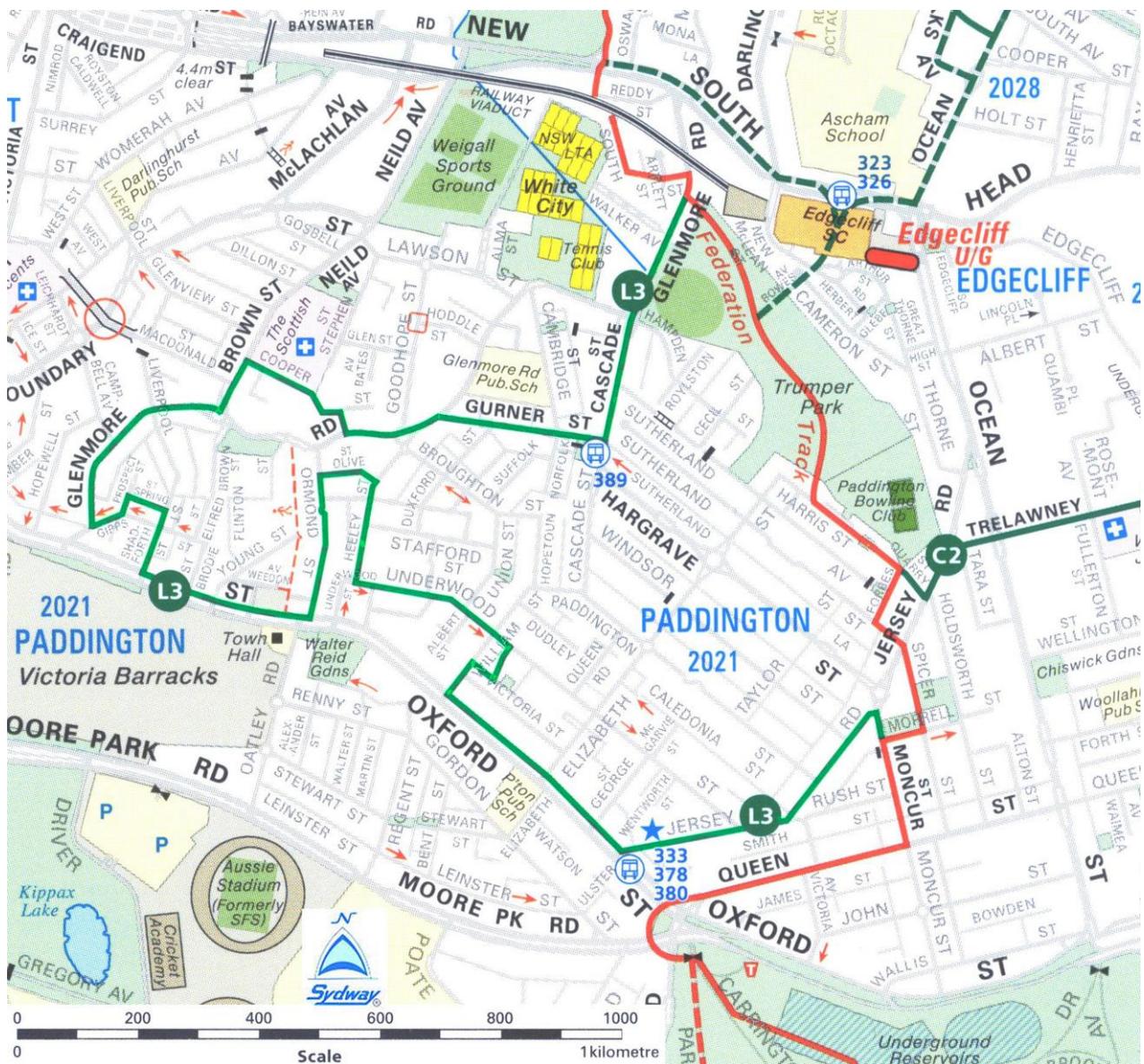


# CIRCULAR QUAY TO SOUTH HEAD AND CLOVELLY

## LOOP WALK L3: PADDINGTON



- Main Walk:** —      **Loop and Connecting Walks:** —      **Alternative Routes:** - - -
- Distance:** 4km Trumper Park to Moncur St; 4.6km complete loop (return to Trumper Park).
- Time:** 2 hours green route only; 2 hrs 20 minutes complete loop.
- Level:** Easy-moderate.
- Transport:** Edgecliff Station; New South Head Rd, Oxford St and Glenmore Rd buses.
- Connects with:** Federation Track; Connection Walk C2 (Cooper).
- Facilities:**  
*Toilets:* Trumper Park;  
*Picnic spots:* Trumper Park, Moncur Reserve;  
*Shops or hotels:* Glenmore Rd, Oxford St, Underwood St.

From a brewery, a few fine houses and a cluster of pubs and brothels about an army barracks in the sandhills, Paddington has developed into one of Sydney's jewels, the quintessential trendy terrace suburb whose characteristic ironwork has entered the language as "Paddington lace". Since the suburb's name seems to have been borrowed from a London suburb, it seems apt that the dominant architectural styles are essentially those of Victorian and Edwardian London. Yet, had the post-war planners had their way a monolithic landscape of flats would have entirely replaced

the run-down slums that were then seen as a blight on the city. Certainly the spruced up, fashionable ranks of terraces with their hint of intellectual, arty and alternative lifestyles, do not look much like the neglected, low-rent rows of the 1940s. The reason for its survival and revival was an attitudinal change about Victorian architecture and city living led firstly by the post-war European migrants who settled in the area and recognised and began to fulfill its potential, and later taken up by the local conservation group, the Paddington Society.

The Paddington Loop L3 departs from the **Federation Track** route out the front of Trumper Park in Glenmore Road, and then reconnects with the Track in Jersey Road.

*Climb Glenmore Road at first but don't follow it to the right, continuing instead straight uphill on Cascade Street. Turn right into Gurner Street and walk along it to rejoin Glenmore Road. Turn lefthere, towards the Five Ways intersection.*

Glenmore Road, which meanders from here to Oxford Street, had its beginnings as the bullock track to a highly successful distillery established above Rushcutters Bay in 1818 by Thomas Underwood, Robert Cooper, and another partner. But more of the partners later.

Cascade Street mixes traditional terraces with contemporary equivalents. If this steep pinch feels a little like climbing a waterfall, that is because this is where once the Glenmore Falls cascaded over rocks, providing a clear stream of water which ran down to Cooper's Glenmore Distillery off to the left around Harris Street near the upper part of Trumper Park. Later the distillery became a tannery owned by James Begg, who subsequently diverted the stream and created Cascade Street as part of a new 1870s subdivision. Also to the left, as the climb proceeds, is evidence of the quarrying which cut into the original escarpment. The main part of the Woollahra Quarries were towards the upper reaches of present Trumper Park.

Gurner Street, named like many for an early property owner (solicitor John Gurner) begins with a rather charming island bus-stop - once a tram stop for the double-track tramline which ran through here. This ran parallel to the Oxford Street line, both on their way to different ends of Bondi Beach. Gurner Street has interesting and attractive houses, and a number of typical inner-city corner shops - now mostly galleries or cafés. Corner shops were once the lifeblood of the inner city, averaging one to every 45 houses. Take a glance, too, left down the first Gurner Lane to one of the lovelier buildings of Glenmore Road Primary School. However, it is the typical Paddington terraces that dominate the streetscape. Most of them were built by small owner-speculators who bought enough land for perhaps half-a-dozen London-style attached houses. They built the first house and lived in it, added another and as it was rented, added another in the same style until finally their terrace met up with the next one. It was this piecemeal individualistic development process which accounts for the infinite variety in what at first glance may seem to be uniform rows of terraces.

Turning into Glenmore Road again, beyond brick St George's Church (1890s) the village crossroads-like commercial centre of Five Ways emerges. This is in every way, the classic centre of Paddington with views drifting off downhill. It is a charming mixture of shops and terraces, with its centerpiece, the classical revival style *Royal Hotel* (1888) and its iron lace verandah.

*Cross the Five Ways intersection to the harbour side of the Glenmore Road shops and locate the narrow passageway between Numbers 196 and 194 (NB This private laneway is closed in the evenings). Take this through to Cooper Street. Turn left and walk through to Brown Street, then left again up to Glenmore Road once more.*

The grocers near Five Ways was once the Five Ways Picture Palace from 1915 to 1959. The passage from Glenmore Road to Cooper Street is easy to miss, especially with Glenmore Road winding so attractively ahead. It is also a private laneway, but open for public use during approximately daylight hours. However, Cooper Street, from which the land falls steeply towards the Harbour, has a streetscape ranging from Victorian villas to bad 60s - but note the artistic and contemporary Number 8A. Towards the Brown Street end of Cooper Street, interesting buildings, century-old trees and a terraced and rainforest-like garden are the site of *The Scottish Hospital*. Developed around Judge Kinchella's mansion, *The Terraces*, which survives, the house became a private hospital before surgeon Sir Alexander MacCormick (see Loop Walk 6) gave it to the Presbyterian Church for a hospital in 1926. The poet Dorothea Mackellar (see Loop Walks 4 and 13) died here in 1968 as in 1970, did (Lady) Jessie Street (see Main Walk, Section 2). By 2007, most of the hospital had been abandoned and presumably the site will see a major redevelopment.

Brown Street has 1910 Edwardian terraces which are amongst the last terraces built in Paddington. Inner city living and attached housing had lost its appeal by then. The outbreak of Bubonic Plague in Sydney in 1900 accentuated the view that the inner suburbs were crowded, poorly built and disease-prone, while at the same time the concepts of garden suburbs and single bungalows were becoming the vogue.

At Glenmore Road once more, beyond the old tramway reservation to Macdonald Street, look back across the road to the left to the development that overtook the former Women's Hospital site. Then continue to the right, each road turning revealing more of Glenmore Road's charm. At Campbell Avenue, a larger hospital can be seen down the hill, the glass and brick of St Vincents. The road is now approaching the area where Paddington had its beginnings and despite the occasional sandstone building, Glenmore Road belongs to a later and now gentrified Paddington with fashion stores and, especially, galleries. There are more galleries in Paddington than anywhere else in Sydney and they increase as Oxford Street approaches. The shops and homes - terraces, villas and the rare mansion (Number 96) - of Glenmore Road had more substance and style from their beginning.

*Turn left into Gipps Street and explore it and nearby Prospect, Spring and Shadforth Streets before following Shadforth Street out to Oxford Street opposite Victoria Barracks.*

Now renamed *Durty Nelly's*, the decorative former *Rose and Crown Hotel* (1890) belongs to a later era than the original military pubs which grew up around here in the 1840s. These had names like The Rifle Butts and the Cross Guns, but this area, close to Victoria Barracks, is the part of Paddington which was earliest to develop. Gipps Prospect, Spring and Shadforth Streets constitute the old village of Paddington, subdivided from an earlier estate called Paddington when Victoria Barracks were established. This little village was well established by the 1850s but beyond it 85% of what is now Paddington was still rocky hillsides, scrub or sandhills. Many of the stone and sandstock brick cottages and terraces crammed into these little streets were built by the same contractors and stonemasons who built the Barracks and reflect the styles of their London, North Country, Irish and Scots origins. They housed the workers and craftsmen, shopkeepers and blacksmiths, together with the pubs and prostitutes never far from a barracks.

Gipps Street has a number of interesting cottages, and those on the corner into Prospect Street (Numbers 1 and 3) are amongst the earliest cottages left in Paddington (1840s). Until recently, their original shingles remained under iron roofs and inside, the floors were dirt. They, too, would have originally housed workers building the Barracks - in fact quite large families together with the odd lodger crowded together in these miniscule two and four roomed houses. Spring Street reveals a lovely rise of single-storey terraces, as well as more of the tiny cottages.

Shadforth Street crosses Gipps Street past a former corner store with faded old advertising, and leads to Oxford Street across from the elegant entrance archway and Georgian architecture of Victoria Barracks.

Once the premier barracks of British and colonial troops in Sydney, Victoria Barracks is guarded now, ironically, by private security rather than the redcoats or khaki guards of the not so distant past.

The Barracks were the original focus and reason for the expansion of early Paddington. Sydney's first major military barracks had been at Wynyard Square and in 1848 the British 11th (North Devonshire) Regiment of Foot left them with considerable reluctance to march out to what then seemed an isolated site far from town. Locating the barracks out of town was another sign that the colony was leaving behind its early colonial, military phase and troops were no longer playing a major part in keeping law and order. The 29 acre (11.7 ha) site had also been chosen because it had water (from Busby's bore), suitable stone on site and was on the presumed advance line from the east that an attacker might use. Ultimately the only attack it came under was from the adjacent sandhills which sent a stream of irritating flying sand causing eye diseases amongst the soldiers.

Designed as a model of Georgian Regency simplicity by Lieutenant Colonel George Barney to house 40 officers and 700 men, work began on the Barracks in February 1841 by a mixture of convict labour, contractors and army engineers, and was completed in 1849. The Officers' Quarters (near the Town Hall) were completed first followed by the 220 metre long main barrack block.

Five different British regiments occupied the Barracks through the years until British troops were finally withdrawn from NSW in 1870. The NSW units which followed were small and mostly volunteers (artillery and rifles), so it wasn't fully occupied again until around the Boer War. After Federation, the barracks were transferred to the Commonwealth and in WWs I and II it became the Army's administrative headquarters. Since then it has been HQ 2nd Military District and Land HQ. It remains one of Sydney's largest and most impressive intact heritage sites.

The Barracks were also responsible for the first wave of more intense settlement in the area, but in later years, Paddington worthies resented the Barracks as an eyesore occupying valuable land. A 1910 Paddington Council publication described the Barracks as taking "up considerable portion of the municipality's area ... no rates are paid ... resumed and subdivided it would bring in an immense revenue to the Council. It occupies a choice position ...".

The Barracks sit atop a section of Busby's Bore, a convict-built tunnel which pumped 2 million gallons of water each day from the Lachlan Swamps to a stand pipe at Hyde Park. It was Sydney's main water supply between 1837 and 1859. The bore, designed by engineer John Busby, included 28 shafts and wells, two of which are within the barracks area. The deepest (more than 25 metres) has been restored and can be viewed. Military prisoners raised the water each day using windlasses and iron buckets.

Most weeks, guided tours of the Barracks commence at 10.00am on Thursdays, and the barracks and military museum are open 10am-3:00pm on Sundays.

*Continue uphill on Oxford Street to Ormond Street.*

The large *Paddington Green* development to the left down Young Street was the site of the Royal Hospital for Women, the hospital where a significant percentage of Sydneysiders entered the world between 1901 and 1997. Notice the Royal Benevolent Society Offices. This Australia's oldest charity, founded in 1813, and was owner-operator of the Hospital until it was passed over to the state government in the 1990s. The Hospital was closed in 1997, its operations transferred to the Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick, and the site developed for public housing by the Stockland Property Trust.

Further uphill, the wall of Victoria Barracks ends at the 1891 Town Hall which stands on the opposite side of the road from the 1885 Post Office. Both buildings represent Paddington at its Victorian peak when steam trams puffed along Oxford Street. In the preceding twenty years Paddington had exploded into a full-sized suburb. Almost 4,000 houses, mostly terraces, had been built and the population had increased seven-fold to more than 18,000. By that time NSW's third wealthiest municipality, it needed a suitably grand Town Hall. The hall was designed, after an international competition, by a local architect, J.E. Kemp, in the popular Classical Revival style graced by a 107 foot high clock tower. But within two more decades of its opening, fashionable home-makers were looking towards new suburbs further out with single dwellings on their own blocks, and Paddington had begun a slide to slum status not arrested until the end of the 1950s. In the course of this, even the municipality disappeared, annexed by the City of Sydney in 1949. In 1967 most of the suburb became part of Woollahra Municipality, but the Town Hall and its side of Oxford Street remain part of Sydney.

On Oxford St, immediately across Oatley Rd from the Town Hall, is the interesting Paddington Reservoir park. The reservoir was one of Sydney's first, built in 1866 and completed in 1877, but was only in use until 1899 when it was replaced by the larger Centennial Park reservoirs. After closure, the building was used as a store and garage and in the 1930s an underground service station was created in it, with the top being used as a park. However, that came to an end in the 1990s when most of the roof fell in. In 2008, it reopened as a creative new sunken park, with much of the original arches and features preserved. The story is told more fully on the excellent interpretive signage.

Back across Oxford St and immediately across Ormond St, is one of the oldest, most significant and magnificent dwellings in Paddington, *Juniper Hall*. The first major dwellings in Paddington were such villas on large estates. The estates were later subdivided into the present terraced streets, and this is probably the oldest surviving villa in Australia. Its name comes from the shrub whose berry was used to make gin and therefore made the fortune that made the house. "Robert the Large" Cooper, a former London publican, had been transported for smuggling. With two partners in 1818 he established the successful Glenmore distillery above Rushcutters Bay, mentioned earlier. Later, selling out his interest in the Glenmore Distillery he established another one at Blackfriars on what is now Broadway, which later became the largest centre of brewing in Sydney. Larger than life in most matters, he promised his third wife, Sarah (mother of 14 of his 28 children), the finest house in Sydney, a promise he kept here in 1824. Later owned by Judge Kinchella and renamed *Ormond House*, it eventually became institutions or flats and even disappeared behind a row of shops before the National Trust saved it from redevelopment in 1984 and restored it. It became, briefly, a Museum of Childhood, but, following National Trust financial problems, was commercially leased.

*Turn left down Ormond Street, then right at Olive Street and back uphill on Heeley Street to Underwood Street.*

Ormond Street has some grand Victorian terraces. Between the flats at 56A and 56B notice the odd little remnant of another of the areas' mansions, *Engelhurst* (1835), designed by John Verge for Frederick Hely, Supervisor of Convicts,

but replaced by apartments in the 1920s. No 45, on the opposite side, was the home of composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks (1912-90). She bequeathed it to the state as a residence for visiting overseas or Australian composers.

Downhill, taking Olive Street through to the Heeley Street corner, note *Olive Bank Villa* on the downhill side, now part of a kindergarten. This colonial style house, completed in 1869 for John Begg, was the last Paddington mansion built before wholesale terrace-based subdivision of the suburb began.

At this point, the Five Ways intersection is just a few more steps downhill - however, follow Heeley Street uphill past fine pre-1890s terraces to Underwood Street. The rear of Juniper Hall becomes visible, together with - closer to the right facing the end of Underwood Street, is a two storey cottage (*Ormond Lodge*) also built by Robert Cooper as his considerably more modest residence when debts and the 1840s depression forced him out of Juniper Hall.

*Follow Underwood Street as far as William Street and the London Tavern.*

Following Underwood Street left, immediately beyond Bennetts Grove Avenue is a row of elegant, single storey Georgian terraces that are amongst Paddington's earliest. Thomas Underwood was one of Cooper's distillery partners and these were built on his estate in the 1840s to accommodate the families of officers from Victoria Barracks. Underwood called his 100 acre subdivision of 1839, "Paddington" after the London borough. Continue up Underwood passing a rich Paddington mix of architectural styles, and cross William Street to the 1875 *London Tavern*.

*Opposite the easterly end of the London Tavern, take the narrow dunny lane leading in the direction of Oxford Street to Cooks Paddock. In Victoria Street, turn right, then left at William and then left again into Oxford Street.*

Like most inner city suburbs, Paddington was well served with 'dunny lanes', built to provide access to backyard toilets for the night soil collectors. The advent of sewerage moved the toilets inside the houses but frequently the little outhouses against the back fences have survived and been put to other uses. Fifty metres along the dunny lane from Underwood Street, a wonderfully concealed village green opens up, surrounded by house backs. This was once the horse paddock for the Clydesdales of James Cook's bakery - by 1900 one of the largest in Sydney. This James Cook was no relation to the explorer, but that did not prevent him using the famous sea captain as his trade mark.

Moving via William Street to Oxford Street, part of the continuous ribbon of interesting shops is met which reflect the character of the suburb. This shopping centre was well-established by the 1890s and is not much changed above the awnings. If it is Saturday, the 1877 Uniting Church across the road will be hosting the irresistible Paddington Bazaar. Next door to it is Paddington Public School, on this site since 1856, although its current buildings are a little later in origin. Opposite Jersey Road is the Romanesque St Francis of Assisi Church (1890-1917) while a little further along is St Matthias (1861) with turrets added later by Edmund Blacket. Beyond again is its one-time Rectory (1873).

*Turn left into Jersey Road, following it through including its leftwards bend at Rush Street, before completing the walk with a right turn at Moncur Street.*

Jersey Road was originally called Point Piper Road but was renamed after a Governor, not a cow. The 1888 Victorian Classical Police Station-Courthouse designed by James Barnet comes up on the left. Cross over, taking a look back to the start of the street to see how it focuses on St Francis of Assisi's rose window. A little way further up Jersey Road, is the decorative Number 17, *Westbourne*, built in 1868 for a Reverend John West who had once been a *Sydney Morning Herald* Editor. The next three of the Jersey Road mansions (Numbers 19, 21 and 23) culminate in *Runnymede*, elegant in its garden setting. There are other houses - fine terraces such as Numbers 41-47, and others which uphold the elegance of this street.

Jersey Road veers left at the pleasing space created at the intersection with Rush Street. Paddington's first gallery was established on this corner by Rudy Komon in 1958, signaling an important change of direction for the suburb. Beyond *Castle Terrace* (Number 91) and its neighbours, down at the Moncur Street corner stands the former Woollahra Congregational Church (architect Benjamin Backhouse, 1877). In 1989 it was burnt out and stood like a small ruined monastery for a number of years while an attempt was made to turn it into an arts centre. It was resold in 1994 and converted into apartments.

At Moncur Street the **Federation Track** is rejoined on its way towards Queen Street and Centennial Park.

*However, to return to the starting point of Loop Walk L3, turn left into Moncur Reserve or Morrell St.*

*From Morrell St, turn left into Spicer St, then cross Jersey Rd again into Sutherland St, turning right at Forbes St, following it through to its junction with Quarry and Harris Sts.*

Spicer Street and Moncur Reserve, despite modernization, have a horse and cart / backstreet feel of early Paddington. When crossing Jersey Rd, note the Lord Dudley Hotel to the right on the corner with Quarry St, should a stop be needed. 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. The Forbes / Quarry intersection is easy to pick up again downhill. However, if proceeding along short, leafy Forbes St instead, note the sandstone wall at Quarry Street - a reminder that this area was the site of the former Woollahra Municipal Quarry. Further evidence of quarrying can soon be seen in the changes in street level in Harris Street.

*From Forbes St, turn left and follow Harris St downhill to a set of steps, rejoining Harris at the lower level. Immediately past No 18 turn right and take the path into Trumper Park. Follow the track at any of its levels, staying within the park area to emerge downhill into the cricket ground.*

Harris St leads downhill past groups of terraces, including some excellent examples of the three-storey 1890s Victorian filligree style. Remarkably, the small hedged-in park just before the Harris Street steps was one of the many locations of the infamous gambling icon, 'Thommo's Two-up School'.

Down the steps, in an atmospheric hollow partially created by quarrying, old wooden cottages mingle with later developments in Harris St.

The pathway turning into the upper section of Trumper Park leads past the backs of houses and apartments over a heavily quarried area of regenerated bushland hillside, a rare oasis in this area, with a quite charming wood and wetland setting, and even with its own small mossy pond. Walking along, there are moments when it is hard to believe that this is still Paddington.

Take lower or higher level tracks through the bushland. At the highest level path, there is a connection through the back of terrace houses and tiny *Bowes Avenue via Cameron and New Mclean Streets to the Edgecliff Centre and Edgecliff Station.*

*Cross Trumper Park near the cricket ground to emerge at Glenmore Rod and the point at which Loop Walk L3 departed from the Federation Track.*

On the rise above the cricket ground stands a large Moreton Bay fig tree known as the 'Trumpalar' tree, which became the centerpiece of the children's book, *The Riddle of the Trumpalar* by Judy Bernard Waite (Patricia Bernard). And the 'riddle'? Well, according to the book the tree can be a window into time, so care should be taken in its vicinity.

With its village-like Edwardian oval, Trumper Park cricket ground, is an attractive place, even without the baggy whites out on the field. This level of the park was part of the old swamp back from Rushcutters Bay and White City, fed by streams down from Paddington. Reclaimed, it was originally called Hampden Park after Viscount Hampden, Governor of NSW 1895-99, but was renamed in 1931 after the Paddington cricketing sensation, Victor Trumper (1877-1915), the greatest Australian batsman before Bradman. Trumper scored 16,929 runs in first class cricket, including 2,750 against England in the 1902 test series. In one first grade match he made 50 runs in less than 6 minutes. Trumper died of Bright's Disease and is buried in Waverley Cemetery (see Loop Walk L13). Being an oval, Trumper Park also suits Australian Rules football, and winter weekends usually see games here.