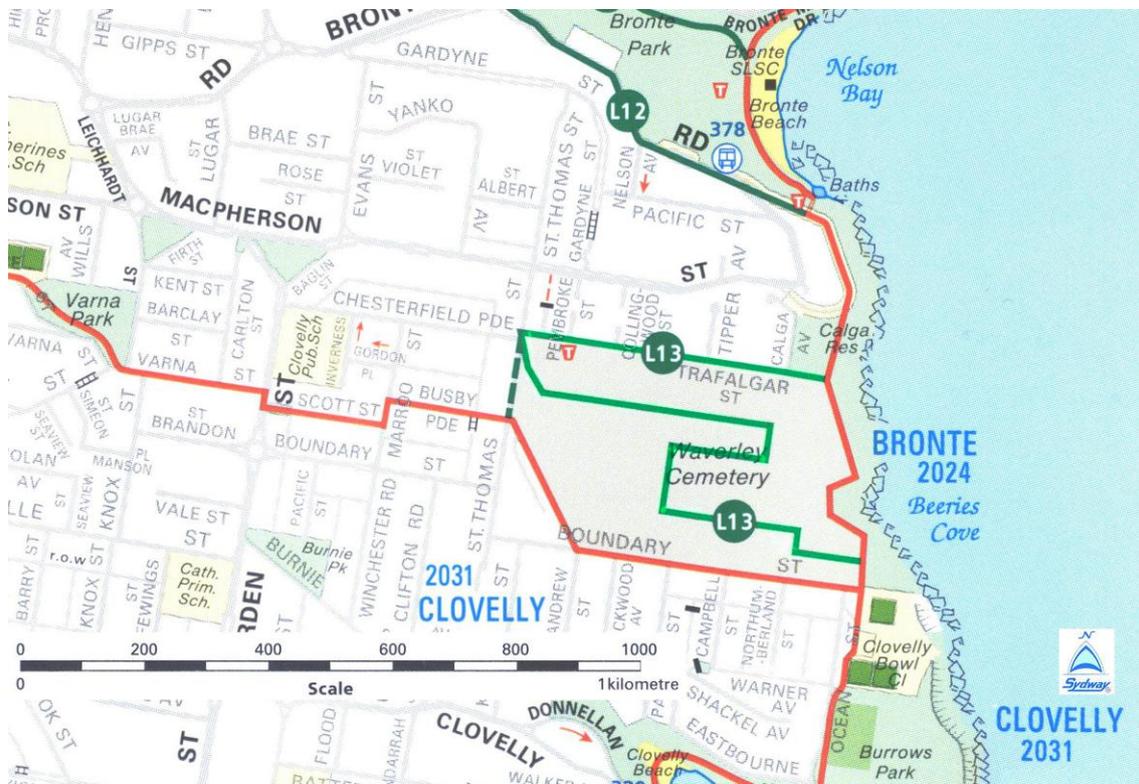


# CIRCULAR QUAY TO SOUTH HEAD AND CLOVELLY LOOP WALK L13: WAVERLEY CEMETERY



- Federation Track:** ———    **Loop and Connecting Walks:** ———    **Alternative Routes:** - - -
- Distance:** 1km (Calga Reserve to Boundary St); 1.4km complete loop (return to Calga Res).
- Time:** 50 mins green route only; 1 hr complete loop.
- Level:** Moderate, some steps.
- Transport:** Edgecliffe Station; New South Head Rd, Oxford St and Glenmore Rd buses.
- Connects with:** Main Walk; Federation Track.
- Facilities:**  
*Toilets:* Waverley Cemetery (main gate);  
*Picnic spots:* Calga Reserve, Burrows Park;  
*Shops or hotels:* Macpherson St.

With 50,000 graves, 80,000 internments (and rising), and an area of 16 hectares or so, Waverley is neither Sydney's oldest cemetery nor its largest, but it is surely its most dramatic and beautiful. Its special qualities include its location sweeping to the cliffline of the Tasman Sea, the exceptional and well kept monuments, and its diverse and fascinating inhabitants.

Opened by Waverley Council in 1877 (the first person buried was 85 year old Ruth Allen on 4 August 1877), Waverley Cemetery coincided with the great age of the Victorian and Edwardian memorial. By the 1970s it had all but run out of space, but in between time many of those who were once the wealthy, powerful and famous of the eastern suburbs came here to rest in some splendour. Many more of less fame and fortune came, too, but it is the shining marble forests of those who could afford to be memorialised that are so striking. Almost as significant is the important Irish-Australian Catholic connection which is more compellingly recognised here than almost anywhere else in Australia. Many of the people referred to in the notes for this series of Eastern Suburbs walks came to finally rest here or at smaller South Head Cemetery (see Loop Walk L10).



### Waverley Cemetery – Graves Referred to in Text

<b>1</b> Martin / Campbell	<b>7</b> Kinsella	<b>13</b> Freeman	<b>19</b> Hargrave
<b>2</b> Mackellar	<b>8</b> Vickery	<b>14</b> Thompson / Albert	<b>20</b> '98 Memorial
<b>3</b> Dowling / Knox	<b>9</b> Submarine Corps	<b>15</b> Duff	<b>21</b> Trumper
<b>4</b> Richardson	<b>10</b> Lawson	<b>16</b> Rickards	<b>22</b> Archibald
<b>5</b> Johnston	<b>11</b> Tenison-Woods	<b>17</b> Peart	<b>23</b> Sargent
<b>6</b> Kendall	<b>12</b> Deniehy / Dalley	<b>18</b> Sands / Eliason	<b>24</b> Durack

Cemetery maps and information booklets are available from Waverley Library, and there is a map, with some famous graves marked, up by the main entrance at the corner of MacPherson and St Thomas Streets. Despite all this, grave finding can be frustrating and it usually takes a number of visits to see everything aimed at.

*Immediately before the Main Walk reaches the end of Calga Reserve and begins to descend the steps to the boardwalk, take the dirt path slightly west and ahead to enter the cemetery. Look for the monument resembling a small Greek temple. From there follow the directions within the notes. These will eventually lead out to rejoin the Main Walk at Boundary Street near Burrows Park.*

The Grecian temple reflects the classical tastes of Irish-born but Sydney-educated **Sir James Martin**, three times Premier and later Chief Justice, of NSW – the Martin of Martin Place and the house *Clarens* (see Loops 2 and 6). Martin was also a founder of the League for the Prevention of Pollution of Air and Water (later the Sanitary Reform League) in 1880, possibly Australia's first conservation group. The League opposed ocean outfall disposal of sewage and was instrumental in bringing about the sewage farm disposal system used for southern Sydney between 1887 and 1916.

Nearby, are some descendants of Robert **Campbell** (1769-1846), the famous Scottish merchant of early Sydney Cove. Robert Campbell was a major landholder at Canterbury as well as one of the first settlers at Canberra, establishing the property *Duntroon*, which in 1910 became the Military College in Canberra.

Immediately uphill from Martin, are the Mackellars, notably **Isobel Marion Dorothea Mackellar** (see Loop Walks L3, L4 and L6), poet of 'My Country'. Her grave seems a modest appendage to her family, including her wealthy and influential father, Dr Sir Charles Kinnard Mackellar, medical man, philanthropist, MLC, Senator and Bank President. Born into a wealthy Point Piper family, Dorothea Mackellar wrote the poem later called 'My Country' when she was 19 and it was first published four years later in London in 1908. Those lines beginning 'I love a sunburnt country. . .'

remain for many the most identifiable piece of Australian verse. She published four volumes of verse, a novel and co-wrote two other novels. However, just as her grave seems a reflection of the status of women in her time, so does the caption to a photograph of her in a women's magazine of the time which describes her condescendingly as 'the clever writer daughter of Lady Mackellar of Earlstone'. She increasingly devoted her time to looking after her parents, largely ceasing writing when her father died in 1926. Her mother died in 1933 and Dorothea was never much in good health afterwards, moving between her Darling Point and Pittwater homes and spending long periods in nursing homes.

Next uphill again is **Sir James Dowling** (1787-1844), colonial Chief Justice of NSW. Dowling's grave was moved here when the Devonshire Street Cemetery was closed in 1901 and more than 9,000 sets of remains and headstones were relocated to allow construction of Central Railway Station.

Immediately uphill again are graves of the **Knox Family**, heralded by a polished granite Celtic cross. Family members were prominent in business, law, the military and diplomacy. Sir Edward Knox (1819-1901), born in Elsinore, Denmark, was first manager and later managing director of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co, and was followed into this position by his second son Edward William Knox (1847-1933) He was subsequently succeeded by Sir Edward's grandson, Sir Edward Ritchie Knox (1889-1973), who was on CSR's board from 1923 to 1964. Sir Thomas Forster Knox, Sir Edward's third son, was also prominent in business, particularly with Dalgety's and the Commercial Banking Company. Sir Adrian Knox (1863-1932), Sir Edward's fourth son, was successful in a number of fields. A leading KC, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, member of the Privy Council, international juror and a Red Cross Commissioner in Egypt during WWI, Knox was also a successful racehorse owner and chairman of the Australian Jockey Club.

Work back to the path that follows the fenceline uphill. There are many fine graves on the left, here, this being a prized (and Anglican) area. About opposite the Calga Avenue turn, note the militaristic tomb with crossed rifles of **Major-General John Soame Richardson** (1836-96), one time commander of NSW Military Forces in the days before Federation when each colony had its own military forces.

About the same distance again uphill is the sandstone **Johnston family vault** with a slightly aggressive-looking angel atop. Moved here from the Johnston estate *Annandale* in Sydney, its most famous occupant is Colonel George Johnston (1764-1823). Johnston, who was born at Annandale in Scotland and arrived in Sydney as a Lieutenant of Marines in the First Fleet, gained fame for his severe repression of the Irish convict rising at Castle Hill in 1804 and notoriety for his arrest of Governor Bligh in the NSW 'Rum Rebellion' in 1808, Australia's only military coup. Subsequently banished for a time, when he returned he concentrated his last years on building up his substantial property interests. Buried with him, along with many family members, is Johnston's almost equally remarkable wife, Esther Abrahams (1771-1846), a Jewish First Fleet convict who rose to social prominence in a colony where such things were infinitely more possible than in England.

Climb the path further to the first bitumen intersection and the very prominent urn-bedecked column on the left is the second resting place of poet, **Henry Kendall**. The first Australian poet to gain an international reputation, Kendall is best remembered for melodious poems of the bush such as 'Bellbirds' and 'The Song of the Cattle Hunters'. Like Henry Lawson, who is also buried here, Kendall's life was plagued by money problems and, eventually alcoholism and terms in mental asylums. But unlike Lawson, he staged a comeback in his later years. When he died, he was buried under a modest wooden cross next to where Henry Lawson now lies, but as a result of Louisa Lawson's and other public efforts was moved and reburied under this memorial – more of this story later.

Continue up the hill. The second memorial across the intersecting path, perhaps as a small ironic reminder of the universality of death, is the memorial to the family of **Charles Kinsela** (1886-1944), once one of Sydney's best known funeral directors. His firm operated from 1906 until 1982 and the name continues with his Taylor Square premises having been turned into a nightclub. Further uphill, a little way past a small stone rest shed, is the tomb of the **Vickery family**, whose property became the War Memorial Hospital at Carrington Road and Birrell Street, south of Bondi Junction (see Connection Walk C8).

Continuing uphill to the entrance gates and administration buildings, the older graves meet with more recent Italian family crypts near the main entrance gates. The Gothic stone Waiting Room and Office and Caretaker's Cottage are a noble original group, and just outside the gates, note the pink granite horse troughs, once used to water the funereal horses. This high spot is also an excellent one from which to observe something of the spectacle of this wonderfully intact cemetery as it drops dramatically to the ocean.

Next to the Waiting Room is a memorial with crossed rifles to four members of the **Submarine Corps** based at Chowder Bay Barracks. The role of this unit was to protect Sydney Harbour from enemy shipping by laying large

mines containing 45kg of gun cotton on the harbour bed and detonating them via an electrical cable when enemy vessels passed over. During a training exercise off Cobblers Beach at Middle Head at Easter 1891, and in front of thousands of onlookers including the NSW Governor, they successfully set off such an electrically operated mine as part of a military exercise. A cutter with 14 men aboard then laid another mine and pulled 300 metres away. Unfortunately the active lead had been connected to the mine still in the cutter, and not the submerged one as intended, so that when the connection was closed, boat and crew were blown out of the water. It was probably surprising that only four lives were lost. A couple of rows in from the easterly side of the roadway lies the grave of Robert ('Nosey Bob') Howard, NSW's industrious hangman in the last decades of the nineteenth century (see Main Walk, Section 5).

The road curves downhill to an intersection. From it, follow the road straight downhill about another 50 metres. Henry Lawson's grave is usually signposted but its row is on the left between two shrouded urns, one belonging to a David Cooper, once Senior Inspector of schools. On the right, near the start of the row, note the artist's palette on the grave of William Burberry, a scenic and set artist for several Sydney theatres last century. About 15m up the row is **Henry Lawson's** simple curbed grave with headstone. For many, still Australia's most popular story-teller and poet, his grave was originally meant for another poet named Henry – Henry Kendall. Lawson's mother, Louisa Lawson (1848-1920) – publisher and leading women's rights activist – had bought the plot more than 35 years before Lawson's death. She had been angered by the scant public respect shown Kendall, who had been consigned to a small unmarked grave in Waverley Cemetery when he died in 1882. Louisa Lawson campaigned to bury Kendall more nobly and, used her own money to buy the larger plot alongside his grave. However, her campaign was suddenly taken over by leading political and social figures of the day and the large sum raised was used to purchase a far more fashionable site. Kendall was re-interred in 1887 where his present enormous memorial now stands. Nearly four decades later, Henry Lawson died in poverty, worn down by years of alcoholism, mental illness and malnutrition. Partly through his brother-in-law, the politician Jack Lang, Lawson was given a state funeral and brought here to Louisa's plot. Henry was joined, 35 years later, by his wife, Marie Louise, with whom he had spent little time in life. They had separated in 1902 after six years of marriage, and her despairing demands for alimony had often resulted in yet another spell in gaol for Henry.

Return to the downhill bitumen road. About 75 metres on, to the right, is an elaborate polished granite pedestal with a statue of Mary under a canopy and steeple. Here lies **Father Julian Edmund Tenison-Woods**, a London-born former journalist who became a controversial cleric, prominent educator and scientist. Author of dozens of scientific articles, he is now best remembered for co-founding, with Mary McKillop – Australia's first almost-saint – the order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart whose many schools still dot the Australian landscape.

A little further downhill, still on the right, are two graves of note. The first, a dark obelisk with a small marble celtic cross on top, is that of **Daniel Henry Deniehy** (1828-65). Dead before he reached forty and largely forgotten now, Deniehy was an orator, writer, editor, attorney and politician of the firebrand school. A fierce early advocate of Australian democracy, Deniehy it was who came up with the fatally wounding phrase 'Bunyip Aristocracy' which sank William Charles Wentworth's proposal for an NSW House of Lords (see Connection Walk C7 and Loop L8). Drinking and grief at his son's death led Deniehy to an unmarked grave in Bathurst in 1865, but in 1888 'a few friends' led by Daniel O'Connor relocated him here under the impressive memorial. That 23 years later they would still feel the loss of 'the vehement voice of the south' is no mean tribute to the man. Nearby is a large but low sandstone tomb with a cross or 'church roof' shaped body stone and a small Celtic cross. The lettering is difficult to read, but it houses **William Bede Dalley**, lawyer, politician and Privy Councillor, widely regarded last century as the most distinguished native-born Australian. He is also commemorated by a statue in Sydney's Hyde Park and plaques in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and St Paul's, London.

On the roundabout ahead, look first to the left at the uphill intersection, where 'racing identity' **George Freeman** (1934-90) has been squeezed in. Once described as "one of the leading criminal figures in this State", he was Sydney's leading SP bookie, repeatedly linked with the Mafia and most NSW underworld figures. The inscriptions offer another perspective. To the right of the roundabout, near the stone shelter shed, note the **Thompson Family Vault** which includes three American Civil War veterans. On the other side of the shed, in finely polished granite, is the Albert family memorial, most notable for the tribute to Otto. The eldest son of **Michel Francois Albert ("Frank") Albert**, the music publisher and owner of *Boomerang* in Elizabeth Bay (see Loop Walk L2), Otto was the first cadet midshipman to enter the new RAN Naval College, but died a year later. Note the memorial 'book' of class signatures. Immediately downhill from the Alberts is another memorial with musical associations – **Orpheus McAdoo**, an American Double A Flat Basso Profundo ("the deepest basso in the world"). McAdoo and the Jubilee Minstrel singers arrived in Australia in 1886, introducing such American crazes as ragtime and the cakewalk. He died during a return visit in 1899-1900.

Continue directly downhill past many graves of interest to the three way intersection where a large prominently located Celtic cross commemorates Governor of NSW **Sir Robert William Duff** (1835-95) who died after less than two

years in office. Slightly downhill to the left is a prominent dome which housed, until some years ago, a fine white marble bust of **Harry Rickards** (1845-1911), the comedian and variety theatrical entrepreneur who established the famous Tivoli Theatre circuit (see Loop Walk L4).

Return uphill, retracing part of the walk down but turn left at the first intersection. To the left is a Catholic Section, with a General Section on the right. There are interesting memorials in both, but notice those with anchors on the right. The anchor was sometimes fairly literal in commemorating a seafarer, but sometimes used as a symbol of faith.

At the next crossing of paths, turn downhill briefly to the third row to the left, and look for the distinctive headstone of **Charles Peart**, High Diving Champion of the World. Having dived off London's Tower Bridge, Peart was brought to Australia by Fitzgerald Brothers Circus. His final dive, at Redfern in 1896, was from a 14m tower into a 2.5m x 1.8m tank with less than one metre of water in it. The stunt had worked before – but this time it didn't, an ill wind causing a slight slip to the side so that he struck the side of the tank. His headstone was provided by his grieving employers, some of whom are also buried in this cemetery.

Reverse direction and now follow this path directly uphill. A short way beyond the intersection, on the left, is the family tomb of **John Sands** (1818-73), the famous stationer and printer. Behind it a pink granite broken column commemorates **Oscar Eliason**, "Dante the Great". An American magician and conjurer, Dante was accidentally shot by his orchestra leader while hunting at Dubbo. He died three days later, going out in classic show-biz style, drinking champagne and telling the others to "Keep the show going, Boys".

Continuing up the path, on the right, the fourth row back from the next major intersection, find the aisle flanked by the Lewis and Smith graves and walk up about 16 plots. The grave of **Lawrence Hargrave** (1850-1915) is on the right. Hargrave appears in Loop Walks L6 and L11, mainly in relation to his theories developed about some rock engravings. His obsession with this unlikely theory in no way detracts from the fact that his was one of the most creative minds of his era in Australia. His experiments in flight included the invention of the box kite, which proved to be the foundation of early European aviation. Recognised outside Australia, although little within, his efforts to donate his experimental models and craft to Australian museums met no interest and it was the great Deutsches Museum in Munich which finally displayed them. As a young man, he had been an adventurous explorer, mainly on expeditions to Papua New Guinea and nearby areas, and his restless spirit of enquiry and adventure never left him. In 1914, aged 64, he reported unsuccessfully for military service, but died following an operation the next year. As memorialised here, his son Geoffrey had been killed at Gallipoli two months earlier. Only one other of his seven children is mentioned here.

The cemetery's most remarkable memorial is now short way uphill - **the '98 Memorial**, with its bronze scenes from '98, mosaics, wolfhounds, axes, harps and serpents and other entwined Irish symbols. Ostensibly, it commemorates Michael Dwyer, an elusive revolutionary leader from Wicklow south of Dublin, transported to Australia with some 300-500 other rebels from the 1798 rising in Ireland. In reality, it symbolises Ireland's long history of troubles and the 'Irish Cause' in Australia, a fact outlined by the newer memorials at its rear.

Almost half a million Irish came to Australia during the nineteenth century, less than 10% as convicts, the rest driven from a land plagued by oppression and starvation (see Loop Walk L1). The Irish influence on the shape of Australian history and national character is enormous, making it perhaps the most Irish nation on earth outside Ireland itself. 'The '98' was but another episode in the Irish tragedy under English occupation. It was a tragedy of exploitation, Catholic resistance to Protestant ascendancy, famine, potato blight, and massive immigration which halved Ireland's population in the nineteenth century. The suppression of the '98 Rising sent Michael Dwyer and many others to Sydney, but once here, Dwyer, the revolutionary chosen as Sydney's Irish nationalist symbol, seems to have pursued a remarkably law-abiding and prosperous career. He became a landowner and Chief Constable of Parramatta, before being quietly buried in Sydney's Devonshire Street Cemetery. Then in 1898, with the first anniversary of the 1798 rising, and with the Devonshire Street Cemetery being closed so that Central Station could be built on the site, a public appeal raised more than £2,000 amongst Sydney's Irish community to give Dwyer a new memorial. He was re-interred at Waverley in this splendid memorial after a procession through Sydney watched by 100,000 people.

At the back of the '98 memorial other memorials have been added. One commemorates the leaders of the Dublin Easter Rising of April, 1916. This rising, which attempted to capitalise on Britain's preoccupation with WWI, was put down with great severity and its leaders executed. However, the reprisals worked against British interests, promoting Irish nationalism and leading five years later to the establishment of the Irish Free State. The ongoing symbolism of this memorial in Australia, together with the Northern Ireland troubles are illustrated by the stone added in 1992 commemorating ten IRA hunger-strikers who died in Belfast's Long Kesh Prison in the 1980s. Hopefully, if peace in Northern Ireland holds, there will be no need to add more to this continuing symbol of the Irish nationalist cause.

Take the grassy path behind the '98 and walk over the rise to the point where it meets the road just east of an intersection of paths at the art deco Stuart vault. On the left at this point is the simple family grave of **Victor Trumper** (1877-1915). Trumper (see the Federation Track) is remembered as one of Australia's finest batsmen, scoring 16,929 runs in first-class cricket, including 2,750, including 11 centuries, in one series alone against England in 1902. Still in his thirties, he developed Bright's disease in 1914 and died the following year.

Turn back uphill and follow the bitumen path keeping to the left of the Stuart vault, and about three grassed paths on the left and four graves in, is the obelisk of **Julian Francis Archibald** (1856-1919) and his wife. The headstone was maintained by *The Bulletin* magazine of which Archibald was founding editor – as well as being the source of the endowments for the Archibald Prize for portraiture and the Archibald Fountain (see Loop Walks L1 and L4). However, *The Bulletin* was shut down after 128 years in 2008, so watch this space?

Return downhill past Victor Trumper and follow the bitumen roadway to its end at a junction with a north-south bitumen path. The large Monk family vault occupies the south-west corner and the lower enclosure on the south-east is occupied by members of the **Sargent family**, who started selling one penny meat pies from their Paddington shop in 1893 and became one of the largest manufacturers of the iconic Australian meat pie.

Turn right between the Monks and the Sargents and walk up to the last path at the southern fenceline near Boundary Street. Turn left, and four grassy rows downhill and three graves in to the left is **Sarah 'Fanny' Durack** (1889-1956). Fanny learnt to swim at Coogee Baths and became a champion swimmer at a time when women were forbidden by the NSW Ladies' Amateur Swimming Association to participate in swimming competitions where men were present. In 1912 public support led to the rule being dropped so that she could compete in the Stockholm Olympics. She and Wilhelmina (Mina) Wylie, whose father ran the iconic Wylie's Baths at Coogee, were thus the first Australian women to swim in the Olympics. In the 100m freestyle – the only individual event for women – Fanny won gold (the first ever won by a woman swimmer at the Olympics) and Mina silver. Over the next six years Fanny set 12 world records and toured various parts of the world, generally with Mina. However, WWI, barriers to women competitors and, ultimately illness denied her any more Olympic competition. She retired from competition in 1921 although she remained active in coaching and sports administration.

*From here, follow the path down and out into Boundary Street to rejoin to the **Main Walk**.*

*To return to the starting point of Loop Walk L13, turn left before leaving the cemetery at Boundary Street and take the steps and elevated boardwalk back to Calga Reserve.*