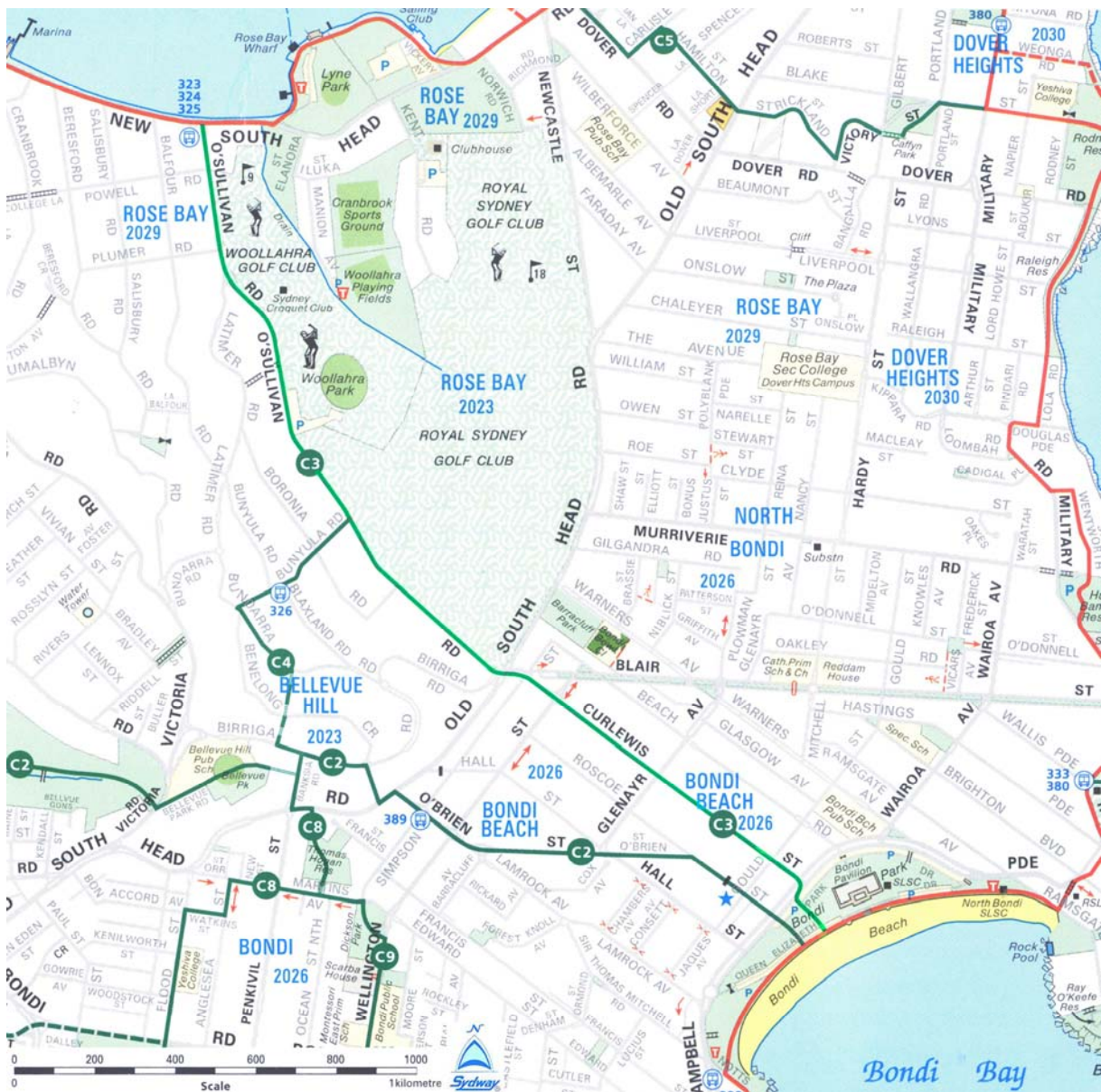


# CIRCULAR QUAY TO SOUTH HEAD AND CLOVELLY

## CONNECTING WALK C3: BONDI

### ROSE BAY TO BONDI BEACH



- |                       |   |                                   |                                      |                            |  |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <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>      | 2.7km.  |                                   |                                      |                            |  |
| <b>Time:</b>          | 45 mins.  |                                   |                                      |                            |  |
| <b>Level:</b>         | Easy.   |                                   |                                      |                            |  |
| <b>Transport:</b>     | Rose Bay Ferry; Rose Bay and Bondi buses.   |                                   |                                      |                            |  |
| <b>Connects with:</b> | Main Walk (at Rose Bay and Bondi); Connection Walk C4 (Bellevue).   |                                   |                                      |                            |  |
| <b>Facilities:</b>    | <i>Toilets:</i> Lyne Park, Bondi Beach;<br><i>Picnic spots:</i> Lyne Park, Bondi Beach;<br><i>Shops or hotels:</i> Old South Head Rd, Bondi; Glenayre Av, Bondi; Bondi Beach. |                                   |                                      |                            |  |

This route cuts away from the Main Walk at Rose Bay to reconnect with it at Bondi, offering either a short cut or a possible circular walks by including Connection Walks C2 or, further north, C5 or C6. About one third of the way

along, Connection Walk C4 also connects, linking back to Bellevue Hill and route C2 – although C4 is far better walked downhill than up.

This walk is remarkable for the fact that it cuts through the hilly eastern suburbs from the Harbour at Rose Bay to the ocean at Bondi Beach along a completely level route, most of which is a pleasant park-side stroll beneath shady fig trees alongside golf greens. It offers the option of going to Bondi Beach by combining a Rose Bay ferry with an easy stroll. With a modest rise in sea levels, this route could become the channel separating the new island of Vacluse-Watsons Bay-Dover Heights from the Sydney mainland.

Most of the area was, in fact, marshy wetland when Europeans arrived, but it was the construction of the Bondi Ocean Outfall Sewer from the 1870s on which changed all that. A side drain was cut from Bondi back to Rose Bay to get rid of seepage in the tunnels and it drained the marshes. There are melaleucas (paper barks) and other dune scrub on the edges of the golf course which are remnant from the swamp. For the Aboriginal occupants, the low-lying area was a rich and apparently fiercely contested food source, the indigenous name of the area (retained in a park east of the Golf Course) being 'Pannerong', meaning 'blood'. The flat land also later attracted Chinese market gardens which eventually disappeared under the expansion of golf courses.

*From the Main Route at Rose Bay, leave New South Head Road just before the start of the Woollahra Golf Club and turn right up O'Sullivan Road, walking on the left hand side beneath the trees until reaching the Old South Head Road.*

From this walk it is not easy to catch more than a glimpse of the grand, arts and crafts-like clubhouse of the Royal Sydney Golf Club, and, in fact, the golf course first encountered is the Woollahra Golf Club. However, golf hereabouts begins with the Royal Sydney. Around 1893, the club (not yet 'Royal') constructed its first 9 hole course in the area and then an 18 hole course on the current site by 1897. The present club house is the sixth - the first five short-lived ones suffering from inadequacy or misadventure. It was completed in 1922, although substantially altered since. Given its location, it naturally attracted golfers from the increasingly well-to-do surrounding hillsides, and still does as a glance at the car park would confirm. Possibly Royal Sydney's greens have seen more business deals done than many of Sydney's boardrooms put together. They have also had their share of human dramas. Sir James Oswald Fairfax, inhabitant of Bellevue Hill and grandson of *Sydney Morning Herald* founder, John Fairfax, died while playing on the course in 1928.

The first part of the walk is alongside Woollahra Golf Club, constructed by 1931 by Woolahara Council on 13 hectares of land acquired as a park in 1923, when the last of the Chinese market gardeners were moved off. The walk is immediately pleasant and a few hundred metres along is an appealing area across the road around Latimer and Plumer Roads, a mostly brick art deco area of flats, cafes and shops which always seems lively.

Further along is the entrance to the left into Woollahra Oval, where the Golf Club, Croquet Club (there since 1934) and the Eastern Suburbs Rugby Union Club all have their premises and grounds. Soon afterwards, Woollahra Park ends and the far larger Royal Sydney Golf Club fairways hook into the side of O'Sullivan Road. The walk continues under the trees.

*About 300m past Woollahra Park entrance, Bunyula Road and Connection Walk C4 meet from the right en route to Bellevue Hill itself.*

O'Sullivan Road meets Old South Head Road at a complex intersection with a scattering of shops. Most notable, however, are the large and attractive Spanish Mission style *Broadway Garage and Flats*, complete with barley twist columns. 'Hollywood' might have been a better name for them.

*Cross Old South Head Road to Curlewis Street, which almost immediately veers right away from Blair Street. Follow Curlewis to Bondi Beach.*

Wide Blair Street is the route of the sewer line to the Bondi outfall, hence its central park-like verge under which the sewer runs.

Curlewis Street, the route to Bondi Beach, is named for a very interesting family. The actual naming is after Frederick Charles Curlewis, who was one of the nineteenth century owners of the Bondi Estate, having married into the O'Brien family (see Connection C2). His son, Herbert, was born at Bondi in 1869, and studied at Sydney University, becoming a lawyer, with something of both an early literary and romantic streak. In 1906 he published *The Mirror of Justice*

which offered insights into the law and courtroom for non-legal readers. Interested in mechanics, history and fluent in Italian, he became a judge of the Industrial Arbitration Court in 1917 and a District Court Judge in 1928. Along the way, as a student, he wooed and won the hand of writer Ethel Turner and after a lengthy, mostly secret, engagement, they married in 1896. Three years before, Turner had published one of the most successful Australian children's books of all time, *Seven Little Australians*, and went on to write 39 more books, as well as having two children, Jean in 1898 and Adrian in 1901. The family moved to Mosman but the Bondi connections continued, and perhaps the street should have been named (or re-named) after Adrian who became a surfer of some note. In 1923 there is a record of him purchasing a second-hand 32kg surf board advertised as "owner in hospital owing to using same". Adrian survived the surf and Sydney University Law School, and was called to the bar in 1927. He followed his father to become a District Court Judge (retiring in 1971) and subsequently, Sir Adrian Curlewis. He was President of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia from 1933 to 1974, Life Governor from 1974 and President of the International Council of Surf Life Saving 1956-73. During WWII, he was captured by the Japanese with the Australian 8<sup>th</sup> Division in Singapore and, since he was after all the Surf Life Saving Association President, he helped set up a surf club in Changi POW Camp.

Curlewis Street is mostly a mix of flats, the older ones often art deco or international style – a reminder that Bondi was one of the first areas in Sydney where there were large numbers of flats to dwell in. Typical of the International (or P&O) style are the brick deco group on the right at Numbers 63-71 with their rounded balconies.

There is a small outbreak of shops and cafe society at the Glenayr Avenue crossing before the final run down to Campbell Parade. The walk finishes on the corner occupied by the famous *Hotel Bondi*, there since 1920 and very ambitious for its time, pretty much heralding the development and popularity of Bondi which was about to emerge.

The **Main Walk** is rejoined across Campbell Parade.