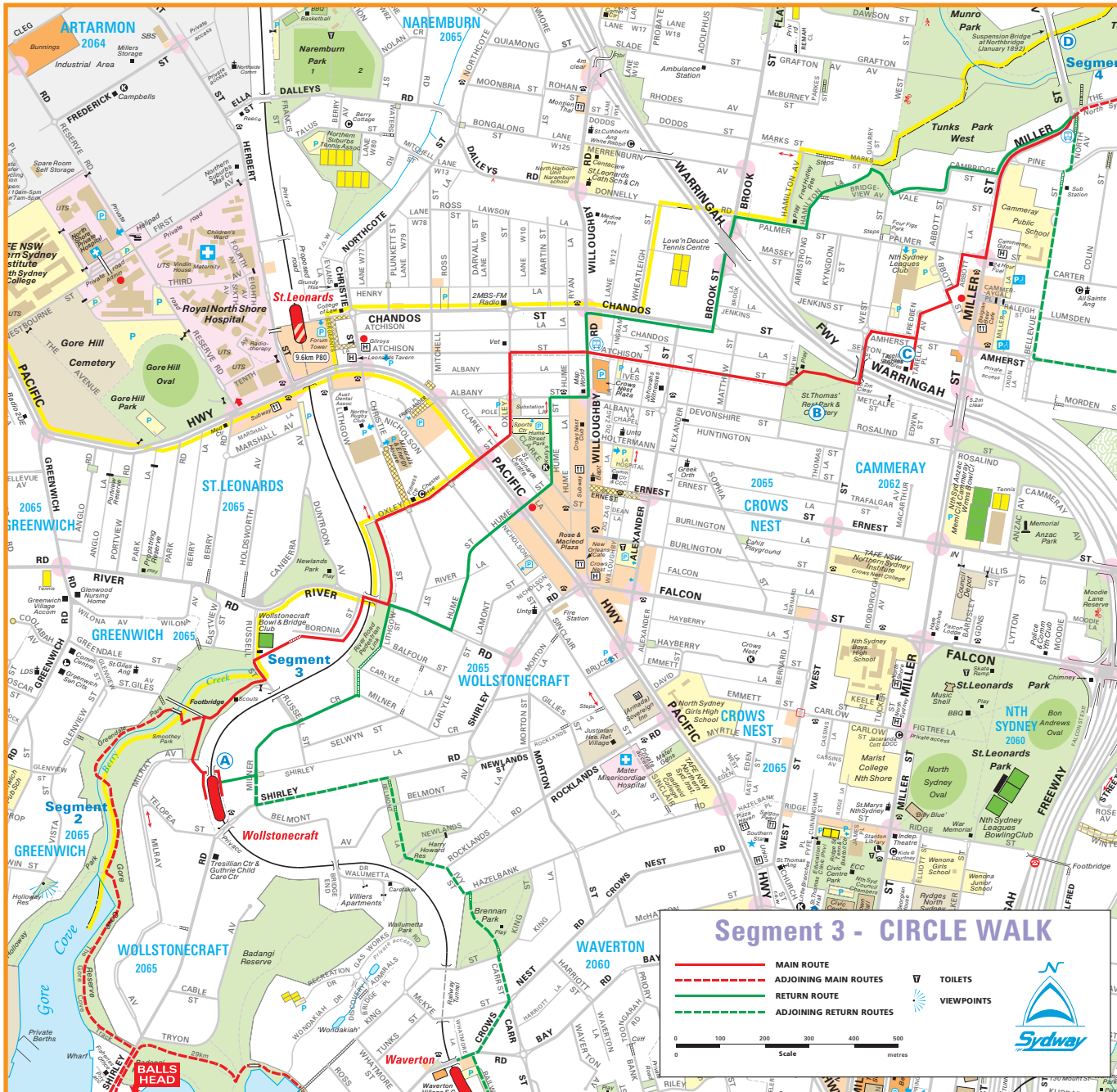


SEGMENT 3

WOLLSTONECRAFT to SUSPENSION BRIDGE



SEGMENT 3

WOLLSTONECRAFT to SUSPENSION BRIDGE



world class walking
it's exhilarating & healthy

A 45km network of walks in six segments circling North Sydney via parks, Aboriginal sites, waterfront, bushland and urban streetscapes encompassing features of both natural and architectural heritage.



St Thomas' Cemetery – Berry and Wollstonecraft Tomb

	main route	return route
distance	3.5km	3.5km
time (approx)	1hr 15 mins	1hr
features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Wollstonecraft Station B St Thomas Rest Park C Tarella D Suspension Bridge 	

SEGMENT 3

WOLLSTONECRAFT to SUSPENSION BRIDGE



Start Main Route

At **Wollstonecraft Station** **A** take the path on the Hornsby trains side of the Station down into Smoothey Park. Don't cross the foot-bridge into Greenwich but follow the path out to Russell Street downhill from its arched railway bridge. Across the road and a little further downhill, a lane climbs up past the bowling green to Boronia Avenue and out to River Road. Cross the railway bridge and then carefully cross River Rd to Lithgow Street, paralleling the rail line. Downhill, turn right into Oxley Street. Follow Oxley across the Pacific Highway, veering left at the junction with Clarke Street and on to Atchison Street and turn right. Here modest office spaces replace highway highrise and, after crossing Oxley Street, small cottages and trees from an earlier era begin to reassert themselves. Cross the commercial area at Willoughby Road to return to the smaller scale late Victorian and Federation character of the area's streets and lanes.

At the far end of Atchison, enter the gate into **St Thomas Rest Park** **B**. This former cemetery had its origins as a gift in 1845 to St Thomas' Church (more than a kilometre away) from prominent landowner Alexander Berry. Burials ceased in 1950 and by the 1960s the cemetery was in a run-down state. It was closed and given to North Sydney Council as a Rest Park. This opened in 1974, now largely open space with most surviving headstones relocated in 'precincts', although the remains themselves lie undisturbed beneath the grass. Coming in from Atchison, note the curious (and oldest) tomb to Ellis Bent and John Ovens immediately ahead and to the right. It was moved here from Garden Island. Isolated and substantial tombstones dot the landscaping but beyond the screens of trees most have been arranged in clusters. Unmissable just ahead is Berry's own remarkable pyramid monument, while the group of tombstones to the right (south) and closer to the central trees contains some prominent nineteenth century North Sydneysiders, including artist Conrad Martens and goldminer and politician, B.O. Holtermann. Near the West Street entrance stands the little Sexton's Cottage, still occupied but part of which is a small museum. The cemetery has a number of information plaques which can be followed as a History Trail. More details on individuals buried here can be found in publications and brochures available from North Sydney Council and the Sexton's Cottage museum.

Leaving St Thomas Park by the West St gate, cross to Cammeray over the Warringah Freeway bridge. The Freeway was opened to this point in 1968. Note the fine steeple of St Leonard's Church away to the left at Naremburn. After the bridge, turn right into Amherst Street to see **Tarella** **C** at No. 3. The stables of this Victorian mansion, elegantly set back in its garden, also survive, and can be seen from the lane alongside. Tarella was built around 1885 for Joseph Palmer Abbott, a lawyer and member of the NSW Legislative Assembly. Abbott was the Speaker at the time of the Conventions which framed the new Constitution leading to Australian Federation.

Cross Amherst Street and go down the curiously named Fredben Avenue. The little lane to the right at the end leads to Abbott Street near North Sydney Leagues Club. More or less across the street another lane (Abbott Lane) leads to Palmer Street. Turn right and then left at Miller Street just past the block of Cammeray shops. The suburb's name is a reminder of the Cammeraygal Aborigines whose land this is. The name was adopted in 1926 but before that the suburb was known as "Suspension Bridge" for reasons that will soon become obvious enough. Beyond Palmer Street, the grounds of Cammeray Public School (1915) appear and, further down, the curving road at last reveals the **Suspension Bridge** **D** and the end of the walk. The bridge was, in fact, once a suspension bridge, but structural weaknesses led the Main Roads Department to rebuild the roadway as a reinforced concrete arch in 1936-39. Fortunately, its appealing Tudor castellated sandstone towers were retained. Begun in 1889 by the North Sydney Tramway and Development Company, the bridge was intended to provide a tram service into real estate development in Northbridge, but in the land bust and depression of the 1890s the company went into liquidation. The 314 metre long bridge was completed by the liquidators in 1892 and operated as a toll footbridge. Significant development of Northbridge began after a government tramway reached the southern end of the still privately owned bridge in 1909. In 1912 the company handed the bridge over to the Government and from 1914 tram services at last began running across it until the reconstruction of the arch in 1936. Trams continued, but only to the Cammeray end of the bridge until 1948. The bridge was originally 55 metres above water but most of Flat Rock

Creek below and beyond the bridge was reclaimed in the 1930s to become Tunks Park (see Segment 4).

From this point either cross to The Boulevard to commence Segment 4 or take the return walk.

Start Return Route

To Return to Wollstonecraft Station, turn back uphill on Miller Street and then turn right into Cambridge Street. Take a left into Abbott and a right into Vale Street at the wall. At its end at West Street, turn right and take the steps to a short rocky bushland path. At its end, at Marks Street, you could turn right into Quarry Street and join Willoughby Municipality's excellent Flat Rock Gully Walks. To reach these, follow Quarry, West and Grafton Streets to Munro Park. The Flat Rock tracks lead either west through Bicentennial Reserve to Artarmon or east down steps which drop down to follow Flat Rock Creek through bushland under the Suspension Bridge to the waterfront in Tunks Park. This easterly walk is an attractive alternative to the first part of segment 4 which it meets up with at the end of Tunks Park. However, if either St Leonard's or Wollstonecraft station is the goal, turn left instead into Hamilton Lane which hooks uphill to the left. At Palmer Road turn right and at Brooks Street follow the barrier left. Take the pedestrian crossings under the freeway and then turn right into Chandos Street. Follow this along beyond Willoughby Road until meeting Oxley Street again, then take the same route as earlier along Oxley and Lithgow back to the River Road rail bridge. Cross the road carefully again but this time stay on the North Sydney side of the bridge and take the path down alongside the railway, crossing the ends of a lane and street until climbing up to Milner Crescent. Turn right along Milner following it past Russell Street until taking the next small lane to the right (at Milner Bus Stop) down to **Wollstonecraft Station** **A**.

Written and researched by the Walking Volunteers. For further North Sydney and regional walking materials go the Customer Service Centre, Stanton Library, or www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au click 'recreation' and www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour click 'Walking Sydney Harbour'. Photographs Graham Spindler.