

CIRCULAR QUAY TO SOUTH HEAD AND CLOVELLY

CONNECTING WALK C2: COOPER EDGECLIFF TO BONDI



- Main Walk:** — **Loop and Connecting Walks:** — **Alternative Routes:** - - -
- Distance:** 4.2km.
- Time:** 1 hour 45 mins.
- Level:** Easy-moderate; some steps.
- Transport:** Edgecliff and Bondi Junction Stations; Edgecliff and Bondi buses.
- Connects with:** Federation Track; Loop L3 (Paddington); Connection Walks C4 (Bellevue), C8 (Charing Cross) and C9 (Tamarama); Main Walk (at Bondi).
- Facilities:**
Toilets: Cooper Park; Bondi Beach.
Picnic spots: Cooper and Bellevue Parks, Bondi Beach;
Shops or hotels: Edgecliff; Jersey Rd, Paddington; Manning Rd, Woollahra; Cooper Park; Glenayre Av, Bondi; Bondi Beach.

This route links the Federation Track at Edgecliff to Bondi and the Main Walk, passing through some valuable (and often diplomatic) real estate, fascinating Cooper Park and one of Sydney's best viewpoints, Bellevue Hill. As such, it is a shorter alternative to the Federation Track, reaching the Main Walk again at the coast further north at iconic Bondi Beach. There is some climbing and descending but it is always worth it, and of course, it can be linked with other routes, or parts of them, to form excellent circle walks.

*Depart from the **Federation Track** where it climbs out of Harris Street and meets Quarry Street, Edgecliff. Continue up Quarry Street, turning left at Jersey Road, before crossing it almost immediately to Trelawney Street on the right and following it through to its end at Edgecliff Road.*

Quarry Street - well-named as is at the site of the former Woollahra Quarry - begins with a group of almost unchanged three-storey 1890s Victorian filligree style terraces and then meets Jersey Road with the conveniently located Lord Dudley Hotel on the right hand corner (it is also the last pub on this route before Bondi!). Built around 1877, this pleasing Queen Ann style hotel has not been drastically altered over time and remains an attractive local pub that sits well in the area. Possibly less convenient for the pub during its early years was the immaculate stone cottage on the left hand corner, which was the 'watchhouse' or police station.

At the intersection of Trelawney Street with Ocean Street, take in the charming street scene to the south which includes the Georgian-like No. 84 and the stone Victorian Gothic semis of Numbers 82-80. Number 82 is known as *Anglesea* and at one time was owned by Henry Mort (soon to re-emerge) while Number 80 is called *Tudor* (or *Tudor Villa*) and was for a time owned by one of the brewing Tooth family. There is plenty more elegance back in that direction, while to the north is

the German cultural organisation, the Goethe Institute occupying the triangle formed by Jersey, Ocean and Trelawney in a building that was once Woollahra Council Chambers.

Before continuing on along Trelawney, it is worth walking the 100m to the left down Ocean Street to All Saints Church, set back up on the rise on the eastern side. It is a very fine Edmund Blacket design concealing a surprisingly large and noble interior with excellent stained glass windows. First opened in 1876, it was not completed until 1926 and its intended spire was never added. As well as being another Blacket design, there is another link between this church's origins and that of nearby St Marks at Darling Point (see Loop Walk L4). Thomas Sutcliffe Mort provided the land and much support for St Marks; while his brother, Henry Mort, largely financed All Saints. Henry's motives were a little different. In 1865 Henry's family had been shipwrecked in the Atlantic and rescued after ten days, so All Saints was an act of thanksgiving. It also provided a living for Henry's son, Henry Wallace Mort who, for 38 years, was the church's first rector.

Back in Trelawney Street, the diplomatic quarter, which is concentrated in this part of the Eastern Suburbs, is entered. Sydney has more consulates (about 128) than Canberra has embassies - in fact more consulates than any city after San Francisco. In this street look for Poland, Germany, Serbia and Lebanon, while the hotel-like Russian consulate is up Fullerton Street to the right. Beyond Fullerton, also, is the interesting Wolper Jewish Hospital, while on the opposite side don't miss charming *Great Tree* (Number 7), a Spanish Mission house set well back in its luxuriant garden beyond its great tree and an archway. On the same side, on the northern Edgecliff Road corner (Number 1 Trelawney), is the *Oban* entrance to a large Federation house with elaborate wood turning on its veranda levels. The house was built in 1900 by James Marks but its first occupant was Colonel James Macarthur Onslow. It was then called *Elvo* but in the 1930s became two flats, the downstairs being *Elvo* (eventually changed to *Oban*) and the upstairs *Rohine*.

Cross Edgecliff Road to Roslyndale Avenue and follow it down to its park-like end where steps drop to the left immediately past the house, Roslyndale. Once in Wollaroy Road, cross to its lower side, turning right and then left down Linden Avenue. Turn right at Manning Road and then cross over past the stone garage into Cooper Park.

Roslyndale Avenue is short but very sweet, with a fine mix of typical Eastern Suburbs architecture. Mediterranean and Spanish themes can be seen on both sides. Number 14 is a Georgian revival house, *Struan Lodge*, designed by Hardy Wilson, architect of a number of elegant Georgian style houses including *Eryldene* in Gordon. To the left at Number 6, are the fine gates and marvellous setting leading to *Hawthornden*, begun in 1858 by broker, William Lennon. Its various owners over time included the twentieth century Australian manager of the P & O Line. At the bottom of Roslyndale Avenue, the road splits charmingly around a central reservation and, on the left, at Number 38, is the house *Roslyndale*. Warm in sandstone, adorned by steep gables with elegant and intricate traceried bargeboards, this late 1850s rustic Gothic-style home was designed by Francis Clarke for broker William Lennon, who also began *Hawthornden*.

The steps adjacent to *Roslyndale* lead down to Walloroy Road, which briefly becomes split level to the right. The tree-filled bowl of Cooper Park is now ahead and Linden Avenue leads towards Manning Road, Lough Playing Fields and the entrance to Cooper Park.

Walk through Cooper Park, past the tennis courts, and choose any of the tracks leading east towards Victoria Road in Bellevue Hill. Depending on which one is chosen, steps of varying demand at the end lead up to Victoria Road. Cross this to Bellevue Park Road which soon leads into Bellevue Hill Park.

At the Suttie Road / Cooper Park corner is a fine sandstone motor garage from an earlier era. Cooper Park at first seems to be a pleasant flat grassy space, popular with cricket practice and dog walking, between hillsides leading to a bank of tennis courts. There is a kiosk at the courts, on the southern side. However, beyond the courts, the character changes, with cemented streams and mock rock shelters, and a bridge near which an information board gives some of the Park's history and shows its walking paths. In the late 1920s and 1930s the Park was redesigned as a bushland pleasure ground with landscaped walks, rustic features and a mix of native and exotic trees. Much of this varied quality remains. As well as this, though, Cooper Park is a real Jurassic Park. This woodland valley originated with an extrusion of volcanic magma in the Jurassic era, the central stream running through it indicating the line of the dyke.

The Park gained its name from the large Cooper family estate of which it was part from 1827, and about half the present 15 ha (38 acre) park was donated to Council by Sir William Cooper in 1913 (see Loop Walk L6). It doesn't much matter which of the many paths are taken on the way eastwards up the length of the valley, but the cliff walks on the northern side are the most interesting to explore with their rainforest vegetation, small waterfalls and bridges. The central path follows the stream and its artificial ponds and archaic bridges and are linked to the upper paths on either side. Eventually some substantial steps are reached which climb the open bowl of the Park's head to Victoria Road (past some stone columns from Sydney's 1847 General Post Office) in Bellevue Hill. Up on Victoria Rd, the sudden steepness of the head of

Cooper Park is clear. In mid-2009 it was even more apparent when a burst water main caused part of Victoria Rd and the head of the park to collapse, the new 25m wide crater taking two cars down with it, happily without injury to anyone.

The small but pleasing St Stephens Anglican Church (1928), to the right, has some fine stained glass windows. Short Bellevue Park Road leads past the back of Bellevue Hill Public School (established in 1925) to what is literally the high point of this walk. The view is not quite "belle" yet, but at streets end is a round hilltop park which soon reveals the reason for the area's name in a breathtaking 180° sweep of harbour and ocean from Bradleys Head to Bondi. The harbour views include Clifton Gardens, Shark Island, Rose Bay, the Sacred Heart Convent, and Manly. The Heads are masked by the rise of Vaucluse and Dover Heights beyond the Royal Sydney Golf Course, but further south, red roofs lead down to North Bondi and the prominent 1889 sewer vent at the Williams Park golf course (Loop 11). Down past Ben Buckler headland lies the blue of Bondi Bay, though the beach itself is hidden behind buildings. Masses of unit blocks absorb the rest of the southern view.

Governor Macquarie (Governor of NSW, 1810-21) named the area well - and rather more attractively than the earlier name of 'Vinegar Hill' - and throughout the nineteenth century, Sydney gentry took Sunday carriage rides out here to picnic. Many of the gentry, such as the Fairfaxes and the Foys, decided to stay on, and many do now on the slopes towards the harbour, or across the golf course at Vaucluse. The park was gazetted in 1888, fortunately some time before major subdivision of the old Cooper estate took place. These are expensive suburbs to consider buying into, but there was a moment when prices dropped dramatically after the nights of May 31 and June 7, 1942. The first was the night of the Japanese submarine attack on Sydney Harbour (see Main Walk Section 3 and Loop Walk 2) when one of three midget submarines launched from a pack of five Japanese submarines off Sydney had sunk HMAS *Kuttabul* at Garden Island with 19 killed. A week later shells fired from the submarine I24 off Bondi landed on the crest of this hill. Other shells rained down in an arc from Coopers Park to near the Rose Bay Flying Base - the apparent target. Most failed to explode and there were no casualties but enthusiasm for Eastern Suburbs real estate briefly declined. Three days later the I24 sank an Australian ore carrier, the *Iron Crown*, off Sydney Heads killing 12 more seamen. It was no wonder locals were jumping ship.

From the crest of the hill, turn towards the northern end of Bondi Bay to the lane and steps leading down to Banksia Road.

This route (Connection C2) turns left on Banksia Road. Connection walks C8 (to Charing Cross) and C9 (to Tamarama) begin at the bottom of the steps with a right turn on Banksia Road towards Old South Head Road.

At Birriga Road Connection C4 (Bellevue) turns left at Birriga Road, while this route (C2) turns right.

*Downhill on Birriga Road, opposite the Benelong Crescent intersection, turn right, down a lane to Old South Head Road. Turn left (downhill) and cross at the lights to O'Brien Street. Follow O'Brien Street (including when it veers left at Lamrock Avenue) until it joins Roscoe Street. Turn right here and head directly to Bondi Beach to rejoin the **Main Walk**.*

On Birriga Road, opposite Benelong Crescent, where the steps and lane drop to Old South Head Road, note the Federation bus shelter in stone and timber. Birriga Road was on one of the tram routes to Bondi and the shelter was built for a tram stop around WWI. When the trams really did stop, at the end of the 1950s, the shelters, like the routes themselves, were converted to buses.

O'Brien Street drops gently towards Bondi Beach passing through a mix of Federation semi-detached dwellings (with good examples at Numbers 108-110) and 1970s units. The street name comes from landowner Francis O'Brien (1816-1896), as does Francis Street, the next one south. O'Brien Street also crosses Hall Street, named for O'Brien's father-in-law. This was obviously a family estate (see Main Walk). Newspaper proprietor Edward Smith Hall purchased the sandhills that made up modern Bondi Beach area in 1851 and the following year, together with O'Brien, attempted to subdivide it. When this proved unsuccessful (although O'Brien eventually did purchase the land from his father-in-law) they opened the beach to the public. The beach was popular but also attracted rowdy and troublesome elements and O'Brien threatened to close off public access in 1877. The outcome was that the government resumed the parkland area adjacent to the beach in 1882, making it a public recreation area.

There is a lively patch of shops and cafes at the Glen Ayre Avenue – Hall Street intersection. Soon after was the site of, the Hakoah Club, in 2011 being developed into a massive residential and shopping complex. The walk turns right into Roscoe Street, where the dwelling mix was once similar but has been increasingly submerged by the impact of the beach. The beach end of Roscoe Street has been pedestrianised and offers instant insertion into the lively restaurants and tourist attractions the beach area offers, as well as reconnection with the **Main Walk**.