

# Petersham and Marrickville Parks

Renewal of picket fencing around the sports ovals

## The Client

The [Inner West Council](#) is a local government area located in the inner western region of Sydney in the state of New South Wales, Australia. The Council was formed on 12 May 2016 from the merger of the Ashfield, Leichhardt, and Marrickville councils. It lies just to the south-west of the Sydney CBD.

The Council comprises an area of 35 square kilometres and at the time of its establishment had an estimated population of 185,990.

## The heritage value of the sites

Across the mostly residential area a number of important parks and open spaces have been retained and developed over many years. These green spaces provide an important function of breaking up the built environment and providing attractive areas for sports, recreation and relaxation. Two areas of particular value in this respect are Petersham Park (bounded by Station and West St – between the railway line and Parramatta Road) and Marrickville Park bounded by Livingstone Road and Frazer St. Both parks have a circular sporting oval set in a larger park. Both ovals are used by cricket (summer), baseball and rugby league (winter) and training for local clubs and schools during the week.

At both parks the contribution of picket fences around the sports ovals has been formally recognised. It is apparent that the fence has been reconstructed numerous times at both sites over the years. At the time of this project the timber picket fencing was seriously dilapidated with rotted and broken posts, and missing and broken pickets. As a result the fencing was not functional, visually detracted from the space and posed a safety risk to users.

### Petersham Park

Petersham Park was proclaimed on 28 September 1887, following the resumption of a large area (8 acres, 3 roads, 2 perches) of a W C Wentworth's former estate<sup>1</sup>. In early September 1891 the Park Trustees adopted a plan to develop a cricket oval in the park<sup>1</sup>. By the end of 1898 the Petersham Cricket Club had negotiated a lease of seven years at an annual rental of £25 and in 1889 a timber picket fence around the pavilion was installed<sup>1</sup>.

The aesthetic value of the picket fencing to the open space is recognised in the "[Petersham Park Plan of Management](#), March 1998" that states:

"The visual character is derived from the arrangement and maturity of the existing vegetation along with the historical elements that convey a sense of history and tradition. These include the score board, bandstand, gate and picket fence.



An early image of the Petersham cricket oval set in Petersham Park, located between the railway line and Parramatta Road.



In 1902 a site was approved for the construction of a bandstand to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII between what was known as 'Hastings dairy' and the oval.



The TJ Andrews scoreboard was named in 1936 in honour of the local Test batsman Tommy Andrews.

“Heritage values the re-establishment of the picket fence has added to the appeal of the Park.

“...the return of the picket fence is great [public feedback].”

Other heritage aspects of the Park include:

- A water fountain “to commemorate the Queens Record Reign”, erected adjacent to the Brighton Street frontage in 1897.
- A bandstand to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII.
- The gates and stone gate-post in Brighton Street form an Anzac Memorial opened in 1921.
- What was the outdoor ‘Petersham Pool’ was upgraded to what is now the [Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre](#), named after the remarkable Sarah ‘Fanny’ Durack, Olympic gold medallist (100 metres, Stockholm 1912) and holder of every world swimming record, from 100 yards to the mile, during the late 1910s.

The Park has also strong connections to the game of cricket and some of its most notable players. Petersham Oval has been home to the Petersham (and later [Petersham-Marrickville](#)) club in the Sydney grade competition. It was the home ground to Tommy Andrews, Sid Barnes, Bill Alley, Johnny Martin and Bob Simpson. The scoreboard was named in 1936 in honour of local Test batsman Tommy Andrews.

Most notably, in 1926, [Sir] Don Bradman scored his maiden 1st grade century at 18 years of age, making 110 runs. He also took 3 wickets for 26 runs. It was his first appearance in Sydney grade cricket at any level. Bradman was playing for St George against Petersham, then considered one of the strongest teams in first grade cricket. Bradman broke his bat on 98 but managed to go on to score 110 runs in as many minutes.



Sid Barnes at 16 years of age playing for Petersham.



A plaque recognising the achievement of Donald Bradman at Petersham Oval in 1926.

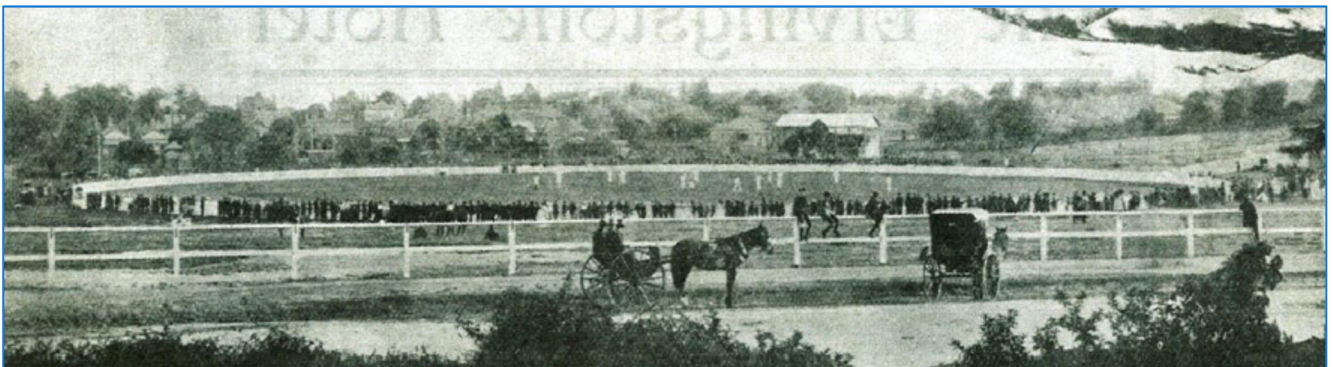




Looking south-west across Petersham Oval toward Fanny Durack Pool.

## Marrickville Park

The Park has a rich and varied history that reaches back to early white settlement. As an early estates it was once known as “Craven Place”. It then was used for market gardening and then the site of brick making in the late 1800’s. A large portion of what is now the park then became known as “Millers Tip” or “Millers Paddock” and was used for the disposal of “house refuse and street sweeping” and as a result was classified “unhealthy lands”. In 1893 Council held a meeting to discuss acquiring the land however it was not until 1907 that two of the landholders sold the various portions of land to Council. The area comprising 6 acres and 12 3/4 perches of land, was formally purchased for a Public Park and proclaimed in the Government Gazette on 5 February 1908<sup>2</sup>. The area was formally named “Marrickville Park” in 1908. The oval was commonly referred to as Livingstone Oval (being adjacent to Livingstone Road) as early as at least 1911.



Looking South-West across Fraser St to a cricket game underway on Livingstone Oval (with a white timber picket fence in 1911<sup>2</sup>.)

In April 1908, Alderman Blackwood brought to the attention of the Council that he had noticed football being played in the new park on Sunday though no work had as yet been undertaken to prepare the ground as a public park. In August, the park remained in a “rough condition, and without a name”. The Council, however, proposed to prepare the park “for cricket, football and other manly exercises”

In September 1910, Marrickville Park was officially opened with a cricket match on Livingstone Oval. In the 1910-11 Annual Report, Council boasted that the “Marrickville Cricket Oval and Sports Area is at last an accomplished fact, and a most creditable and suitable site for our popular pastimes, school functions, public demonstrations and playgrounds for children”.



A crowd of when 8,355 people attended Marrickville Oval to witness the home team beat St George on the last ball of the match in 1944<sup>2</sup>.

Marrickville District Cricket Club was founded in 1910, and won the 2nd Grade premiership in its first season in the Sydney Grade Cricket Competition. Along with Randwick, St George and Mosman it was admitted to 1st Grade in 1921- 22. The Club won its only 1st Grade premiership in 1943-44 when 8,355 people attended Marrickville Oval to witness the team beat St George on the last ball of the match.

In 2013 a [Heritage Assessment](#) was completed on behalf of Council to determine whether elements within the park have heritage value. In respect of the picket fence around the oval, the assessment states at 4.2.3 Criterion Aesthetic Values:

“the picket fence around Marrickville Park oval is a significant feature within the landscape and contributes to the oval’s history, character and configuration.”

A “[Plan of Management](#)” and “[Master Plan](#)” for the park were adopted by Council in August 2015. The plan is the basis a \$2.7 million upgrade for the park that is currently underway. This upgrade included replacement of the oval’s timber picket fence. A key objective of the plan is for demolished materials to be reused or recycled as much as possible.

## Project Statistics

Product: Headingly® steel picket fence system  
 Style: 900mm high 'moon' spear top profile  
 Length: 825m incl. 8 x single gates and 2 x double gates  
 Duration: 12 weeks  
 Completion Date: August 2016  
 Final Contract Sum: ~\$230k  
 Steel material: Premium Grade GalvaBond® tube from Orrcon

## Project Description

### Request for Tender

In March 2016, Council sought tenders for the contract "Renewal of Picket Fences at Marrickville and Petersham Parks Tender No. 30/15." The RFT set out:

"Marrickville Council and its community developed a long-term vision for the area to the year 2023. Council is working with the people of Marrickville to ensure that we maintain and build upon those elements of the community that we value, in order to keep Marrickville a great place to live in 2023 and beyond."

In respect of tender evaluation criteria the RFT indicated:

"The criteria include:

- (a) Price
- (b) Expertise, experience and capacity
- (c) Methodology and program
- (d) Extent of conformity, technical and commercial compliance with this Request for Tender"

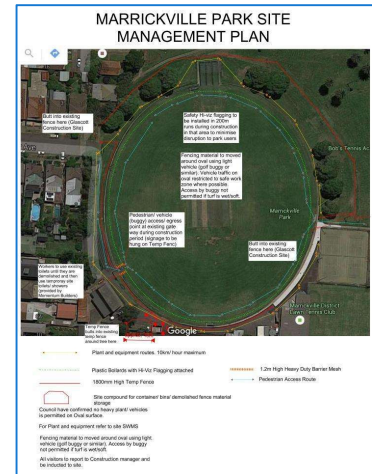
### Bluedog's Tender

Some of the key aspects of Bluedog's tender were:

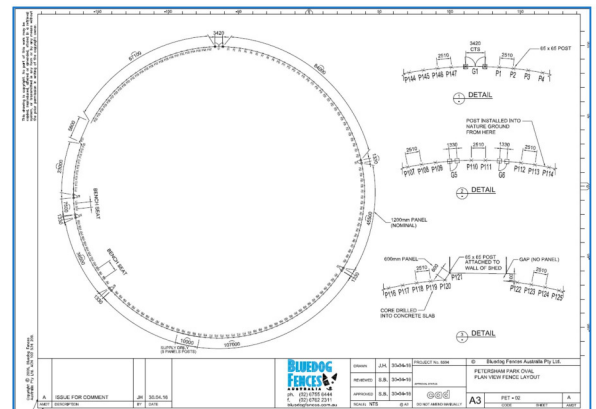
- Highlighting the manufacture of a steel picket fence system made in Australia by Bluedog using premium grade **GalvaBond® tube** supplied by Orrcon.
- Offering a number of cost saving alternatives.
- Highlighting Bluedog's strong track record of having manufactured and installed some 15 similar cricket oval projects in Sydney metro over the last 10 years.
- Providing a 10 year product performance case study of steel picket fencing supplied for the City of Sydney at nearby Jubilee Park.

The program of works involved:

- Prepare detailed fence and gate assembly CAD drawings and site plan drawings.
- Prepare a dilapidation report of the existing fencing.
- Manufacture of materials.



A detailed site management plan was developed and implemented by Bluedog at both sites.



Under the contract Bluedog was required to prepare detailed drawings. This is a detailed plan view of the fencing for Petersham Park showing gate openings.



A Gantt Chart was provided as part of Bluedog's tender submission to demonstrate the sequence and timeframes for the project.



- Location of underground services.
- Demolish and remove existing timber picket fencing and gates.
- **Petersham:**
  - Remove the existing fence posts, grind below existing concrete paving and grout over.
  - Core drill the holes in the concrete paving and excavate new post footings, place and set posts to height.
- **Marrickville:**
  - Excavate the trench around existing concrete hob.
  - Excavate the post footings in natural ground.
  - Set the post footings.
  - Install form work, place and pour concrete mow strip around posts.
- Install the pre-fabricated fence panels and gates.
- **Marrickville:** Fix panels to the 'dam' wall.
- Provide maintenance and operation manuals.



We had various hold and witness points in the project, including the installation of a single panel before proceeding with the works.

## Project Specific Challenges

### Petersham Park

- It was apparent that at least three different fences had been installed over the years along the fence alignment. This made core drilling of the new footings time consuming and difficult.
- Access to the fence alignment was very restricted. There was no vehicle access along the outside of the fence and difficult worker access. All work had to be done from the inside on the oval surface.
- To overcome access issues we used a Polaris Ranger to limit the damage to the Oval surfaces.
- The existing concrete surface was very uneven in height requiring greater care to be taken in maintaining the gap under the fence but at the same time achieving a smooth and appealing visual outcome along the top line of the fence.
- Management of high levels of pedestrian movement including sporting events and training on the fields.
- Sustainable disposal of the old timber picket fencing and posts. We were able to achieve about 80% of the material being reused.
- Design and construction of foldable timber player benches at Petersham Park.
- There was record rainfall during the project that slowed down and delayed construction.



About 8 tonnes of timber picket fencing material had to be disposed of. We were able to achieve reuse of about 80% through selling and giving away the materials.



An example of the uneven surface and old fence posts and footings at Petersham Park.

**Marrickville Park**

- Access to the fence site was restricted from the outside due to the terrain around the oval and other significant other construction works happening in the park including reconstruction of the playground and grandstand.
- Management of high levels of pedestrian movement including sporting events and training on the fields.
- There was also record rainfall during the project.



**Innovation & Added Value**

- At Marrickville Park the fence panels had to be fixed direct to a brick wall that acts as a dam wall in the event of localised flash flooding. We developed a stainless steel bracket to fix to the wall and support the panel. This eliminated the need to drill and fix through the rail of the panel. It also means that the panels can readily be removed to enable repair of the panel or future repainting of the wall (See image top right).
- Council had a desire to differentiate the single gates on the ovals. We proposed and manufactured a custom gate design that achieved the desired outcome (See image bottom right)



Before



After