

# ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



## Henley Street and Lane Cove River Regattas

Regattas are a tradition of waterside communities around the world and Sydney has a long history of both sailing and rowing regattas. What would become known as the Australia Day regatta began on Sydney Harbour in 1837 and is considered to be the longest running regatta in the world.

Lane Cove River's first recorded regatta began with the newly formed 'Riverview Rowing Club' on Sunday 20 June 1885. It was reported in daily newspapers of the time and hailed as the 'first College regatta in the Colony'. The race became an annual event and by 1892, the Regatta Committee invited the residents of Lane Cove, and others interested in rowing to subscribe to a fund to acquire a suitable Gold Cup, as a trophy for this race, and the result was the 'Riverview Gold Cup Regatta'. The regatta is organised and run by Saint Ignatius College in conjunction with Rowing New South Wales and includes a number of school and open events.

Another regatta that captured the hearts of locals was the 'Henley-on-Lane Cove' regatta which was first held in 1910 and followed the tradition of England's Henley-on-Thames regattas. It developed into an annual carnival and by January 1913, Council minutes record a tender for the illumination of wharves and the making of a day display for that year's Henley-on-Lane Cove river regatta.

A wonderful programme for the event was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1914:

The residents of the Lane Cove River have arrangements well forward for the annual regatta and Venetian evening, which will be held next Saturday. The fixture from small beginnings has grown to such importance that it now ranks as one of the most important functions of the year, and on this occasion, provided they are favoured with good weather conditions, the residents intend to eclipse all previous efforts. During the afternoon the regatta will provide an attraction, the programme comprising of races for all sorts and conditions of sailing boats, with rowing events for professionals in

outriggers, ladies of the Pioneer Ladies Club, etc.

With the close of the regatta the residents will commence to illuminate the foreshores of the river...Special prizes are being awarded for the best illuminated residence, the judging being in the hands of a committee of women enthusiasts, led by Mr. Rutledge Louat. A feature of the water display will be the illuminated boats, motor boats, and others, and at 9 o'clock there will be a combined parade past the flagship from which the winners of the best turnout will be judged...

Sadly, the regatta does not appear to have continued after the outbreak of World War I hostilities in 1914.

**Henley Street** in Lane Cove West was established during this era and takes its name from the Henley-on-Lane Cove regatta. The street first appears in the *Bellevue Estate, Lane Cove Heights Subdivision* which was advertised for auction on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1912 and was first listed in the Lane Cove Council rate book of 1913 and the *Sands Directory* from 1916.



*The Riverview Gold Cup Regatta, Riverview, circa early 1910s*