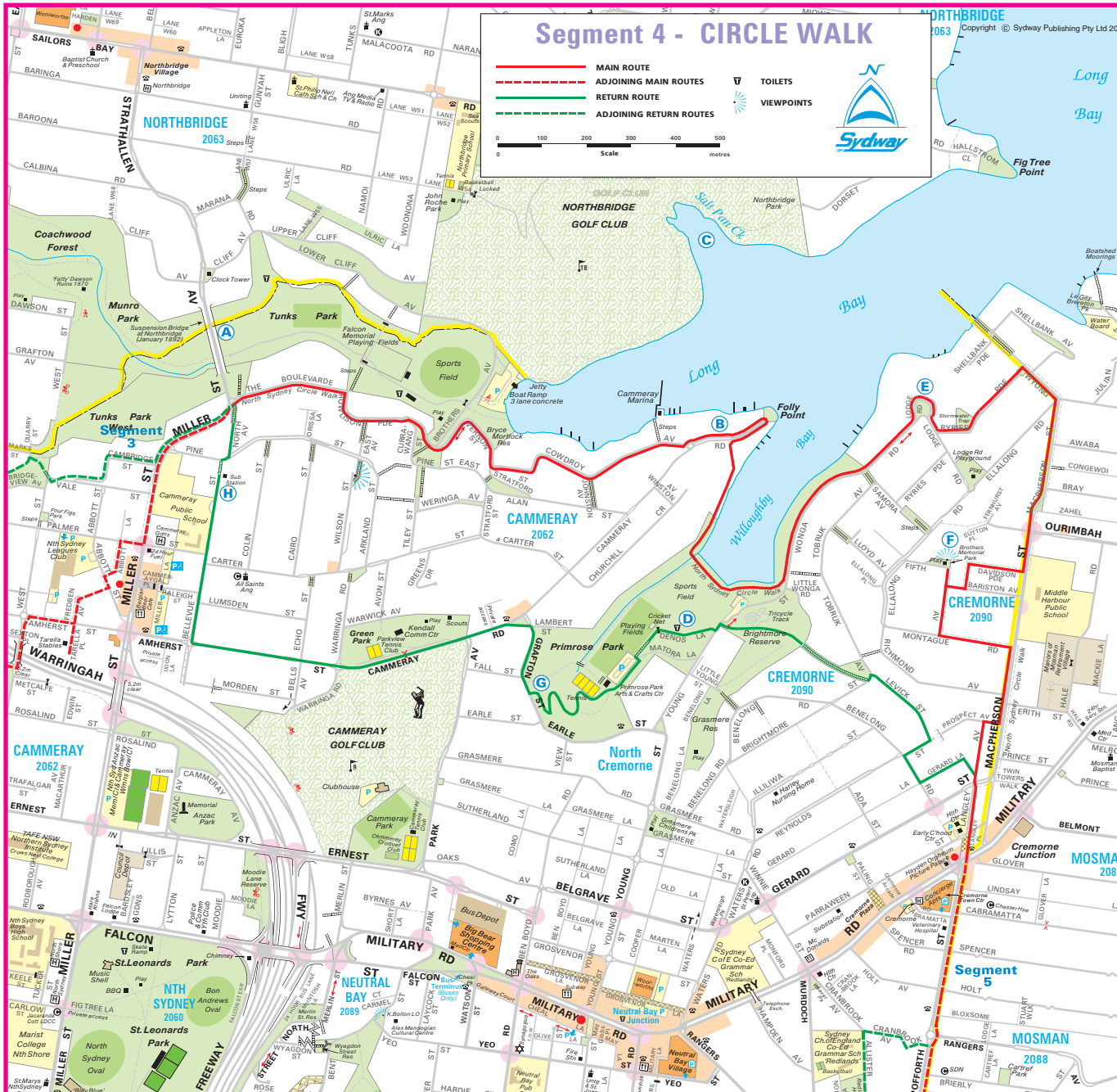


# SEGMENT 4

SUSPENSION BRIDGE to CREMORNE JUNCTION



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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.



Middle Harbour from Brothers Memorial Reserve

	main route	return route
distance	5km	3.5km
time (approx)	1hr 45mins	1hr
features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A</b> Suspension Bridge</li> <li><b>B</b> Tree</li> <li><b>C</b> Shipwreck</li> <li><b>D</b> Sewage Treatment Plant</li> <li><b>E</b> Warringah Lodge</li> <li><b>F</b> Brothers Memorial Park</li> <li><b>G</b> Willoughby Falls</li> <li><b>H</b> Electricity Substation</li> </ul>	

## SEGMENT 4

### SUSPENSION BRIDGE to CREMORNE JUNCTION



#### Start Main Route

The walk begins at the Suspension Bridge **A** (see Segment 3 for background) and meanders along past the interestingly sited and architecturally varied houses of The Boulevard and Rowlinson Parade. At Vernon Street drop down via Brothers Avenue for a visit to Tunks Park. The park's name recognises William Tunks, St Leonards Mayor from 1867 until his death in 1883 and a conservationist greatly concerned about creating public reserves. The Park was a construction centre for the recently completed Northside Storage Tunnel at Lane Cove and Scott's Creek to North Head which is designed to prevent wet weather sewage overflowing into the Harbour.

Leave Tunks Park, climb Brothers Avenue past the playground and turn left into Vernon Street at the 'No Entry' sign. Water glimpses and then houses make this a pleasant if steady climb. Continue left into Cowdroy Avenue and up to Cammeray Road. At this junction, note the **tree B** in the road centre and its sad story. Barcroft Boake, the 26 year-old surveyor son of a Milsons Point photographer, was a highly regarded bush poet whose best-known poem is *Out Where the Dead Men Lie*. Out of work in the economic depression of 1892 and further depressed by a death in the family and the failure of his father's business, he left Milsons Point for a walk in the dense bushland of the Cammeray peninsula, a favourite spot. Eight days later he was found by workmen. He had hanged himself from the gum tree with his stockwhip. The tree survived him by almost a century but had to be replaced in recent years.

Continue downhill to Folly Point, a delightful spot for a break. Older maps often show this as Cammeray Point with Folly Point being at Primrose Park. Various unsubstantiated reasons are offered for the curious name but it could well have been named by Captain Charles McKinnon, commander of the explosives hulks moored near Seaforth before the Bantry Bay Depot was constructed. Look left across Long Bay to Salt Pan Creek where the skeleton of a **shipwreck C** protrudes from the water below Northbridge Golf Course. A number of boats were scuttled in this bay including the *Italia* (1906) and the *Coraki* (1946). To your right is Willoughby Bay. In April 1877 there was only bushland here and it was here that Melbourne born showman, Henri

L'Estrange outdid the great Blondin by crossing on a 433 metre tight rope suspended 105 metres above the water. Below, thousands of paying customers cheered from ferries. Now return slightly back uphill, turning left beyond the houses to take the bushwalk across and then downhill over a canal bridge to Primrose Park.

In the nineteenth century, the Primrose Park area was a recognised beauty spot with a large inlet fed by the once impressive Willoughby Falls, which now trickle from below Grafton Street. However, Primrose Park's current sweet-smelling name notwithstanding, the site was the Folly Point **sewage treatment plant D** from 1892 to 1926. Most of its large flat area was filled with trickling filter beds, which in operation looked rather like a vegetable farm with rows of sprinklers - but did not smell like one. There was also a pump house with a tall chimney, settling and sludge tanks, a small tramway and canals. Significant elements remain, the original covered settling tanks now sporting tennis courts. Explore the area now if you wish, or on the return leg. By 1926 population growth had overwhelmed the system and it was closed and replaced by the ocean outfall system. In place of the sewage farm, Primrose Park was dedicated in 1930, and named after the then Mayor of North Sydney. It is now a thriving community arts and craft centre.

Cross the Park waterfront to one-way Wonga Road, and walking along to the left, climb it almost to Lodge Road to where the road widens and take the small loop left near the 25kph sign to the 1879 mansion **Warringah Lodge E**, the first house built in the area. Further uphill turn left into Ryries Parade, noting the fern-filled waterfall in the first dip. At Wyong Road, the North Sydney Boundary is met again but look across the street to the house *Shellbank* before heading uphill to the right and into Macpherson Street.

The quiet street of largely Federation houses is swamped by traffic once the Ourimbah Road lights are reached, so turn right into little Davidson Parade and follow it around to the Bariston Avenue walkway leading to Fifth Avenue and wonderful Middle Harbour views from **Brothers Memorial Park F** before retracing your steps and continuing along Fifth Avenue to Montague Road and back to Macpherson Street.

Two short blocks bring you to Prospect Avenue (and there is one at its end), turn into it and then left immediately into Langley Avenue.

This is almost the end. At the next intersection, a left turn at Gerard Street followed by a right at Macpherson brings you within a hundred metres of Cremorne Junction at Military Road and at the start of Segment 5.

#### Start Return Route

To return to the Suspension Bridge, walk back to the Langley/Gerard intersection, turn left into Gerard Lane which soon hooks left and runs downhill to Benelong Road. Turn right here, right again at Reynolds Street and then left into Levick Street. Cross the intersection at Levick's end to the bush path which leads down in sometimes steep steps to Brightmore Reserve with its interesting driver training track. Primrose Park is across Wonga Road/Young Street. Cross to it and turn left, walking through the park to the old plant buildings and the tennis courts atop them. Walk around the left (southern) edge of the courts to pick up a zigzag track behind them that leads up to Grafton Street and a glimpse of **Willoughby Falls G**.

Take a right along Grafton Street and then left along Cammeray Road. This passes between Cammeray Park and Golf Course and leafy Green Park, to Amherst Street. At Bellevue Street, turn right to follow this quieter alternative to Miller Street to its end past Cammeray Public School and the wooden cottages opposite. At the end is the interesting converted 1915 **electricity substation H** (The North Shore's first) designed to stylistically complement the Suspension Bridge which sits attractively below. Take the left-hand steps down to Pine Street and then cross to North Avenue where a path leads to the **Suspension Bridge 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](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au) click 'recreation' and [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour) click 'Walking Sydney Harbour'. Photographs Graham Spindler.