

# SEGMENT 6

SHELL COVE to MILSONS POINT



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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.



Kirribilli House

|               | main route   | return route |
|---------------|--|--------------|
| distance      | 5.5km  | 3.5km        |
| time (approx) | 2hrs   | 1hr          |
| features      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A</b> Honda</li> <li><b>B</b> Brent Knowle</li> <li><b>C</b> Spain's Lookout</li> <li><b>D</b> Once Upon a Time</li> <li><b>E</b> Nutcote</li> <li><b>F</b> Former Gas Works</li> <li><b>G</b> Carabella</li> <li><b>H</b> Admiralty &amp; Kirribilli Houses</li> <li><b>I</b> Waruda</li> <li><b>J</b> Greenway Flats</li> <li><b>K</b> The Gables</li> <li><b>L</b> Derry</li> </ul> |              |

## SEGMENT 6

### SHELL COVE to MILSONS POINT



#### Start Main Route

Begin at Bogota Avenue, Cremorne Point, where the Cremorne Point walk ends. Follow left around to No 17, *Arden*, once a girls' school; then climb Honda Road to turn left into Shellcove Road with its architectural treasures. **Honda** **A**, at the corner is the oldest house in the area. No 49, *The Cobbles* (1919), is a rustic Californian bungalow built by architect Samuel Thorpe as his own home. With partner James Peddle, Thorpe helped introduce the Californian style into Australia. Further along, marvellous Federation *Gundimaine* (c1903) has been renovated into four apartments, one the separate former servants' quarters. Next, No 37, *St Annes*, and No 33, *Ailsa* are smaller Arts and Crafts style houses, the latter one of the earliest private commissions of fashionable English-born architect BJ Waterhouse (1877-1965). Next door (No 31) is a Waterhouse classic, **Brent Knowle** **B** (1914). Note the former stables with loft hoist above the footpath. Next door again is yet another Waterhouse *Keynsham*; (1921). Continue along the street, past the immense No 25; the castellated *Englemere* flats (No 11); and finally, Spanish style flats.

At Kurraba Road head left and uphill to **Hodgson and Spains Lookouts** **C**. Left of the lower lookout, walk through the boom gate down to Kurraba Point Reserve - a quiet, spacious waterfront. Originally quarried to provide stone ballast for English-bound wool clippers, in 1855-57 it was quarried again to provide sandstone to build nearby Fort Denison. A soap factory was here for some time before Port Jackson and Manly Steamship Company workshops and slipways covered the site prior to moving to Balmain in the 1950s. At the northern end near the flats, climb the significant steps back up to Kurraba Road, then turn downhill and continue on to the Kurraba Wharf steps. About halfway down the steps to the Wharf is the house **Once Upon a Time** **D**, built in the 1930s functionalist style for WA Crowle, businessman, traveller and collector. Notice the Goethe verses, one of which translates as "When one makes a journey, one has a story to tell". This house could tell many stories including how it journeyed here itself in 1941 from Potts Point to avoid demolition when the Captains Cook Graving Dock at Garden Island was built.

Further along Kurraba Road, turn down Spains Wharf Road and into Wallaringa Avenue for a peep or a visit into **Nutcote** **E**, home of May Gibbs, writer and illustrator of gumnut babies and banksia men.

This Mediterranean style house was designed for May by BJ Waterhouse and she lived here from 1925 until her death in 1969, aged 93. The house was saved through a nationwide campaign, purchased by North Sydney Council and opened as a museum in the 1990s. Walk to Lower Wycombe Road past *Wallaringa Mansions*, which began as the Spain family cottage. At Hayes Street the ferry wharf, shops and waterfront are downhill. The walk continues via Manna Avenue, left down Kurraba Road and steps into Anderson Park. In 1934 Charles Kingsford-Smith and PG Taylor took off from here for Mascot in a new Lockheed Altair aircraft, afterwards completing the first trans-Pacific flight from Australia to the US in it.

At Clarke Road, turn left then left again up Hipwood Street, noting No 11 *Newton*, built in 1870 for the Loxton family. Go left down High Street, and locate the steps to the right down to Milsons Park (after No 123). Before descending note the imposing houses (eg. *Cliffbank* No 114), stone walls, entrance to former submarine base *HMAS Platypus* and the units above, all of which was the site of the North Shore's first **gas works** **F** in 1877. Down the steps Federation-era Milson Park, bounded by boats, old houses and jacarandas, was named for a former Mayor, one of the ubiquitous Milsons, the first of whom (James) settled in Kirribilli in 1804. Careening Cove from which the park was reclaimed maintains a long connection with boat repairs and sailing. Left into McDougall Street, pass the Sydney Flying Squadron (Sydney's oldest 18-footer sailing club, founded 1890); and the waterfront *Ensemble Theatre* established by Hayes Gordon in 1960. Before crossing Willoughby Street to Elamang Street, enjoy the waterfront from little Wrixton Park. Continue along Elamang Street, the high side of which is dominated by Loreto School, (1907) and its 1929 lantern-topped chapel.

At Peel Street is the entrance to the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. James Milson was one of its founders and the gateposts of his house **Carabella** **G**, can be seen uphill at the Carabella Street corner. Turn left at Carabella and then at Holbrook Avenue walk towards the wharf to see Gothic *Sunnyside* (1862) at No 11, before returning to Carabella Street again. Further along, 1870s *Keston*, (No 31) was until 1989, the not-so-secret spy HQ of ASIO.

One final highlight of Carabella Street is *Miandetta* at No 67, once the home of our first Prime Minister Edmund Barton. Kirribilli Avenue

offers some highlights including the waterfront Lady Gowrie Lookout to the left. Directly ahead is **Admiralty House** **H**, the Governor-General's Sydney residence. Begun in 1845, its name derives from having once been the official residence of the Royal Navy Admiral commanding the Australian station. Next door to the left is the entrance to *Kirribilli House* (1855) which since the 1950s, has been the Sydney home of Australian Prime Ministers. Immediately right of *Admiralty House*, take Mirradong Place down to Waruda Street. At No. 1 is **Waruda** **I** which was the first block of flats built on the North Shore (1908). Immediately beyond, pause at Dr Mary Booth Reserve for spectacular harbour views, then take steps between No 1 Waruda and the Lookout to a secluded waterfront walk with a view of Circular Quay. Emerging at Jeffrey Street Wharf, walk around Bradfield Park waterfront to the Bridge pylon. Segment 1 begins here.

#### Start Return Route

To return to Cremorne Point from the pylon area, follow the Bridge up to Milsons Point Station. Then walk along Ennis Road past the post-war **Greenway Flats** **J**, NSW's first high rise public housing. A laneway hugs the expressway through to High Street. Cross and climb past the tennis courts to the right into Whaling Road. Follow left down Neutral Street through a wonderful mix of nineteenth century cottages and terraces to Kurraba Road. Here turn downhill and cross Clarke Road, following the Kurraba Road footpath alongside Anderson Park before the wider car bay and the ramp and steps to Spruson Street. Where Spruson meets Colinda Avenue, note **The Gables** **K** (No 16) once the home of BJ Waterhouse, architect of several houses on this walk. Turn right at Phillips' Street and cross Ben Boyd Road. At the opposite corner **Derry** **L** (in the Federation duplex *Derry/Douglas*) was May Gibbs' home before her move to *Nutcote*. More steps at Undercliff Street! But take them to Harriette Street, noting the houses fanned out in the former quarry below. Head right along Harriette to the junction with Shellcove Road near *Honda* and the start of the walk.

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.