

SEGMENT 5

CREMORNE JUNCTION to SHELL COVE



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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.



Cremorne Point Lighthouse

	main route	return route
distance	4km	1.5km
time (approx)	1hr 30mins	30mins
features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A No 31 Spofforth Street B Spofforth Street Steps C Grassy Point D Lighthouse E MacCallum Pool F The Ritz G Hazlehurst site H SCEGGS Redlands 	

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Start Main Route

The walk begins where Spofforth Street leads off from Military Road at Cremorne Junction. Follow Spofforth downhill. The street name comes from 'Demon' Fred Spofforth and it, like neighbouring Murdoch, Boyle and Bannerman Streets, was named after members of the first Australian test cricket teams to tour England in 1877-8 and 1882. On the second tour, they defeated England at the Oval, and as a subsequent death notice for English cricket in *The Times* put it, "the body will be cremated and *the ashes* taken to Australia".

The eastern side on the street is in Mosman Municipality but note Rangers Avenue and Brierly Street which recall the fine home, *The Rangers*, built by Oswald Bloxsome. *The Rangers* graced the area from the 1840s until demolished in 1912. It featured a huge 18' x 12' mural of *HMS Rattlesnake* in a storm off Timor in 1848 which had been painted by Queen Victoria's marine artist Oswald Brierly. Beyond the shops note **No. 31 Spofforth Street** (A). Here writer Sumner Locke Elliot lived with some aunts, the house becoming part of the setting for his 1963 novel, *Careful He Might Hear You*.

At Boyle Street take a short diversion to the left for an impressive view of Mosman Bay before returning to the **Spofforth Street Steps** (B) dropping sharply into a rainforest-like gully. Cross the first bridge and follow the path left and then right into pedestrian-only Bromley Avenue (the path on the wooden bridge leads to Mosman Bay) with its pleasing federation houses, so much a feature of this area. Beyond Bromley Avenue, the Reserve falls away left to Mosman Bay. As you walk along, much of the Cremorne Point story emerges from well placed information signs, including something of its Aboriginal history; the associations with *HMS Sirius*, the legal battle that preserved the walkway around the point and the close call the point had with coal mining in the late nineteenth century.

The path dips to pass Old Cremorne Wharf, then climbs back up to where a path from Green Street emerges at **Grassy Point** (C). Here harbour views combine with architecture to create one of the walk's most picturesque spots. Notice No 6 Green Street with its square tower and more spectacular neighbour, *The Laurels*, on the further

side on the path. Both were designed by architect, John Burcham Clamp; the latter, with its lovely summer house and gardens in 1907 as his own family home. The present building combines two houses linked by a mansard roofed extension around 1920 when *The Laurels* became a private hotel. It is now apartments. Beyond Grassy Point are the colourful and prize-winning Lex and Ruby Graham Gardens, developed and maintained by local residents. Take some time to explore the garden's paths.

Large houses and interwar flats then lead onto the end of Cremorne Point Reserve above Cremorne Wharf. As well as the views, locate the 1904 concrete lighthouse with battered dome at its tip (D). It is hardly surprising that artists such as Arthur Streeton were attracted to the area but the first European to make his mark here was Scots watch-maker, James Robertson who by 1829, had built a stone house near Cremorne Point. Governor Brisbane granted him 86 acres of the Point in 1833, and the actual Point still bears his name. One of his sons - John - later became Premier of NSW five times. The land was sold to James Milson Jnr in 1853 who then leased 22 acres at the Point to Messrs Clarke and Woolcott. In March 1853 they opened pleasure gardens here, named after London's Cremorne Gardens. Attractions such as a carousel, shooting gallery, fireworks and a dance stage where all night masked balls took place, developed a scandalous reputation and the Gardens closed shortly after.

Leave the Point past the federation flats nosing into the Reserve and cross to the path and waterfront of Shell Cove on the city side. The backs of Milson Road properties demonstrate the twentieth century mix of the Point's architecture. Large post-modern intersperses with smaller federation, art deco and arts and crafts. There was little development before 1900, when large federation houses designed by fashionable architects began to appear. Residential flats, boarding houses and hotels characterised the period from interwar until the 1960s when high rise began to appear before being moderated by resident action, development controls, heritage studies and classifications. A side-path drops to the delightful **MacCallum Pool** (E), originally a locally designed and built tidal pool but completely rebuilt in recent years.

Across Shell Cove, city views are increasingly overtaken by an interesting mix of Kurraba Point architecture (see Segment 6). On the right side, notice the prominent modernised apartments of **The Ritz** (F) (48-50 Milson Road), built as an elegant hotel in 1911. By the 1980s, The Ritz had become rental accommodation for low income tenants but has since been completely rebuilt and gone well 'up market'. Finally, the path winds past more modest homes up to a small park entrance and Bogota Avenue. Here Segment 6 or the return walk to Cremorne Junction begins.

Start Return Route

To return to Cremorne Junction, turn right at Bogota Avenue and climb up to its junction with Murdoch Street, following it uphill to the roundabout and the little park (right) which leads into Boyle Street. Take the first left up Reed Street. The corner apartments on the left replaced a boarding house called **Hazlehurst site** (G) where once art collector Howard Hinton (1867 - 1948) lived in a 4 x 3 metre room collecting and progressively donating to institutions and galleries over 1000 works of art. The 10 works in his room at the time of his death included five by Arthur Streeton. At Florence Lane, turn left uphill into Murdoch Street, and then right into Rangers Road and then left into Allister Street past **SCEGGS Redlands** (H). Turn right at Cranbrook Avenue into an area with some fine Californian bungalow style homes and down to Spofforth and back up to Cremorne Junction.

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.