BAR:30
- 17 Kanzo Fresh Sushi
- 18 Parramatta Artists' Studio
- 19 St John's Anglican Cathedral
- 20 Port Bar
- 21 Hong Fu North East Chinese
- 22 Lancer Barracks
- 23 Circa Espresso
- 24 St John's Cemetery
- 25 Experiment Farm Cottage
- 26 Hambledon Cottage
- 27 Elizabeth Farm Cottage
- 28 Whitlam Institute at the Female Orphan School

## MAP KEY

- TASTE
- DISCOVER
- EXPLORE
- CYCLE
- Free shuttle stop one way loop
- Train station
- Bus interchange
- Ferry wharf
- Discover walk
- Visitor information centre
- Heritage cycle route
- one way street

For more info about what to see, do and sample in Parramatta, visit the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre at 350 Church St or call 8839 3311.

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## GETTING TO PARRAMATTA

There are so many ways to get to Parramatta,  
a city served by bus, train and ferry



### CATCH THE BUS

The city is served by buses to the interchange near Parramatta Station. Bus routes connect Parramatta with other Sydney destinations like Castle Hill, Hornsby, Ryde, Strathfield and the Sydney city centre.

### CITY SHUTTLE BUS

It's easy to get around on the free CBD shuttle bus route that runs from 8am to 4pm. Highlights along the route include Church Street, the ferry wharf, Phillip Street and Westfield.

### RIDE THE TRAIN

Parramatta Station connects to locations all around metro Sydney. It's a 30-minute ride from Sydney's Town Hall to Parramatta. There are stations at nearby Harris Park and Westmead, too.

### HOP ON THE FERRY

Ferries run from Circular Quay to Parramatta Wharf, departing every day between 7am and 7pm. The ferry arrives at the end of Charles Street, a short walk from the centre of the city. Note that low tides occasionally mean buses replace ferries for part of the journey.

## DRIVE IN

Parramatta is well serviced by major road connections. There are parking stations around Parramatta, many of which offer pre-booking discounts. There are also paid and free street parking spots in the city.

## FIND YOUR WAY

To find public transport routes to Parramatta, visit the Transport for NSW website at [transportnsw.info](http://transportnsw.info)

You can also call the Transport Infoline at any time on 131 500 for help and information. City of Parramatta Council has useful transport information on its website: [cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

## WALK AND CYCLE

Parramatta is an easy city to cycle and walk around, with many of the best highlights within walking distance. One of the best ways to discover those little gems in the city is by exploring on foot or by bike, and by taking your time to find new experiences.

Bicycle hire is available from the below location (or bring your own bike!). Look out for Explore, the companion map to this guide, for walking and cycling routes.

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## ADDDVENTAGEOUS

*Weekend bicycle hire between 10am-2pm from \$10/hour with a helmet.*  
Barry Wilde Bridge Fountain  
0430 130 670  
[adddventagous.com](http://adddventagous.com)

## SHOWING YOU AROUND

Our friendly hosts and guides are located in the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre overlooking the Parramatta River. Roaming the city's CBD, they also provide a meet-and-greet service at the ferry wharf.



## THE BEST WAY TO DISCOVER PARRAMATTA

See the best of the City of Parramatta with food, activity and heritage guides. Look out in information centres, hotels and transit points for locally produced guides to the city called Taste and Discover Parramatta. Also find the handy activity map called Explore Parramatta. Together, the guides and map show you everything you need to know for an extraordinary time in the city, with excellent dining options, incredible heritage to uncover and fun activities to do. Come and explore Sydney's Central City, and let it surprise you.





# EXPLORE TASTE DISCOVER PARRAMATTA

[visit-parramatta.com](http://visit-parramatta.com)

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[visitparramatta](https://www.facebook.com/visitparramatta)



[@visitparramatta](https://www.instagram.com/visitparramatta)

**PARRAMATTA**  
WOP • DISCOVER • EXPLORE AUSTRALIA'S NEXT GREAT CITY