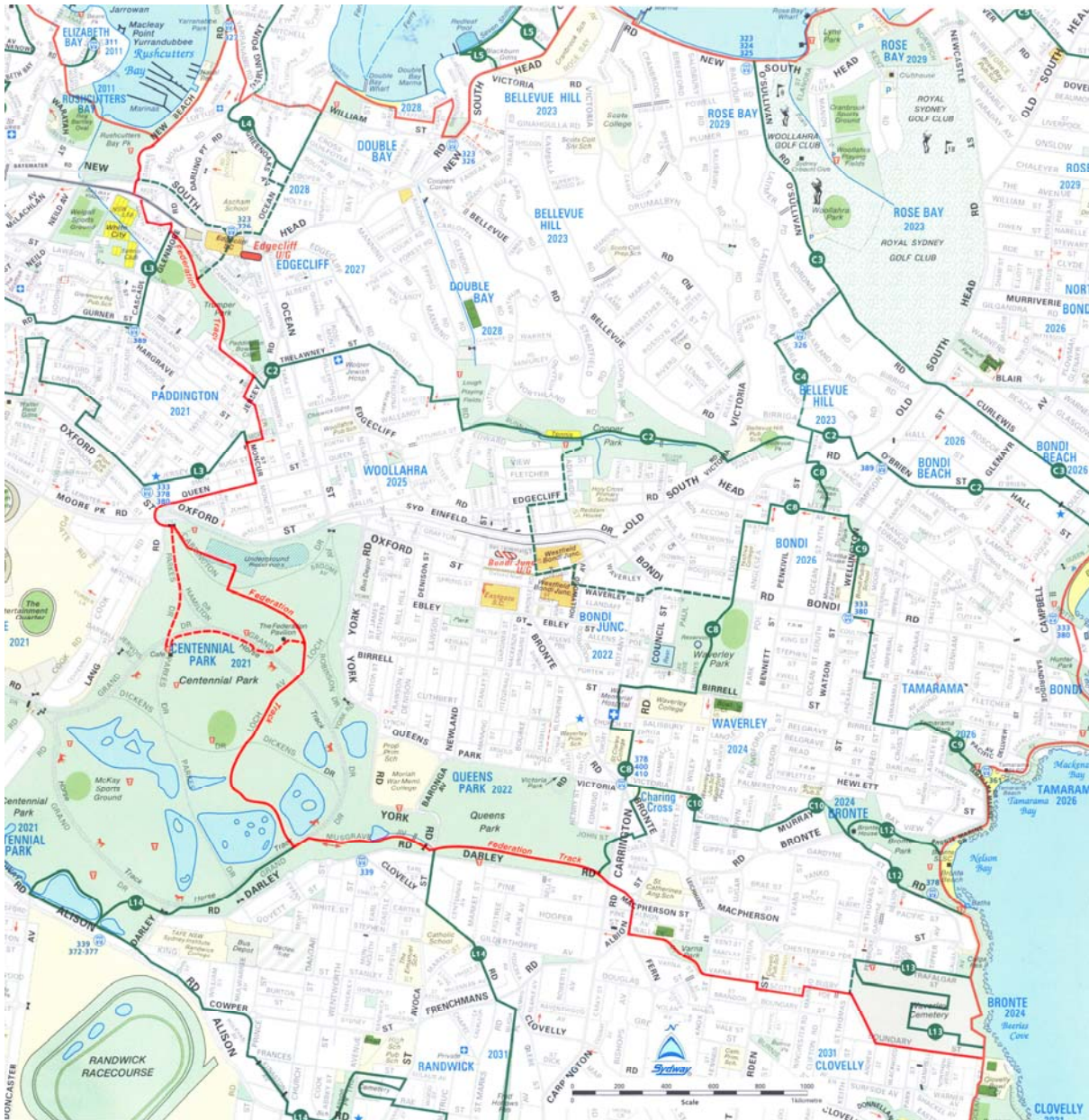


# CIRCULAR QUAY TO SOUTH HEAD AND CLOVELLY FEDERATION TRACK RUSHCUTTERS BAY TO WAVERLEY CEMETERY



**Main Walk and Federation Track:** —————  
**Loop and Connecting Walks:** —————

**Alternative Routes:** - - - - -

**Distance:** 7km.

**Time:** 3 hours.

**Level:** Easy-moderate; some steps.

**Transport:** Edgecliff Station; New South Head Rd, Oxford St, Bronte and Clovelly buses.

**Connects with:** Main Walk (Rushcutters Bay and Waverley Cemetery); Loops L3 (Paddington), L13 (Waverley Cemetery) and L14 (Randwick); Connection Walks C2 (Cooper) and C8 (Charing Cross).

**Facilities:** *Toilets:* Rushcutters Bay Park; Trumper Park, Centennial Park, Queens Park, Waverley Cemetery;

*Picnic spots:* Rushcutters Bay Park; Trumper Park, Centennial Park, Queens Park; Burrows Park;  
*Shops or hotels:* Rushcutters Bay Park; Edgecliff; Quarry and Jersey Rds, Woollahra; Moncur and Queens Sts, Woollahra; Oxford St, Paddington; Centennial Park; Arden and Varna Sts corner, Clovelly.

The **Federation Track** is a walk project linking Sydney's Macquarie Place and the Federation Pavilion in Centennial Park, to the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton Gardens, Melbourne. As with many such projects including the whole of this Walking Coastal Sydney series, it is largely the work of dedicated amateurs and volunteers. It was inspired and led by Bill Avery from the 1990s onward, and the section of the route featured here was developed by Leigh Shearer-Heriot. Both Bill and Leigh are major contributors to the development of the maps and notes for the *Walking Coastal Sydney* series. Bill Avery's book, *Federation Track Guide: Stage One, Circular Quay to Stanwell Park*, was published by Kangaroo Press in 1996 and is still available. The notes that follow supplement the book.

Like the *Main Walk*, the *Federation Track* is marked in solid red on the map.

*This section of the Federation Track begins at Rushcutters Bay Park and follows New Beach Road up to the New South Head Road. Cross over at the lights and enter Mahoney Lane, walking under the rail viaduct and then left up to South Street. Follow this around to Glenmore Road and cross to the northern end of Trumper Park.*

Across the New South Head Road lights, little Mahoney Lane is straight ahead, leading quickly to the viaduct of the Eastern Suburbs Railway. Pause under the viaduct to look around. In sporting terms, this is hallowed ground. The NSW Lawn Tennis Association's White City courts opened here in 1922. The low lying, swampy area was Chinese market gardens before WWI, which were replaced by an elaborate but short-lived amusement park (1913-16) called 'White City'. It featured white domes and cupolas above a 'white city' of canals, lakes, fountains, Japanese village, and amusements such as roller-skating, rides, illusions and other entertainments. The tennis complex continued with the name 'White City' and became the centre of Sydney tennis, hosting such events as the Australian Open and Davis Cup. The 1954 Davis Cup Finals attracted a record crowd of 25,000 into the main stadium. However, with the move of Tennis NSW to Olympic Park by 2000, the 4.5ha site was leased to the tennis club but its future immediately became doubtful and redevelopment into housing was mooted (and met with stout resistance). In 2004, the western half of the site was sold to Sydney Grammar School which had long occupied most of it anyway, and will be redeveloped by them. The remaining 28 court site came under the complex joint ownership of Sydney Grammar (majority owner) and the Jewish sporting association, Maccabi. Then enter tennis legend, John Alexander (eventually backed by Walker Corporation), with a plan for a sporting complex – after which the whole future of the site became very complex indeed. Some sort of tennis club will most likely remain here but it is all still very much in play.

Changes have already overwhelmed the other sporting icon which once 'graced' the area of the viaduct to the west of Mahoney Lane. In 1908 part of the Chinese market gardens were leased by Hugh Macintosh who built a temporary wooden-fenced boxing Stadium there. A world heavyweight title bout was held on the site between title holder, Canadian Tommy Burns and Bill Squires, Burns retaining his title. The venue proved successful and later in the year Macintosh arranged another world title bout between Burns and, this time, black American fighter, Jack Johnson. Sixteen thousand men (and one woman, apparently) crammed into the open space on (with remarkable aptness) Boxing Day 1908. When Johnson saw the size of the crowd he supposedly demanded a larger fee (Burns was getting four times as much as him) and Macintosh forced him into the ring at gunpoint. Within six seconds Johnson had decked Burns but the bout dragged on until the 14<sup>th</sup> round when the police finally stopped the fight. Johnson had become the first black man to win a boxing world title. That was a sensation anyway, but in racist white Australia c1908, it was a serious sensation with very mixed reactions.

The site was taken over by an all-rounder athlete who had represented Australia in three different sports, and who was also a soldier-adventurer-showman-film star and Hollywood stuntman, Reginald 'Snowy' Baker. Snowy's life cries out for a film in itself. Baker and his brother had a tin stadium built, and soon after developed a consortium called Stadiums Ltd which was dominated by the infamous Melbourne businessman-gambler, John Wren. Until the 1970s, with a few wartime interruptions, 'The Stadium' was Sydney's major boxing venue. One of the earliest attractions was Les Darcy, and one of the last, Jimmy Carruthers (see Main Walk, Section 1). From

1956, the Stadium also became a performance venue in a Sydney otherwise completely lacking in Opera Houses and Entertainment Centres capable of seating large audiences. Artists such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jnr, Johnny O'Keefe, Bob Dylan and The Beatles (in 1964) performed there before it was demolished in 1973 for the construction of the Eastern Suburbs Railway viaduct.

Construction of the Eastern Suburbs railway became a long-standing political joke, with bursts of activity around or just after election times and then fading away again. Large excavations in the city were partly completed, some before WWII when they served as military operations centres, but it was the 1976 state election which made the difference, with new Premier Neville Wran actually carrying out his election commitment and completing the railway (admittedly in a truncated version) by 1979. Beyond the Eastern Suburbs Railway viaduct, Glenmore Road continues with a mix of brick cottages, terraces and contemporary buildings, this section containing some fine Federation homes.

***Loop Walk L3 begins at this point by continuing uphill on Glenmore Road and Cascade Street beyond Trumper Park.***

*The Federation Track enters Trumper Park at its northern end, opposite Walker Avenue, and follows the path uphill through the trees. At the back of the terraces of Bowes Avenue, turn right downhill on the steps until reaching a wide bitumen path. Follow this left until it exits into Harris Street.*

The old swamp back from Rushcutters Bay and White City, fed by streams down from Paddington, also extended back to the area of Trumper Park, with its village-like Edwardian oval. Reclaimed, and at first called Hampden Park after Viscount Hampden, Governor of NSW 1895-99, it 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). Given his 'presence' at either end of this section of the Federation Track, it might justifiably be called the 'Trumper Track'.

Being an oval, Trumper Park also suits Australian Rules football, and winter weekends usually see games here. Beyond the oval, Trumper Park's regenerated bushland hillside, a rare oasis in this area, is worth exploring. The climb uphill soon reaches the giant 'Trumpalar' tree, a Moreton Bay fig 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. Further uphill, if you are still in the early twenty-first century, the path reaches the back of terrace houses and tiny Bowes Avenue.

***Bowes Avenue leads through to Cameron and New Mclean Streets and to the Edgecliff Centre and Edgecliff Station.***

At Bowes Avenue a path also leads ahead (southeast) at a higher level, but the steps to the right lead down to a more useful roadway which climbs gradually uphill past a small pond and wetland area before turning right into Harris Street.

*In Harris Street turn left and then take the steps at the end up to a little park at the upper level, continuing up and right into Forbes Street and left into Sutherland Street.*

The last part of Trumper Park and the first part of Harris Street offer evidence of the Woollahra Municipal Quarry which operated here for decades – some of its buildings can still be seen further up in Quarry Street. Some of the cottages and terraces in this area have great charm. The small park at the top of the Harris Street steps has another claim to fame having been one of the many locations of the infamous gambling icon, 'Thommo's Two-up School' – a fact frequently and mysteriously unknown to the police despite the police house 200m away at the top of Quarry Street.

***Connection Walk C2 (Cooper) departs the Federation Track at the top of Harris Street, continuing up Quarry Street and then turning left into Jersey Road.***

*Cross Jersey Road into Spicer Street, then swing right through Moncur Reserve to Moncur Street, following it left to Queen Street. Turn right at Queen Street and walk down to Oxford Street.*

Jersey Road is one of the Paddington high streets that deserves exploration (see Loop Walk L3) and Spicer Street and Moncur Reserve, despite modernization, have a horse and cart / backstreet feel of early Paddington.

*At Moncur Street, Loop Walk L3 rejoins the Federation Track.*

Moncur Street is busy and varied but don't miss the block of flats on the left side at Nos 81-83. This block served from 1972 to 1977 as the exterior of 'No. 96' in the controversial TV soapie of that name. During those few years the block apparently saw far more murders, topless actresses and explosions than it does these days. In the course of its 1162 episodes, hundreds of Australian actors stayed with or passed through the series, with characters such as Dorrie, Herb, Lucy, Aldo and Don becoming household names. Of all the characters, none gained as much notoriety or summed up the series as well as Beverly Houghton Goodman, a role played by an actress known as Abigail. Although 'Bev' only lasted a couple of seasons, this daughter of Point Piper socialites, had many flirtations - the most frustrating with homosexual neighbour, Don - before finally losing her virginity to a boyfriend she shared with her flatmate, the big moment taking place after he rescued her from becoming a sacrifice at a black mass. She posed nude (adding even further to the ratings) for a photographer, seemed to have an incestuous relationship with her brother, married an American business man who subsequently had an affair with her mother, became depressed and was finally finished off by being shot. It all seems so much quieter here these days. If you want to indulge in more No 96 memories, try the *Number 96 Home Page* (<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~lindsay96/>).

By the intersection with Queen Street, the vicissitudes of Number 96 well behind, there are other changes and the level of activity and fashion is cranked up a few notches. This has been an area of high fliers for some time – residents at various times including writer Banjo Paterson; media personalities such as John Laws and Leo Schofield; artist Robert Dickerson; feminist Rose Scott; singer Joan Sutherland and composer Peter Sculthorpe; scores of medical practitioners including thalidomide researcher William McBride; and politicians galore including Neville Wran and Paul Keating. An enormous amount of wealth and influence is still tucked away in these leafy streets and even though some of the former mansions have gone, there are plenty of interesting buildings. At the intersection itself, almost every corner seems to belong to a different era with the Federation Post Office (1904), the Victorian shops and the deco pub. This area was transformed in the 1960s and 70s but resident action managed to restrain the extremes of modernisation which threatened its charm and vitality.

After exploring the coffee, book and food shops to the left, head to the right down Queen Street towards Oxford Street past Sydney's most concentrated array of fine art, antique and antiquity shops and galleries, as well as interesting homes and commercial buildings on the southern side. The first of Queen Street's antique shops opened in 1957 (interestingly enough, considering the TV credits of Moncur Street) at Number 96.

The junction of Queen and Oxford Street is known as Centennial Square and with a block called Centennial Flats built essentially in the interwar Spanish Mission style. At Oxford Street, this is the end of the ribbon of Paddington shops. Several church-related buildings sit across the street including St Matthias', the earliest parts of which go back to 1859, and further along, St Francis' (see Loop Walk L3 for more on Oxford Street).

*Cross Oxford Street, Moore Park Road and Lang Road by the circuitous traffic light route and enter Centennial Park via the Paddington Gates.*

The Centennial Parklands total about 325ha, of which Centennial Park itself is the largest part (189ha), while Moore Park and Queens Park make up the rest. The area has been chipped away significantly since the far-sighted Governor Lachlan Macquarie set their area aside as part of the larger the Sydney Common in 1811. The parklands provide Sydney with lungs and breathing space but for many years also provided its water. They have served as the location for significant moments in Australian cultural history as well as being venues for sport and recreation.

In 1820 Macquarie, recognizing that Sydney's original water supply would soon be inadequate and that the Common included large areas of swamp and aquifers with significant potential for water supply, declared a large part of them as the Lachlan Water Reserve. By 1825 the Tank Stream, which still runs underneath what is now Sydney's CBD and which had been the reason for the selection of the settlement site in 1788, was becoming hopelessly inadequate and polluted. After an enquiry, mineral surveyor, John Busby, was given the task of providing a water supply to the town from what were usually called the Lachlan Swamps (see Loop Walks L2 and L3). Busby chose to cut a 3.7km long tunnel from the swamps to Hyde Park and this was completed, largely by convict labour, between 1827 and 1838. It remained the town water supply until 1858 when it was replaced by the Botany Swamps scheme, which dammed a number of the swamps, including Queens Park and the

Kensington Ponds (see Loop Walk L14), pumping the water to new reservoirs. These included Reservoir No 1 in Waverley Park (see Connecting Walk C8). By the 1880s the supply had again become inadequate and was replaced by the Nepean Scheme.

Water had been the essential reason for the area remaining undeveloped crown land, but with it no longer essential to Sydney's water supply in the 1880s, a new era emerged. In 1885 the new Governor of NSW, Lord Carrington, commented on Sydney's lack of significant parkland, and in 1887, with the centenary of European settlement little more than six months away, Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of NSW, introduced the Centennial Celebrations Act which amongst other things created Centennial Park. Parkes had a grand vision of a majestic people's park, rather different from the reality of the scrubby grazing land, swamps, sandhills and rocky outcrops. For the next six months, under the leadership of Charles Moore, Director of the Botanic Gardens, workmen (most of them then unemployed) laboured to create a string of ponds, blast trenches in rock to plant trees, form carriageways, and sculpt the landscape along the model of great public parks overseas, particularly Birkenhead Park in Liverpool, England. However, an equal feature of the Park is its more naturalistic native vegetation, an aspect which was particularly emphasised under its second Director, Joseph Maiden.

Centennial Park was officially opened by Sir Henry and Lord Carrington on Australia Day, 26 January, 1888. Since then there has been a constant process of replanting and upgrading and dealing with change – sculptures, ideas and landscapes have come and gone, even a fair chunk of land was sold off for housing around 1900. In the 1970s, citizen and union Green Ban action helped save it from being the centrepiece of an Olympic bid for the 1988 Games by the Askin Government, which may have turned the Park into a string of sporting arenas. Eventually, the Park did have its place in the Olympics, with marathons and cycling events in 2000 although they left little trace beyond a blue line on Grand Drive. Along the way, the Park has been a location for nineteenth and early twentieth century military reviews; the Centenary (1888), Sesquicentenary (1838) and Bicentenary (1988) celebrations of European settlement; peace celebrations; celebrations of the Jubilee (1951) and Centenary of Federation (2001); concerts and films; the 1954 Royal visit; and, perhaps most significantly, the foundation of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January, 1901. Most importantly, it remains a great public park for the people, but one which can come close to being loved to death, particularly as the population on its fringes continues to expand dramatically.

The Paddington (or Oxford Street) Gates with their large sandstone pillars and heavy wrought iron gates were a focus of the Park's opening on 26 January, 1888, as indicated on the plaque. Ornate operating gas lamps, restored in the 1990s, sit atop the pillars. The Gates were turned into an elaborate floral arch for the Federation celebrations of 1 January 1901 but the procession from the city entered through the more modest Jervis Avenue Gates. As a challenge, look in the stone scrollwork on the gates for the initials of the stonemasons.

The single storey sandstone house near the Oxford Street Gates was built as a gatehouse in 1891-92 to the design of Colonial Architect, James Barnet. It opens on weekends as the Park's Visitor Centre and has interesting displays on the Park and its history, but for most of its first 110 years it remained a residence for Park Superintendents or Rangers.

*Two optional routes exist here. The Federation Track turns left towards the playground, while the alternative route continues down Parkes Drive to the Parklands Café. The two routes rejoin at the Federation Pavilion.*

#### **A. Federation Track option**

*Turn left after the Visitor Centre near the Paddington Gates, go past the playground and up the steps to the reservoir playing fields. About half-way along the reservoir, take the steps down again to the right (south). Cross the roadway (Carrington Drive) and then turn left, following its general direction for 100m or so before turning into the trees in an easterly direction until emerging at the edge of an open valley with the dome of the Federation Pavilion down to the right. Head for the Pavilion.*

The steps beyond the playgrounds lead up to the roof of Centennial Park Reservoir No. 2, now playing fields. Reservoir No 2, like No. 1 a little further on, is still in use but was built too late (early 1900s) to be part of any of the water schemes sourced by the parkland area. The southern side offers an excellent view of the park and the surrounding areas. Half-way along it, steps lead down to a path which crosses Carrington Drive onto the sandstone ridge at this northern end of the park. The pine dominated forest with its rocky and often sandy floor is a pleasant and somewhat wilder feeling place to pass through. The route breaks out into Federation Valley, an open area with an elevated platform known as The Belvedere to the right (north) and the domed Federation Pavilion downhill to the left (south).



## **B. Parkes/Grand Drive option**

*From the Visitor continue south on the main Parkes Drive, keeping to the right where the Drive divides at the Henry Parkes statue. At the café area, turn left to follow the general direction of Grand Drive as far as the Federation Pavilion.*

Parkes Drive is fairly literally the centerpiece of the Park, almost two kilometers long and cutting more or less through its centre to the Randwick end. With its flowerbeds and formal layouts, it is an important part of the formal European garden layout, originally established in this area by Joseph Maiden. However, to the right (west) note the lines of native paperbark trees which follow the course of a stream (now underground), also part of the Maiden plantings.

The statue of Sir Henry Parkes, at the head of the split in the road, was the work of Alan Somerville. It was unveiled in 1996 on the centenary of the death of Sir Henry who had played a pivotal role in the Park's establishment. It replaced a much earlier marble statue of Parkes which was destroyed in an apparent 'prank' in the 1970s. On either side of the Drive, it is now flanked by griffin-like winged lions, themselves recently restored to their positions. At some point there were 31 statues and sculptures in the park, but few have survived the predations of vandalism, theft and car accidents.

Atop the triangular hillock between the split in Parkes Drive (the eastern part is actually Hamilton Drive, is the most elaborate surviving sculpture, the delightfully improbable celebration of rugby football called 'We Won'. It was cast in bronze in 1893 by Italian sculptor, Tommaso Sani, who seems to have either been better versed in classical imagery than actual rugby, or to have had a fine sense of irony. The classically heroic footballer, in an outfit typical of 1890s football gear, stands atop a cylindrical pedestal decorated with masses of rugby-playing cherubs or putti celebrating various stages of the game – particularly the victory. The ironic use of cherubs in this way is reminiscent of the cherubic working class inner-city larrikins in Hal Gye's illustrations for C. J. Dennis' *A Sentimental Bloke* (1915). The bronze lions once held a surrounding chain in their jaws.

On either side of 'We Won' are ornate Imperial Russian iron cannons captured in the 1850s Crimean War and placed in the Botanic Gardens before being relocated here.

Across Grand Drive, the Parklands Centre area offers refreshments and toilets and a chance to enjoy the ever-changing activity of the Park as vehicles, bikes, joggers, horse riders, pram pushers, dog walkers, and so many others enjoying the space, flow by.

Grand Drive, with its parallel drive-, bike-, walk- and equestrian-ways and sequential plantings of large trees, leads past a large toilet block to the flagpoles and dome at the bottom of Federation Valley.

### *The two optional routes rejoin at the Federation Pavilion.*

Federation Valley is the name given to the sandstone edged gulley into which the forest opens, and it was the site of a great gathering on January 1, 1901 when the Commonwealth of Australia was inaugurated. The Dome near Grand Drive, was opened in 1988, as part of the Australian Bicentenary Celebrations, on the site of the temporary pavilion in which the 1901 ceremony took place. The original dome, adorned in plaster of paris like a wedding cake, was removed after a couple of years, and still exists in a far plainer form in Cabarita Park in Sydney's inner west. The new dome does contain the original centre-piece – a hexagonal block of Moruya granite known as the 'Commonwealth Stone' over which, during the ceremony, stood the table which had been used by Queen Victoria months before to sign the Commonwealth Act. It was used again that day for the swearing-in of the new Commonwealth ministry.

On that hot January day, thousands of soldiers and sailors from the Australian colonies and the British Empire, together with hordes of dignitaries, had marched or ridden 7km out from The Domain past hundreds of thousands of onlookers. In the park, a crowd estimated by different sources as anything from 60,000 to 250,000, stood in their best stuffy Victorian clothes on every vantage point to try to get a glimpse of the events. Apart from the parade arriving and forming up in the parade grounds across Grand Drive, few would have really seen much and fewer still heard much in that pre-amplification era beyond the booming of guns, the military bands and some of the singing of the 11,500 choristers, mostly school children.

The ceremony was long (two and a half hours) and the new Governor-General Lord Hopetoun was still suffering from a near fatal bout of dysentery. He leaned on his sword while the Lieutenant Governor of NSW administered the oath that made him Governor-General and simultaneously created the Australian Commonwealth. Hopetoun

then swore in Sir Edmund Barton as Prime Minister (see Loop Walk L10), followed by the rest of the new Cabinet.

This was followed by cheering and massed bands playing the National Anthem ('God Save the Queen') twice, the choir singing the Te Deum, artillery salutes and salutes by troops, flag raising and more cheering. Australia had been federated.

The Governor-General completed the ceremony by reading aloud about 14 congratulatory messages and a message from Queen, but the school children's choir, who couldn't hear him anyway, started singing, drowning out his last messages. The Governor-General then left to rousing cheers at 2.30 and the school children sang several more songs ending with 'God Save the Queen' again with the crowd joining in. Unfortunately, it didn't save her – Queen Victoria died three weeks later. Was it an omen that soon after the singing finished the heavens opened and torrential rain drove the crowds scurrying for whatever cover they could find?

*From the Pavilion, cross Grand Drive to Loch Avenue and follow it south to its junction with Dickens Drive. A short way left along Dickens Drive turn south again across the grass towards the paperbark trees and the Lachlan Swamp. Investigate the pathways within the swamp before emerging near the large pond ('Duck Pond') at its southern end.*

Grand Drive was central to the 1887 design of the Park and now provides separate lanes for cars, bikes, walkers and horses. Loch Avenue gives a feel of the open expanses of the Park and leads past another sporting area.

The Lachlan Swamp is a remarkable, rather magical place, a small re-creation of some of the earlier vegetation otherwise lost now to the Park and the Eastern Suburbs generally. Paperbarks and she-oaks provide a canopy above ferns, sedges and dozens of other native plants once indigenous to the park, though which the paths and boardwalks meander.

South of the Swamp is one of the larger ponds, this one known as 'Duck Pond' and one particularly popular with waterbirds. It hasn't always been so peaceful here. In 1851, around about this area, Major Sir Thomas Mitchell, the distinguished soldier-explorer and Surveyor-General of NSW (see Loop Walk L4) fought the last duel in the colony with Stuart Donaldson. Accounts vary, but Mitchell may have been slightly wounded – in any case honour was served – and Donaldson survived to become the first Premier of NSW in 1856.

*Walk to the left (east) of the Duck Pond and cut between the ponds to the southern section of Grand Drive.*

***Loop Walk L14 departs the Federation Track at this point, heading west along Grand Drive.***

*Cross Grand Drive, and head east, along or parallel to Musgrave Drive, out the gates at the junction of York and Darley Roads.*

Beyond Grand Drive, at Musgrave Avenue, a pocket of park stretches out towards Queens Park, maintaining some of the original link between them. The pocket is also in a different municipality to the rest of the Park – Waverley instead of Randwick. Fortunately the Park is not maintained by the local councils or there would probably be conflicting mower-lines at this point. Centennial, Queens and Moore Parks are all part of the Centennial Parklands administered and maintained by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. The curiously named 'One More Shot Pond' in this pocket does not relate to the Mitchell-Donaldson duel (it was actually named for a statue of a hunter which once stood near it) but it, Musgrave pond and the canal, are reminders of the watery connections when Queens Park and Centennial Park were part of Sydney's water supply.

Due north of this pocket of the Park, across York Road, another former part of the Water Reserve became the Eastern Suburbs Hospital about 1940 and was shortly afterwards handed over to the US Navy as a wartime naval hospital. It reopened as a General Hospital in 1944 but was eventually closed and in the 1980s the site was sold to Moriah College which now runs a large and modern K-12 Jewish day school there.

***Loop Walk L14 rejoins the Federation Track at this point from Randwick.***

*Cross York Road into Queens Park and follow the southern end of the park to its end at Carrington Road.*

Queens Park is 26ha in area and made up of two levels of flat, open playing fields with a hilly area with sandstone outcrops at its north-eastern end. The playing fields were created in the 1930s on land which had been part of the Sydney Common and Lachlan Water Reserve and had been partly dammed in the mid-nineteenth

century. It was included in the Centennial Park lands created in 1887 but because of the difficulty of draining it, remained undeveloped far longer. Chinese market gardeners operating there at some point and, for a few years in the 1890s there was a golf course. Tree planting progressed tentatively from the 1880s to the 1920s. Waverley College (see Connecting Walk C8) managed to lease part of it in 1938, beginning the development of the playing fields.

*Near the eastern end of Queens Park, the steps and pathway down from the right connect Connection Walk C8 with the Federation Track.*

*From Queens Park, cross Carrington Road into Macpherson Street. Near the first roundabout turn right and down into Albion Street. Turn left into Wallace Street and follow it downhill. Immediately past the Bronte Bowling Club, turn into Varna Park, crossing to its south-east corner at Leichhard and Varna Streets.*

At the Macpherson – Albion Street roundabout, the buildings of St Catherines School are obvious ahead. Originally the Clergy Daughters' School, this is the oldest continuously operating girls school in Australia, beginning in 1856. It was founded by the wife of Bishop Barker for daughters of clergy, particularly those serving in remote inland areas but was opened to other girls in 1884. Amongst its former students, it boasts operatic diva, Dame Joan Sutherland.

A view of Waverley Cemetery appears at the start of Wallace Street, leading past the bowling club to Varna Reserve, a very pleasant park with fine trees on its sloping side. It is another remnant of the Water Reserve, long separated from the Centennial Parklands.

The dark brick St Lukes Church stands at the Arden Street crossing and next to it, downhill, is a Victorian villa worthy of note.

*Follow Varna Street, crossing Arden Street to the small park linking into Scott Street. At the end of Scott, turn left uphill briefly on Maroo Street before turning right into Busby Parade. Cross St Thomas St to the sandstone wall of Waverley Cemetery, following the wall right along Figtree Lane. At the lane's end, a track continues around the wall and into Boundary Street. Follow the southern fenceline of the Cemetery to Ocean Street and reconnection with the **Main Walk**.*

Some these streets retain a few of the earliest homes in the subdivisions, notably Busby Street where there are some fine nineteenth century villas, cottages and duplexes on both sides, the most unusual being the sandstone semis of Numbers 15-17 with the remnants of some interesting detailing.

At St Thomas Street, there is the option of heading left, uphill, instead, to the Waverley Cemetery Gates and walking through the cemetery, via Loop Walk L13, to rejoin the Main Walk down at the coastline. If doing so, look for the blue lion with the heart a couple of houses uphill.

Figtree Lane leads mostly past garages and house backs on a little triangle of land detached at some point from the Cemetery reserve.

*At Ocean Street, the Main Walk is rejoined along with Loop Walk L13. The Main Walk and the Federation Track now continue southwards through Clovelly, following a common path to Cronulla and the end of the Walking Coastal Sydney series of walks. The sections south are covered in separate maps and notes.*