



HIDDEN STORIES



What weird and wonderful things took place here?

Take a walk, find the clues and discover Parramatta's hidden stories.



9. Where Is It?

Don't be afraid to peer down Parramatta's holes. You never know what you may discover about this country's colonial history! What significant sandstone structure in this location is claimed to be among the first built in Australia? Thought to have been constructed by convict labour, it's bound to have washed away many of Parramatta's dirty secrets.

Warning: Spending too much time searching for the answer may be draining.

12. True or False

Are there secret chambers inside the Lennox Bridge? Were any of the wayward convicts who helped build it shackled to the walls inside?

Local legend has it that kids in the Parramatta area used to crawl through tunnels inside the bridge and shackle each other to the walls ...all for fun, of course.

But were these chambers once used to punish wayward convicts? Perhaps we'll never know. Today, gates block the holes that reputedly led to the tunnels.

Congratulations!

You have now completed the Hidden Stories trail.

For more information on these stories, or to check out other details about Parramatta's interesting and unusual past, pop into the Visitor Information Centre, call 1300 889 714 or visit our website discoverparramatta.com.au

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8. What Is It?

Walking along George Street you will reach Barrack Lane, one of just a few Parramatta laneways that are still in their original condition.

Hidden along the lane are three cottages. Who were they built for? Look for the plaque that reveals their story.

Behind these cottages is a long sandstone wall that was part of the original convict barracks. Can you imagine the bleak way of life the convicts suffered?



C. True or False

In the early years of the colony it wasn't always as pleasurable catching a ferry up the river as it is today. Some ferry crews were ex-convicts, and when the men got tired (or drunk!) they would sometimes ask the passengers to row the boats themselves.

10. What Is It?

Mounted across the length of the pedestrian bridge that spans the river is an artwork called Wake. What do you think this artwork represents?

- a) a whale's skeleton
- b) the movement of oars
- c) the flight of birds
- d) eels swimming in the river

The Parramatta River was the highway of its day! In the early years of the colony, ships and boats continuously plied their way up and down to Sydney Cove, delivering passengers and cargo. Some boats were rowed; others relied on horses to power them.



11. Did You Know...?

Are you there yet? Have you reached the turtles?

The Riverwalk artwork tells the Aboriginal story of Parramatta from an indigenous point of view.

Why do you think turtles are included in this story?

The answer's not far away.

Today, turtles are still sometimes spotted in the river. You may not see them here, but the river is home to plenty of other marine life, including eels and fish.

Continue along the Riverwalk until you reach the Lennox Bridge.

Let's follow its course. Continue across the site until you get to Phillip Street, then cross at the pedestrian crossing. You will come to a small laneway nearby. Once you reach its end you'll be able to see quite an impressive-looking structure.

D. Unbelievable But True

A little further along from the ferry wharf, alongside the pathway, is an evocative contemporary artwork entitled Sentry Box. It represents the actual sentry boxes where soldiers stood guard by the river, watching the boats coming and going and on the lookout for anyone committing misdemeanours.

Did you know that the many of the convicts and asylum patients brought to Parramatta were transported here by boat at night? The old Female Orphan School in Rydalmere had its own wharf for that very reason.

Head to the pathway you see below via the stairs or the ramp, then continue along the Riverwalk.

B. What Is It?

Take a walk along the river in Parramatta Park until you get to the Causeway. Here, high in the trees, are hundreds of dark, winged creatures.

Do you know what they are? Get a little closer! Can you hear the shrill noises they make? Perhaps they knew John Batman lived around here.

Head down Batman Walk and make your way through the car park. These passageways through Parramatta's buildings and car parks echo the many laneways that crisscrossed the city.

Once you reach Horwood Place you will see the side of The Roxy. Walk to the front of the building.



7. Did You Know ...?

For many years The Roxy has been one of Parramatta's most exciting entertainment venues. It was built in 1930 as a movie theatre and at the time was one of Sydney's finest 'picture palaces'.

What kind of films were screened here? Take a guess, but we won't say a word.

The Roxy is also considered one of the best examples of Spanish Mission style architecture in Australia.

Sit back and admire its impressive features over a relaxing drink from the bar in the courtyard, or seek out one of the restaurants hidden in the arcade by its side.

When you're done, continue walking along George Street and cross the street as you head to your next destination.

On the way keep an eye out for a brick well that once supplied an early Parramatta hotel with water. More interesting subterranean stories will soon be uncovered.

How well do you think you know Parramatta? Beneath the face of the city that you see today, hidden stories are buried.

Many of these tales are about the quirky or mysterious, about out of the ordinary places or unusual objects. Others deal with dark events that have happened in the course of the city's long and at times grim history.

This self-guided tour lets you explore as you please to discover the Parramatta you won't always find in the brochures. Find the clues to answer the questions and see if you can piece together these hidden stories.

Walking Trail: 2.5 km, 60 mins



You don't need to visit all the marked sites to get a sense of where the **character of the city** has come from. It's up to you to decide how many to take in.

1. Unbelievable but True

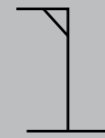
Over the road from the Visitor Centre is Prince Alfred Park. But this wasn't always a peaceful, grassy reserve, let alone known by its current name. What was it known as?

Over two centuries ago it was common for grisly events to take place here – some in full view of the public. No place for a picnic at all!

The pathway on the corner will help you to unlock this gruesome part of Parramatta's history.

Can you guess what took place here? This word game might help:

_ a _ g _ _ g s



2. What Am I?

I sit opposite what is new

A place reserved for the privileged few

Where truth and wisdom could be grown

And answers to your questions shown.



A. Did You Know...?

Even in the 19th century the people of Parramatta enjoyed a cooling dip on really hot days and the nearby Parramatta River was their watery playground.

One popular spot in Parramatta Park was named after a Sydney beach. Can you guess what it was called? Gee, it can't be that hard!

3. Did You Know...?

The Justice Precinct site has a long history of medical use. Look around the perimeter of the 'zesty' Heritage Courtyard. Here you will find examples of what was used to treat a variety of illnesses and ailments among the early settlers of Parramatta.

These treatments must have worked; the early settlers didn't seem to mind... or even mind!

Fancy a drink to wash down that medicine? Maybe it's best to avoid the town drinking water or you could end up feeling even sicker.

What polluted the supply of drinking water in Parramatta's colonial days? You may not be able to stomach the answer.

Here's a hint: Look in the archaeological displays in the Heritage Pavilions.



Continue along Marsden Street until you get to George Street. Then turn left until you get to Church Street and then turn right.

4. What Is That?

Perched above you along Church Street is an artwork entitled Flock. This fascinating sculpture represents traps that were traditionally used by the Burramatta people to catch:

- a) pigeons
- b) flying foxes
- c) eels
- d) moths

You won't need to go far to find the answer. Here's a tip, look down and around.

At night, lasers dramatically light up the installation, lending the traps a certain eye-catching al-lure.

Continue along until you get to Church Street Mall.



5. Did You Know...?

Parramatta is well known for being a city of firsts – but what 'first' took place right here in Church Street?

You may need to browse to find the answer. But don't spend too much time – it may cost you.

Here's a hint: look around the Town Hall and see if you can find a plaque.



When you have found your answer, head to Macquarie Street, cross the road and turn right.

6. Who Is It?

Diagonally opposite the old Post Office on Macquarie Street is a little laneway named after one of Parramatta's most prominent former residents.

No, it wasn't the renowned caped crusader – even though they share a name.

It was John _____

Why is he so famous? Well, when he was an intrepid young man he headed south from this colony and founded another great river town. Originally called Batmania (after him, naturally!), the city was later renamed Melbourne.

The house he grew up in once stood close to this laneway.

