

GWS REGION
PARRAMATTA PARK & CITY RAMBLE
October 2024

The Parramatta Ramble is designed as a fun day out for Cubs Scouts, walking around Parramatta, following instructions, looking for clues, answering questions, and finding out about our local history.

Leaders please read these instructions – This is not a race. Take your time to explore the history and have the Cub Scouts answer the questions. Most stops only need a few minutes to read the information boards. The entire circuit is approx. 6 km and you should allow at least 3 hours.

Groups can complete the Parramatta Ramble as a Unit or in Patrols, ensuring that there are 2 leaders present with youth members. You can start and finish the activity at a time that suits your group. Stop for lunch and snacks at any one of the parks you pass.

Map: A map showing the route and toilet locations is available attached. Please follow the circuit in the anti-clockwise direction as marked so that the questions and directions run in order.

Instructions, Questions & Answers: An Instruction and Question sheet is also attached. Stop at each location and read the background information and stories on your question sheets, read the questions and write down your answers. A separate Answer sheet will be made available for Leaders (this will be helpful if you can't find the answers or should you get lost).

Key - Items in *italics* are background information or stories for you to read to the Cubs, items marked with # are actions and instructions on where to go/do next, questions are marked in **bold** and answers can be written on the lines provided.

Starting locations: The following places are designated starting points. Select your preferred starting point and start the questions at the corresponding question number listed below:

- Parramatta Station - walk to Lancer Barracks on Smith St – start with Question 1
- Phillip Street Ferry Terminal – start with Question 6
- Prince Alfred Park – start with the information before Question 14
- Bath House in Parramatta Park – start with Question 34
- Town Hall Square – start with Question 45

Toilets: Are marked on the map (attached), these are located at:

- Parramatta Station (if arriving by train) Church Street Mall - opposite the Town Hall near St John's Church
- Phillip St Ferry Terminal
- Parramatta Park at the Park Café Building near the River
- Parramatta Park in the Murray Gardens near the Tudor Gatehouse
- Parramatta Park in the Rose Garden near the Macquarie St entrance

Additional toilets (not on the walk) are located at:

- Westfield Parramatta in Argyle St
- Parramatta Park in bottom playing fields near Queen's Rd Westmead gate

Cub Scout Achievements: Cub Scouts who complete this walk will have:

- participated in a Community or Personal Growth or Outdoor challenge,
- completed an open parklands walk for OAS Stage 1 Bushwalking, and
- contributed to their Walkabout award.

Please ensure everyone is on their best behaviour out in the public community space, especially on public transport – people notice behaviour both good and bad, and we want Scouts to leave a good impression.

Have Fun!

Gabie Thompson
GWS Region Commissioner Cub Scouts
0419 101 951

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The Lancer Barracks were constructed between 1817 and 1819 to house British Garrison troops. Other buildings reflect the history of the Barracks with the formation of a troop of Lancers in 1891.

Read the large signs out front of Lancer Barracks.

QUESTION 1 - Who is the Lancer Barracks home to now?

It is home to the 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers.

Continue back down Smith Street in a northerly direction. Stop at the corner of Macquarie Street and look diagonally right to see the first 11 story vertical Public School in NSW.

QUESTION 2 - What is the name of the 11 story vertical High School on Macquarie Street?

Arthur Phillip High School.

Cross Macquarie Street and continue along Smith Street, cross over George Street and keep going down to Phillip Street. Stop at the corner and look diagonally left.

QUESTION 3 - What name is on the salmon pink building exterior that remains in front of the new Powerhouse Museum construction?

St George's Terrace - built in 1881.

This is the remains of a large Victorian Terrace of seven, two story houses. The original verandas with curved corrugated iron roofs and cast iron balustrades have been removed.

Cross the road and turn right into Phillip Street.

Walk past the workman's cottages – built in 1840s for Mrs Harwin; these single storey old colonial Georgian cottages have hipped iron roofs. In the late 1800s, this was the Chinatown area.

QUESTION 4 - What are the cottages used for today?

Restaurants and businesses.

Look directly across the road to building No. 99.

QUESTION 5 - What is the name of the unusually shaped building at 99 Phillip Street?

Octagon.

Continue along Phillip Street to the Ferry Terminal (Toilets located here)

Since the early days the river has been a vital link between Sydney and Parramatta. Towards the end of the 1900s, moves were made to reopen river transport.

On 8 December 1993, 66years after the last ferry, the River Cat Ferries reached Parramatta and reopened the link.

Walk downstairs to the flat area near the ferry. Look up to the big sign and also read the words facing the ferry on the front of the large concrete and wooden steps.

QUESTION 6 - What is the name of the Ferry Terminal?

Parramatta Quay.

QUESTION 7 - What year was the bridge washed away in the first recorded flood?

1795

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TELL the STORY of The Flying Pieman:

Of all Australia's sporting personalities, the most extraordinary was William King, better known as "The Flying Pieman". Born in England of a good family and educated for the clergy, he became a stockbroker in London, but soon tired of that and sailed for Sydney in 1839. Here he developed into an amazing character. For six consecutive days, he walked from the Obelisk in Macquarie Place Sydney, to the sixteen mile stone at Parramatta and back again, twice a day.

He won a bet that he could carry a live goat (weighing over 90 pounds) from Campbelltown to Sydney via Parramatta between midnight and 7.00a.m.

He became known as "The Flying Pieman" because he made and sold kidney, pork, mutton and apple pies – all hot. He would have his pie oven with its folding legs and sell pies to people catching the ferry at Parramatta. He would then run to Sydney and sell any leftovers to the passengers when they disembarked the ferry. He would also race the Windsor to Sydney Stage coach and win - He was truly a remarkable athlete!

Cross the weir bridge, turn left and then follow the Riverside Walk west to Lennox Bridge.

The Riverside walk tells the rich history of the region and its people from an Aboriginal perspective. It tells of the landscape and history pre-contact, as well as the arrival and impact of Europeans. The story culminates in the Reconciliation Sounds cape.

QUESTION 8 - Where does the name Parramatta come from?

Parramatta is named after the Aboriginal word Burrumatta - meaning 'place of eels'.

Governor Phillip renamed Rosehill as Parramatta in June 1971

QUESTION 9 - Why is the Charles Street Weir important for the eels?

Mature eels congregate to lay their eggs where the fresh water meets salt water.

Continue to walk along under the Elizabeth Street Footbridge.

The design of the bridge has been inspired by both the flight of birds and the movement of oars.

QUESTION 10 - Who was the aboriginal who befriended Arthur Phillip?

Baludarri – who was a fish trader.

QUESTION 11 - What foods were eaten by the Aboriginal people who lived by the water?

Eels, fish, turtles, shellfish and edible plants.

QUESTION 12 - Who is the next traffic bridge that you walk under named after?

Barry Wilde – who served in Parramatta as a Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor.

QUESTION 13 - Who was Pemulwuy?

He was a brave Aboriginal warrior.

Lennox Bridge (Parramatta's oldest) with its graceful arch was built by convicts between 1836 and 1839 under the direction of David Lennox, the NSW Superintendent of bridges. The previous bridge had been a wooden structure and had to be replaced each time the river flooded.

The Lennox Bridge was widened in 1912 & 1934 to cope with increased traffic.

Continue up the stairs to Church Street and cross over to the Riverside Theatre building.

The site of the Riverside Theatres was the site of the first Municipal Baths opened in 1888 and closed in 1959.

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Turn right along Church Street and cross at the lights and proceed into Prince Alfred Square.

Prince Alfred Square was named after Queen Victoria's son when he visited Parramatta in 1869. Originally known as Gaol Green, as it was the site of the first Gaol. The convict gaol was built of logs and when it was destroyed by fire, a stone gaol was built. This second gaol was demolished when a new bigger gaol was built in O'Connell Street, North Parramatta in 1842.

EXPLORE the Park and walk to the top right and top left corners.

QUESTIONS 14 - What year was the Soldier Statue unveiled in front of the Cenotaph?

2018

QUESTION 15 - In the top right of the park, who was the sandstone clock erected by and when?

The citizens of Parramatta in appreciation of the Hon. George Gollan, in 1954.

QUESTION 16 - In the top left of the park, when was the Anderson Fountain erected?

1882

Opposite the park is St Patrick's Cathedral – the first church on the site was built in 1836. It was demolished in 1853 and a gothic style church was built, with a tower and spires added in 1883. This church was pulled down with the exception of the tower & spire. The last church was built in 1935 and the outer stone work was constructed from the second church. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1996 and a new modern cathedral was opened in November 2003.

Walk down to the South West corner of the Park.

Note the buildings on the opposite side of the street:-

Murphy House - the cathedral Presbytery was purpose built in 1904 and is a 2-storey Federation Filigree house with verandas on 3 sides.

Next door is Laurel House; this Georgian building was the Headmasters Residence of the King's School. The King's School was behind this before it moved to larger grounds at North Parramatta in 1960.

Cross Market Street with care and continue south along Marist Place onto Burnie Banton Bridge. Walk over the bridge and continue into Marsden Street.

Underneath the bridge is the weir - built in 1818, under the instructions of Governor Macquarie - dammed fresh water from the salty tidal water and provided a fresh water supply for the town.

The bridge was opened on 19 June 1971, allowing traffic to cross in all weather.

At the lights is the former St Andrews Presbyterian Church (under renovation) – its foundation stone was laid in 1925 and it closed its doors in 1990 and became a restaurant.

Cross at the lights to Jeffery House – part of the former Parramatta Hospital Buildings.

Turn left and walk south along Marsden Street. Go up the stairs to the Heritage Courtyard and inside the glass building you will find the layout of the First Hospital foundations.

The use of different coloured pavers represents the place of the buildings that were part of the hospital. The surgeon's residence (c.1820) is identified by a raised grass covered platform. Check out the old footings and drain, under the new pavilions.

QUESTION 17 - In what year was the brick Parramatta Hospital opened on this site?

1792

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Continue along Marsden Street and you will come to 'Brislington House'.

Check out the diamonds in the brickwork on the back wall.

In 1821, ex-convict, John Hodges, then on ticket-of-leave, tossed an eight of diamonds on to a card table in a game of euchre one night at the Woolpack Inn. The eight was the winning card and it won him £1000 in gold. With the money from that game he built his home on the allotment which he owned adjoining the Inn. He erected the present substantial two storey building of red brick. To commemorate his luck he had the convict builders work an eight of diamonds into the brickwork. The design is fashioned in burnt black bricks against red ones.

QUESTION 18 - How many 'larger' diamonds are in the rear wall of Brislington?

Six large diamonds.

QUESTION 19 - Who is the well made to remember?

Dr James Kearney.

QUESTION 20 - In what year was Brislington House erected?

1821

QUESTION 21 - What is Brislington House used for today?

A Medical and Nursing Museum.

Near the corner look across the street and you will see the tower from the 1898 Courthouse.

Can you see a Lion and Unicorn carved in the sandstone panel on the north-east corner?

Turn right into George Street and head towards O'Connell Street. You will see the Tudor Gatehouse facing towards George St.

QUESTION 22 - What date can you see on top of the Tudor Gatehouse?

AD 1885

QUESTION 23 - Who was the architect?

The Architect in 1885 was Gordon McKinnon.

This gatehouse copies cathedral town houses in England and replaced an earlier gatehouse built in Governor Macquarie's time.

Walk through the gate and take the right side path, past the play area and follow the park walk alongside the river and cross the green Noller Bridge. This flat area on this side of the river was used to grow crops for the early colonies in Parramatta. Take the left path and walk past the white picket fenced Old King cricket oval and behind the Parramatta District Cricket Club building. You will reach the gravel Cricket Club carpark.

Please take care here due to possible moving cars.

Cross over to the grass area on the right side of the carpark and continue walking to the end of the carpark. Safely cross a sealed road back over to the gravel path on the left side. Continue walking behind CommBank Stadium and the gravel path will become sealed. Turn left and continue along the sealed path until you reach a green grassy slope. Walk down the slope over to Buttons Bridge. Whilst walking look up into the trees on the left to see all of the Flying Foxes hanging upside down. Some will be asleep, and some will be moving and making screeching sounds.

Cross the bridge back over the river and walk up to the Park Café building (Toilets located here).

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Cross at the zebra crossing and walk on the path up the hill.

QUESTION 24 - What was the hexagonal shaped brick building on the right used for?

A Band Rotunda for musical performances.

Continue along the path over to the Government Farm buildings on the left.

QUESTION 25 - What crops were grown at the Government Farm?

Citrus, vegetables, wheat, barley, corn, oats and a small quantity of flax.

QUESTION 26 - Name the sand coloured stone and timber building and during what years was it built?

The Dairy Cottage, built between 1796-1800.

Walk back past the dairy and out the gate to the closed road. Turn left and walk south along the closed road alongside the cricket fields and towards the railway line.

Just before the end locate the memorial to William (Billy) E Hart on the left side of the road.

QUESTION 27 - How far was it, and how long did it take Billy E Hart to fly from Penrith to Parramatta?

18 Miles and the flight took 19 Minutes.

QUESTION 28 - In what year did he make the flight?

3 November 1911.

Walk east towards the Bath House and stop to explore the Boer War memorial and cannons.

QUESTION 29 - When was the Boer War?

1899-1902

QUESTION 30 - Who does the memorial commemorate?

Parramatta Lancer's contribution as the first Australian Troops to arrive at the Boer War.

QUESTION 31 - Where did the stone columns come from?

The old Parramatta Court House.

QUESTION 32 - Next to the memorial is the site of the first building in Parramatta. What year was this built?

The redoubt – built 2 November 1788.

QUESTION 33 - Who was responsible for building it?

Governor Phillip.

Next: Go back over to the Bath House. Note the original roof pictured on the sign board.

QUESTION 34 - Who was the Bath House built for?

Governor Brisbane in 1822.

QUESTION 35 - In what style was the Bath House built?

Roman style plunge bath house.

Walk over to the Observatory inside the white canopy

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QUESTION 36 - Who paid for the Observatory to be built?

Governor Brisbane in 1822.

QUESTION 37 - Who were the first astronomers?

Charles Rumker and James Dunlop.

Continue down the hill past Old Government House to the sign boards on the front lawn.

QUESTION 38 - When was the second Government House built?

1799 by Governor Hunter - (The first House was built in 1789 by Governor Phillip).

QUESTION 39 - Who made the additions in 1816?

Governor Macquarie.

Continue down the hill and cross road to the driveway – called ‘The Avenue of Oaks’.

QUESTION 40 - Why do we have a memorial to Lady Mary Fitzroy & Charles Chester Martin?

They were killed in a horse carriage accident when it overturned on 7 December 1847.

To the right of the Tudor Gatehouse take the path in the Murray Gardens and walk towards the new Club Parramatta RSL. (There are Toilets in the south west corner of the Murray Gardens).

QUESTION 41 - When did the Murray Gardens open?

8 March 1959.

QUESTION 42 - How many Pine Trees are along the pathway in the Murray Gardens?

Three (3).

Walk along O’Connell Street past the Club Parramatta RSL. Cross safely at the lights on the corner of O’Connell and Macquarie Streets. Continue along O’Connell Street and turn left into Hunter Street and continue east until you reach St John’s Cathedral.

The original church was destroyed by convicts, who resented the Government order compelling them to attend Divine Service. It was a mistaken strategy, for the convicts were ordered to spend their Sundays building another church!

The present church was begun in 1852 and opened in 1855, it was extended in 1882.

QUESTION 43 - When did the first church of St John open for public worship?

10 April 1803.

QUESTION 44 - Who was the first Rector of St. John’s Church?

Reverend Samuel Marsden.

Walk into Church Street Mall to see the Town Hall. (Toilets opposite the Town Hall).

Parramatta Town Hall was built on the site of the first Agricultural Society Fair held in 1813.

QUESTION 45 - What is the date on the front of the Town Hall?

1880

Turn left and head north towards Macquarie St near the rising water fountains.

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QUESTION 46 - What is the sandstone structure near Macquarie Street?

1888 Victorian clock and drinking fountain.

QUESTION 47 - What year did Parramatta celebrate a centenary?

The Centenary was celebrated in 1888.

QUESTION 48 - How many clock faces are there?

Four – one facing each side.

Turn right onto Macquarie Street and continue east towards Smith Street.

QUESTION 49 - What is the old sandstone building located at 119 Macquarie Street?

Leigh Memorial Uniting Church.

QUESTION 50 - What year did this current third church building open on this site?

1885

Turn right and walk into Parramatta Square until you reach a statue of a boy.

QUESTION 51 - Who is the statue of the 12 year old boy made to remember, and why was he famous?

James Martin who became NSW Premier and a Chief Justice of the NSW Supreme Court.

Walk past the statue and turn left. Continue east past the unusual vertical silver bus statue. At the end of Parramatta Square, walk up the stairs to the right.

QUESTION 52 - What do the two silver sculptures represent?

Water drops - (which are in front of the Sydney Water building).

Cross the road at the lights and stop out front of the Lancer Barracks.

Now return to Question 1 and continue until you complete the circuit.