

THE GUARDIAN OF IVANHOE PARK

When you look up above the street front of Manly, there some interesting characters, not often acknowledged. One above the Sydney Road looking out over Ivanhoe Park, was created as part of Dalley's Castle "Marinella" and remains long after the castle was removed in 1939 after being a prominent part of the landscape of Manly for 60 years.

I refer to the stone grotesque that remains on the wall below the flats. Some people have described it as a gargoyle, similar to the four stone figures on the belltower of St Andrews church on the other side of the Park on Raglan Street. However, a gargoyle is a stone water spout, while the figure on Dalley's Castle did not have that function, being more to impress those outside of the power of the building's owner.

The figure on the wall above Sydney Road has been described as a griffin, a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle, similar to those at St Andrews. I think it is more of a dragon with the head of a camel, the horns of a deer, the eyes of a rabbit, the ears of a cow, the neck of a snake, the belly of a frog, scales of a carp, claws of a hawk and palms of a tiger.

As there a few of these elements missing on our figure it is debatable but Dalley saw himself as an influential member of the community and his castle as symbol of that power.

Don't attempt to clarify your view while driving past but opinions are welcome.