



### 9. A Bustling City

Parramatta's reputation as a city continues to grow. Today it has forged ahead as a dynamic regional centre for commerce and retail. In the fast changing urban environment, you will notice that many of Parramatta's significant heritage buildings of convict bricks and mortar still stand amidst the new developments.

### Harris Park Walk

Make your way down George Street, head along the river and see a suburb of Parramatta.

### 11. Artworks

Contemporary artworks depict life along the river in the early 1800s. See if you can find them.

- Sentry Box
- Windmill Shadow
- Story Walls

Greg Stonehouse & Susan Milne, 2009

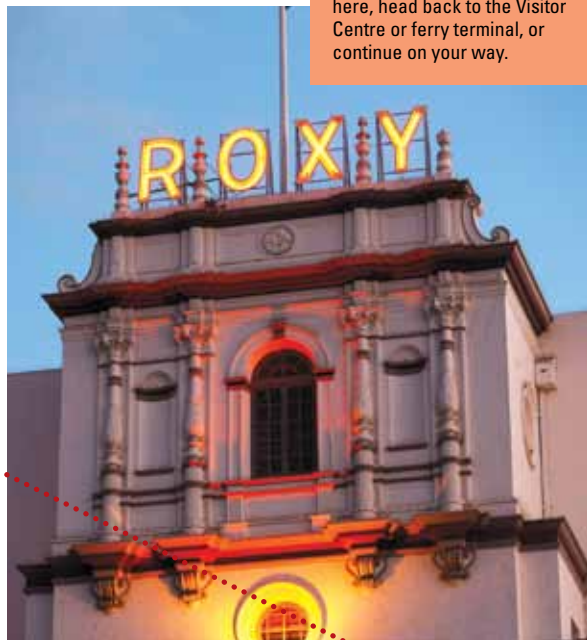


### 10. The Roxy

The Roxy was one of the most impressive buildings of its kind in Australia and a significant addition to Parramatta's social scene.

A 'picture palace' screening silent films since it 1930, its classic architecture and opulence marked the importance of Parramatta as a regional centre.

Along George and Church streets are plenty of places to eat and drink. From here, head back to the Visitor Centre or ferry terminal, or continue on your way.



### 12. Hambleton Cottage

Built in 1824 by early settlers John and Elizabeth Macarthur as a residence for their children's governess. This cottage has since been conserved and is furnished in 19th-century style.



### 13. Elizabeth Farm

Built in 1793, it was the home of John Macarthur and his wife Elizabeth, after whom the house is named. The Macarthurs were successful agriculturalists and pioneers of the merino wool industry.



### 14. Experiment Farm Cottage

The Colonial Surgeon John Harris built this house in 1834. It stands on the site of former convict James Ruse's experimental farm which he started cultivating in 1793, as the first successful private farm in the colony.

From here, walk across to Harris Park Town Centre.



### 15. Harris Park

Harris Park is a lively, vibrant suburb with great Indian restaurants, grocery stores and sweet shops. Now your walk is finished, drop in and have a treat.



# Parramatta Snapshots



Get an overview of Parramatta, its landscapes, rich heritage and its many cultures. See how the city has evolved.



For more information or to find other self-guided walking tours, go to [www.discoverparramatta.com](http://www.discoverparramatta.com) pop into the Parramatta Visitor Information Centre or call 1300 889 714

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Cover image shows Florentine Dome building, corner Church and Phillip Street and Jeffrey House  
Images by: Terence Chin  
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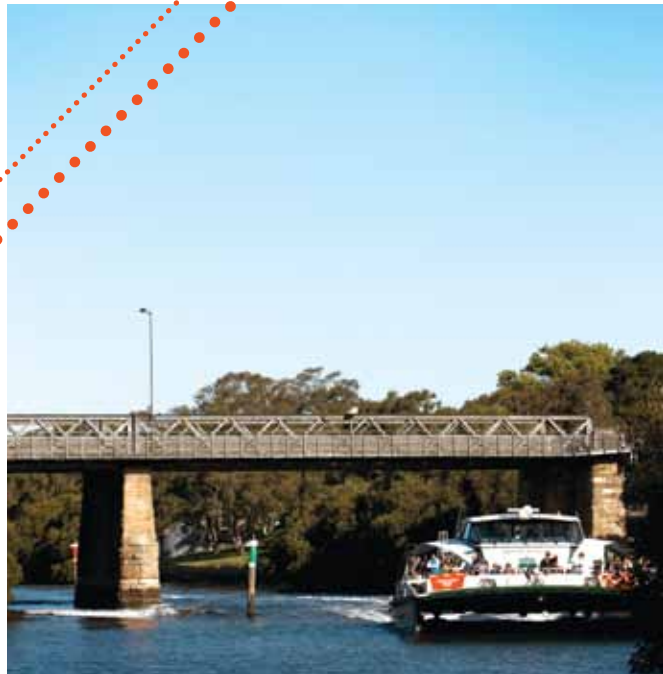
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## Parramatta is a city of converging cultures, histories and stories.

Parramatta has been many things to many people throughout its long history; the home of the Burramatta clan of the Darug Aboriginal people, a foundation for the fledgling European colony, and then the commercial and retail centre, for its expanding population - a cultural hub and meeting place.

Today the city reflects the character of modern Australia, where many cultures meet; where heritage and the contemporary co-exist and natural spaces and urban places connect.

This walk will offer you a glimpse into Parramatta's significant past and its diverse cityscape today as you explore its many stories and fascinating sites.



Walk 1 – 2.5 km, 60 mins  
Walk 2 – 2.6 km, 65 mins  
Allow additional time for bridging walk

### 1. Parramatta River

The river played an important role in shaping Parramatta; the land, the city and its people.

Over thousands of years the natural landscape was formed by the winding river, which created a catchment circled by hills where Parramatta stands today. Lush native vegetation from eucalypts to mangroves thrived along its banks, some of which you can still see today. Around this area is where the salt and fresh water met, providing an abundance of wildlife.



Look into the river and you might catch a glimpse of some eels! To this day, they continue their astonishing breeding migrations from the rivers and creeks around Parramatta all the way to the open sea.



### Convicts and Garrison Town

Parramatta's role as a command centre and convict and garrison town in the early 1800s was cemented with institutions such as the first gaol at Prince Alfred Park, the Female Factory, the Female Orphan School and the many barracks. These reflect a time when harsh discipline was used to maintain order and control.

### 2. Burramatta Lands

Burramatta, 'place where the eels lie' is the name of the indigenous clan that lived here, and the origin from which the name Parramatta was derived.

The river provided plenty of food; fish, turtles and eels, and was an important 'meeting place' for the clans of the Darug people.

The Burramatta lifestyle was severely disrupted when in 1788 European colonists travelled up the river and claimed their land. Stories of resistance, removal and eventually, reconciliation are depicted through art along the river foreshore.



### 3. Sustenance for settlement

Starvation threatened the newly arrived colonists at Sydney Cove who were struggling to survive in a foreign land.

The fertile soils and fresh water which they found here in 1788 changed the course of the Parramatta story and shaped the future of Australia.

Successful crops meant that Parramatta was settled as a town, which soon outgrew Sydney in size and importance for some time owing to its role in sustaining and governing the new colony.

Want to know more?

Pick up the Entrepreneurs in Agriculture brochure which traces the birth of European agriculture in Australia. You could also visit Elizabeth Farm, Experiment Farm Cottage or Parramatta Park.



### 4. Church Street — From retail hub to 'Eat Street'

Cross over Lennox Bridge, one of the earliest bridges in Australia.

As you make your way down Church Street, you will see a part of Parramatta that has evolved significantly since the earliest days of the colony. One of the city's first streets, Church Street served as the hub of Parramatta's civic buildings through the 1800s. In the 1950s it had grown to be the retail heart of Parramatta where many of the city's finest department stores were located.

Spot the horse on the old Murray Brothers store or the old sandstone Post Office and bank buildings.

Today, Church Street is better known for its cafés and restaurants. Lunchtime and evening crowds flock to 'Eat Street' for the good food and street side tables. And the choice is wide. Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, Indian, South-east Asian or contemporary Australian – there's a cuisine to tempt all tastes.

Want to know more?

The Cultural Bites, Stories Behind the Food brochure will give you an insight into Parramatta's diverse food offerings.



### 5. Health and Justice

The first convict hospitals in Parramatta occupied this site by the river. Early hospitals were basic; a tent hospital was the first built and the conditions for the convicts were rough. So basic were the facilities in early Parramatta that the waste from this site drained into the town's water supply.

At the Heritage Pavilions you can view significant archaeological items from the colonial era.

Brislington and the old courthouse tower nearby stand as reminders of the city's early days and mark the focus on order and justice in the early town. Today these city blocks erupt with impressive new structures in one of Australia's largest legal precincts.



### 6. The Governor's Domain

Parramatta Park is a popular site for recreation for the people of Parramatta. It is also an important natural and historic place due to its history as the Governor's Domain.

From the 1790s til the late 1840s, Parramatta was the seat of colonial government.

The first house was built here in 1791 for Governor Arthur Phillip and was home to successive governors. In Governor Macquarie's time the land surrounding Old Government House was exclusively the Governor's Domain and he built a fence built to keep the common folk out.



### 7. George Street

Make your way down George Street. It may not seem it today, but George Street is one of the most significant streets in Australia. In 1791 Parramatta's street grid was planned and George Street was laid out. This was the first example of town planning in Australia and helped shape the development of Parramatta.

George Street linked the Government Domain with the wharf at the eastern end of the city.



If you have time, take a walk to the Dairy Cottage. Across the river is where some of the colony's earliest crops were grown. Nearby, Parramatta's famous 'Little Coogee' beach was a popular swimming spot until the 1950s.



### 8. Civic Place

As you head down Church Street, you'll find Parramatta's Civic Centre. This part of Parramatta has always been a regional centre of activity with markets, Town Hall, St John's Cathedral, Parramatta railway station and major retail hub.

