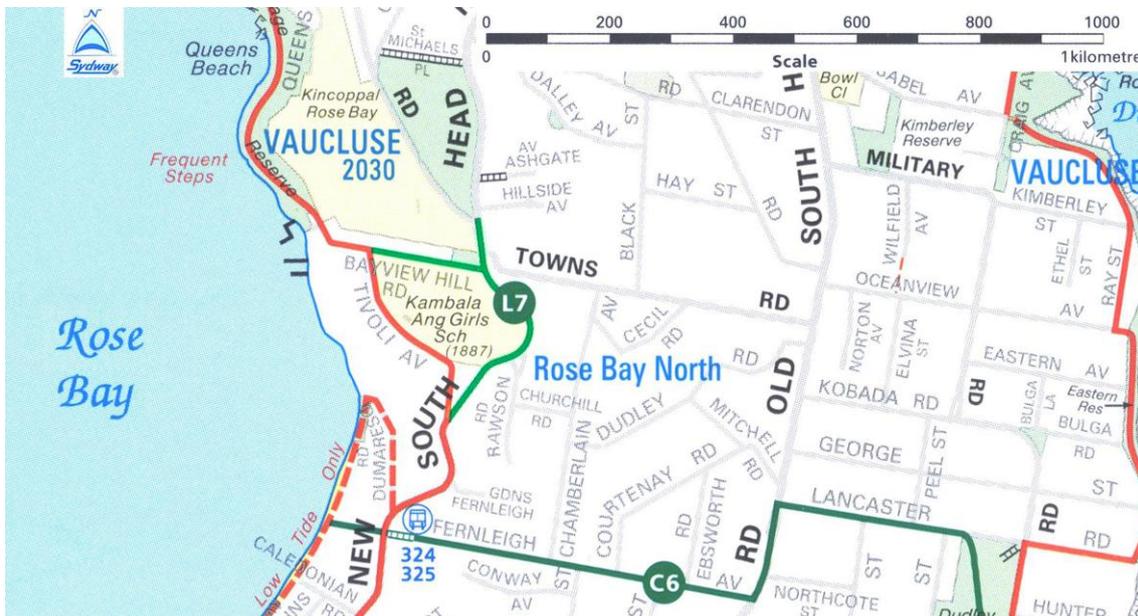


## CIRCULAR QUAY TO SOUTH HEAD AND CLOVELLY

### LOOP WALK L7: HEARTBREAK HILL



<b>Main Walk:</b>	<span style="color: red;">—</span>	<b>Loop and Connecting Walks:</b>	<span style="color: green;">—</span>	<b>Alternative Routes:</b>	<span style="color: red;">- - -</span>
<b>Distance:</b>	0.7km Tivoli Av to Tivoli Av; 1km complete loop (return to Tivoli / New Sth Head Rd intersection)				
<b>Time:</b>	15 mins green route only; 20 minutes complete loop.				
<b>Level:</b>	Steep, some steps.				
<b>Transport:</b>	New South Head Rd buses.				
<b>Connects with:</b>	Main Walk.				
<b>Facilities:</b>	None.				

This short loop from the Main Route is a steeper alternative above Rose Bay to access the Hermitage Reserve. Its name comes from its status in the classic City-to-Surf Race which, on a Sunday in mid-August, brings tens of thousands of runners, walkers and shufflers struggling up it in the hope of surviving long enough to make the largely downhill run the rest of the way to Bondi Beach. The race began in 1970 and the incredibly athletic can cover the 14 km course in little more than 40 minutes. Not many of them, or even the huge majority struggling up long after them, have the energy to take in the magnificent view and the architecture but a calmer approach gives that opportunity.

'Heartbreak' Hill is an obvious enough nickname, although it has a curious coincidental connection with the first European to possess the area, whose name was Breakwell.

*At Tivoli Avenue from the Main Walk continue up New South Head Road to Bayview Hill Road and a few metres beyond to the lookout. From there, return to Bayview Hill Road and follow it downhill to reconnect with the Main Walk at Tivoli Avenue.*

On the Rose Bay side of Bayview Hill Road, are the buildings and sports fields of *Kambala*, an Anglican Girls' School. The school is based around a house originally known as *Tivoli*. The name may have been there before the house, the first European owner being (in 1812) Thomas (or Samuel?) Breakwell who came from County Cork, Ireland, supposedly near a village called Tivoli, now part of Cork City. Breakwell was described as a 'dealer' (presumably without the connotations the term can now have) and was associated with Vacluse's affluent convict owner, Sir Henry Browne-Hays (see Connection Walk C7). A later owner was Governor Darling's brother-in-law and Alexander Macleay's (Elizabeth Bay House

– see Main Walk Section 1) son-in-law, the well-connected Captain William Dumaresq. An engineer, Dumaresq built a stone cottage here about 1842, which retained the name *Tivoli*. In the 1880s the ubiquitous J. Horbury Hunt, architect to this entire region it sometimes seems, redesigned it for a new owner, Maurice (or Morrice?) Black. In 1912 Miss Gurney and Mademoiselle Soubbeiran moved their *Kambala* school to the property from Bellevue Hill and *Tivoli* was renamed accordingly. The school went up for sale in 1923 and with the assistance of prominent locals such as Anthony Hordern re-emerged as a Church of England Girls School. The house survives – much altered – amidst the other modest structures that make up the school.

Before reaching Bayview Hill Rd, look across New South Head Road to the footpath opposite (directly under the number for No 899) for a rare sight now in Sydney, a spring. Known as Emma's Well, it flows into a horse trough provided by a local benefactor for the benefit of horses (and humans) struggling up the hill from Rose Bay. The well may have been named after a local Aboriginal woman, Emma Collins. A rush across the road, however, at this point is not recommended.

Enjoy the stunning harbour view from the lookout immediately beyond Bayview Hill Road. It is often patronized by tourist buses and for good reason. From here the Harbour spreads dramatically ahead between the twists and turns of the opposing shorelines down to the arch of the bridge, with Rose Bay and its frequent buzz of float planes to the left, and the Hermitage Foreshore stretching ahead to Nielsen Park.

Clearly dominating the scenery closer to hand to the right, though, are the splendid buildings of the Catholic girls school, Kincoppal / Convent of the Sacred Heart. This magnificent Sacred Heart Catholic private school was also a Horbury Hunt design. In 1880 Hunt redesigned the original house on the site, *Claremont*, which had been built for George Thorne in 1852. Then in 1882 the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a French order, leased the house as a convent, together with 7 hectares of land. Hunt was again commissioned, this time to build the main five-storey school structure in 1884-88, and then once more in 1897 to design the great Chapel, perhaps his finest work. The final structure, extended several times since, is one of the most dramatic and prominently located buildings in Sydney. The Order's school, *Kincoppal*, moved here in 1970 (see Loop Walk L2).

John Horbury Hunt (1838-1904), was a Canadian, trained and working in Boston when the American Civil War broke out. Architectural commissions dried up so Hunt headed for India. During a Sydney stopover, Colonial Architect, James Barnet, persuaded him to stay on and so he worked for Edmund Blacket until branching out on his own in 1869. His work was fresh and original, making strong use of natural materials, but his personality was eccentric and challenging and he was rarely not in a dispute somewhere. Hunt, who also lived nearby at Rose Bay (see Main Walk, Section 2), saw his business collapse in the 1890s depression and he died, a poverty-stricken recluse, of Bright's Disease in 1904. He is buried almost anonymously in South Head Cemetery (see Loop Walk L10).

Bayview Hill Road leads steeply down to reconnect with the main walk at Tivoli Avenue.

*The Main Walk comes down Tivoli Avenue to its junction with Bayview Hill Road where Loop Walk L7 rejoins. To continue on the Main Walk, follow Bayview downhill to the entrance to the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve and Walk which leads all the way around to Nielsen Park and Shark Beach.*

***To return to the start of Loop Walk L7, turn left instead and follow Tivoli Av back to New South Head Rd.***

At Tivoli Avenue the harbour views become Harbour glimpses but there is some interesting architecture and a different view of *Kambala* as well as of Sacred Heart / Rose Bay Convent looming castle-like from the heights.