

# SEGMENT 1

MILSONS POINT to WAVERTON



# SEGMENT 1

MILSONS POINT to WAVERTON



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.



Lavender Bay

	main route	return route
distance	4.5km	2.5km
time (approx)	2hrs	45mins
<b>features</b>		
<b>A</b> Sydney Harbour Bridge	<b>E</b> McMahon's Point	<b>I</b> MacKillop Place Museum
<b>B</b> Pool & Luna Park	<b>F</b> Sawmillers Reserve	<b>J</b> Don Bank Museum
<b>C</b> Watt Park	<b>G</b> Waverton Park	<b>K</b> Former school
<b>D</b> Secret Garden	<b>H</b> Euroka Street	<b>L</b> St Xavier's Church





# SEGMENT 1

## MILSONS POINT to WAVERTON






### Start Main Route

If starting from Milson's Point Railway Station, walk down Alfred or Broughton Streets to the Harbour Bridge Pylon. Begun in 1924, the **Sydney Harbour Bridge**  connected the North Shore to the city in 1932. There was great contention at the time of construction about who should be described as its designer. Both Chief Government Engineer, J.J.C. Bradfield, and the design engineer Ralph Freeman, from the English firm Dorman Long which constructed the arch, were contenders. The matter was settled only through very careful wording of the plaque seen on the pylons from the walkway.

Both North Sydney Pool (opened 1936) and **Luna Park**  (opened 1935) stand on the site of the former Bridge construction workshops. Before that, this was the site of Milson's Point Railway Station, commuters walking from here to the ferry wharves near where the Bridge Pylons now are. The pool was the aquatic centre for the 1938 British Empire Games and between 1936 and 1976, 86 world records were set here – a world record in itself. Many of Luna Park's original rides came from an Adelaide fun park. Immensely popular until the 1960s, the Park suffered closures and uncertainty from 1976, after a Ghost Train fire in which 7 died. It reopened again in 1994 after an expensive upgrading, but soon closed after resident protest at noise. Currently open although some development is expected in its vicinity.





The boardwalk skirts Lavender Bay, which is named for George Lavender, boatswain of the convict hulk *Phoenix*, moored in the bay in the 1820-30s. Lavender married Susannah Blue, a daughter of Billy (see below). Also here were the 1881 baths of the large Cavill Family who between them invented or introduced the Australian crawl and butterfly strokes, and held many swimming records. Men's and women's baths remained here well into the 20th century. Another 19th century industry, boatbuilding, survived here until 1987 – note the slipway on the waterfront and the winding gear preserved nearby. The railway viaduct arrived in 1893 cutting off the gardens which became **Watt Park** . The steps through the viaduct arches lead to some luxuriant growth in Walker Street. The first house, *Berowra*, was once the Station Master's house, while the towered one on the opposite side of the steps was a home and studio of artist Brett Whiteley. A short detour up the steps and to the right takes you to **Wendy Whiteley's 'Secret Garden'** . Some older original homes in the area survive, including the 1855 *Quiberee* (after the location's Aboriginal name).


Back at the waterfront, walk past the old slipway and up steps by the electric substation to Bay View and then East Crescent Streets. This area was home for other artists and writers including Lloyd Rees, Henry Kendall and Norman Lindsay. At East Crescent's end, visit the reserve, then take the pathway down to the wharf at **McMahon's Point**  named after an Irish brush manufacturer and local Mayor. From the ferry wharf follow Henry Lawson Avenue and the shoreline to Blue's Point. Lawson, the writer, frequently arrived here by ferry before trudging home up Blue's Point Road. Blue's Point was named after Billy Blue, a West-Indian convict granted the Point in 1817 after establishing a rowboat ferry service (for which he was dubbed 'The Old Commodore'). *Blue's Point Tower*, the Harry Seidler apartments dominating the headland, stand near where Blue's farmhouse was. Note the old pre-Harbour Bridge vehicular ferries approaches, and then walk towards the Point, climbing the steps to explore the headland and the higher level park near the *Tower*.

Return uphill to Blue's Point Road, turning left down West Crescent Street to its end at **Sawmillers Reserve** . This attractive waterfront park on Berry's Bay was, from 1880 to 1982, the site of Eaton's sawmill and timber yard – a few relics remain to be explored. Little is now left of the waterfront industry (wharves, sawmills, boatyards, gasworks, oil and coal stores, etc) which once dominated the waterfront west of the Bridge. At the northern end of the park climb the zigzag path up to Munro Street and cross the rail Bridge to Dumbarton Street, turn downhill and then left down John Street, under the railway, to **Waverton Park** . This sports field was reclaimed to improve water access to the now removed BP Berry's Bay Oil Terminal. On the ridge above the southern bank sits a stone house in Commodore Crescent, its oldest portion built for a son of Billy Blue. Near the old house at the bottom of the Woolcott Avenue steps is a flat area, site of the long demolished house *Ivy Cliff*. The park area has long been popular with artists, including Lloyd Rees and Roland Wakelin. Walk across the waterfront and climb the steps.

If continuing on to Segment 2, turn left immediately before the toilet block and take the steps leading into the park on the former BP site. Otherwise continue along the path to Larkin Street, up Woolcott and right into Bay Road to Waverton Station (1893) where this walk ends. Originally Bay Road Station, the modern name derived from an early house in the area.

### Start Return Route

To return to Milson's Point Station, continue past the Waverton shops and turn right on the path through Roland Wakelin Reserve, following the railway line down to Carr St. The **Euroka Street**  area, including Ancrum and Bank Streets, is an atmospheric little valley of one-time workers' cottages nestling between the railway line and the North Sydney ridge. Writer Henry Lawson lived in several Euroka Street houses. Follow the cross lanes to Bank Street and climb uphill towards North Sydney either via the Lord Street steps (near No 67) or Riley Street to Edward Street. In this street look for Shore Grammar School with its tower; nearby *Graythwaite* house; and the Catholic University beyond the Riley Street corner (once the site of artist Conrad Martens' home, *Rockleigh Grange*, and later the Vatican embassy in Australia). Mount Street contains the **MacKillop Place Museum**  dedicated to Australia's first Saint. Worth a diversion to visit, whether open or shut, charming **Don Bank Museum**  and its garden are tucked nearby between Oak and Napier Streets and can be reached via Wheeler Lane on your left (which may appear blocked, but turns left-right into Oak Street). Down at Victoria Cross, on the Pacific Highway corner, stands the 1889 Italianate North Sydney Post Office. Turn right at Miller Street, going via it or Greenwood Plaza with its **Gothic former school**  now converted to a restaurant, to Blue Street and North Sydney Station.

If returning to Milson's Point Station, take the Walker Street steps between the Station and the Harbourview hotel, to the Walker Street continuation beyond the railway. On the walk downhill note **St Xavier's Church**  (1881) in Mackenzie Street; and, in Walker Street, the Royal Art Society Gallery; terraces old and new; and the 1872 *Christ Church*. Follow Lavender Street around to Alfred Street South and the railway station.

Written and researched by the Walking Volunteers. For further North Sydney and regional walking materials go to the Customer Service Centre, Stanton Library, or [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au) - click 'recreation', and [www.walkingsydney.net](http://www.walkingsydney.net). Funded by Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program (SSHAP).

Photographs: Graham Spindler.

