

## *La Perouse walk* (photographs by Prue Anthony)



Visit to *Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park*. The Park's newest park contains remnant gardens and outdoor areas of the former Bunnerong Power Station, part of this will become the Asian Memorial Gardens. Jane Irwin, landscape architect advising the Trust on many recent upgrades, explained proposals. This picture is of ponds formed for the new area, incorporating some of the original stone work, and stepping down the site. Weeping willows and flowering cherries have been planted. The design had to conform to the principles of Feng Shui.



A mature grove of Melaleucas perhaps 90 years old, retained from the original gardens from the old Bunnerong Power Station. Hanging on despite vicious whipper-snipping at their base.



Gina Plate pondering the plaque commemorating the Pioneer Memorial Park created by Botany Cemetery Trust in 1976, from gravestones transferred from Sand Hills Cemetery, Devonshire Street Sydney to Old Bunnerong Cemetery in 1901.



Stuart Read, Chairman of the SNNSW AGHS branch and Jane Irwin, as Stuart explains about the Chinese market gardeners who have long been working on the periphery of the cemetery. These gardens are under threat as the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park would like to expand into that space. This area has been used as market gardens for the last 150 years, (the last hundred by Chinese) and are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. At the moment, fresh green vegetables continue to be grown for local consumption.



La Perouse monument and museum.

La Perouse was named after the ill-fated French navigator who arrived just days after Captain Phillip's first landing in 1788. The French arrived in two ships "L'Astrolabe" and "La Boussole" on a scientific voyage, commissioned by King Louis XVI of France. They arrived in Botany Bay while exploring the South Pacific, charting gaps left by Cook

The French stayed six weeks and built a stockade, observatory and a garden for fresh produce, also a longboat to replace one in the Navigator Islands (Samoa). Pere Laurent Receveur, a naturalist and Franciscan chaplain, died and was buried nearby. His grave is in the same precinct area. The expedition later sailed away and were lost, so in 1825 a large monument to La Perouse was built by sailors under Hyacinth de Bougainville.

This has become a place of reverence for the French people, and Bastille Day was first celebrated here in Australia, and still today. The La Perouse Museum and Aboriginal Cultural Centre was established in 1988 in the original Telegraph Cable Station, built 1876.



Memorial to Comte de Laperouse.



Dragon Tree



Botany Bay from La Perouse.