St Leonards — Artarmon WALK

WILLIAM GORE'S GRANT

This walk takes you from St Leonards to Artarmon and back • Duration approximately two and a half hours – much longer if you linger in the cemeteries • It could be broken into two sections at Artarmon if desired.

GORE HILL *was named after William Gore (1765-1845) who came out to Australia with William Bligh. In 1806 Bligh appointed him Provost-Marshal. At the time of the Rum Rebellion Gore arrested John Macarthur. Gore was in turn arrested by the Rum Corps and sentenced to two years in the coal mines at Newcastle. In 1810 Lachlan Macquarie the new governor reinstated Gore and gave him a grant of 150 acres at Gore Hill. He later bought up surrounding farms and for a short time was the biggest landowner in the district. The track from his property to Gore Wharf on Lane Cove River is now Greenwich Road. The Wharf is now an oil terminal. William died in 1845 having mortgaged almost all his property and lost his money.*

The suburb of ST LEONARDS is named after Sir Thomas Townshend who in 1789 became Viscount Sydney of St Leonards. He was formerly Baron Sydney of Chislehurst and as Secretary of State he provided the transport for the first settlement. Governor Phillip named Sydney after him.

THE WALK

ST LEONARDS STATION

Start at its former site on the north-east side of Pacific Highway. The railway line originally ran from St Leonards to Hornsby only. It was opened in 1890. A link from St Leonards to Epping was surveyed in 1880, the legislation was passed but the line was never built. In August 1989 the station was moved temporarily to the other side of the Pacific Highway to enable the construction of a large building over the railway line, but so far this has not eventuated.

ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

Walk down Herbert Street until you reach the first entrance to the Royal North Shore Hospital. In 1886 a "Pioneer Industrial Exhibition" was held to raise funds for a local hospital. In 1887 Sir Henry Parkes laid the foundation stone of the North Shore Cottage Hospital. The hospital contained 14 beds and was situated on Willoughby Road at Crows Nest. By 1900 it was too small for the local population so the site was sold to the Sisters of Mercy. In 1903 the hospital opened in its present position. Edward VII granted the hospital the title "Royal".

Walk uphill through the carparking area and up the steps. Here you will see the oldest hospital building on the site, built in 1902. As you continue on this course you will come to Gore Hill Park.

GORE HILL PARK

The park was originally part of the "Reserve for Recreation" dedicated in 1869 which extended from Gore Hill back to the St Leonards Station site and east to the present Artarmon Reserve. The ownership of the land was contested and the Council had numerous problems with trespassing. The contested part of the land was resumed and sold at auction in 1899 as home sites. The park was dedicated in 1900. The park was levelled with filling from the construction of the Chatswood Tanks on the corner of Mowbray Road and Pacific Highway. Walk around the oval past the pavilion until you reach the Pacific Highway.

THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY

The highway has only been called the Pacific Highway since the completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932. Before this it was Gordon Road, and before 1891 Lane Cove Road. It was built along the highest ridge in the area with the land often falling away steeply on either side - like all the early roads which followed the easiest path for the horses and bullocks.

GORE HILL CEMETERY

Next to Gore Hill Park is Gore Hill Cemetery dedicated in 1868. The main gates on the highway were built in 1902 by W.E.Parry of Gordon with sandstone from Waverley quarry. The last burial in the cemetery was in 1974, with the greater number of burials being in the years 1875-1920. In total there are 14,483 burial plots in the six hectares. Some monuments have been transferred to Gore Hill Cemetery from Devonshire Street Surrey Hills Cemetery when it was demolished to make way for Central Railway Station. Some headstones have also been transferred from St Stephen's Cemetery, Newtown. As you enter the main gates the architect's office on the left is where the sexton's cottage used to be. Notice the wide brick paths and evergreen trees which are typical of the 19th century landscape. The numerous palm trees were considered symbols of resurrection. As you wander through the cemetery you will see the numerous babies' graves which are a reminder of the infant mortality rate of the 19th and early 20th centuries before widespread immunization.

Many famous and interesting people are buried here. You may observe the family vaults of the Hordern family who were prominent department store owners; the Cornwell family who were vinegar distillers; the Dalton family, a prominent Catholic family of Sydney; the Durack family, the pastoral family of Western Australia whose story was told in Mary Durack's series of books. To the

left of the main walk near the highway is a memorial to Mary MacKillop recently beatified who was buried here from 1909 to 1914 before being moved to her present resting place. A very large public funeral was held for Bernard Bede Kieran ,the Champion Swimmer of the World, who died at 19 from appendicitis in December 1905. In the 1904-05 swimming season he held all the world's swimming records from 200 yards to the mile. An estimated crowd of 30,000 turned out for his public funeral and the monument was supplied by public subscription.

In 1975 the Gore Hill Cemetery Act was passed with the aim of making the cemetery a rest park, but this was repealed after a public outcry and it was made an Historic Cemetery. The Heritage Act of 1986 classified all pre 1900 monuments as relics, not to be harmed.

The Cemetery is now under the control of Willoughby Council and looked after by the Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery.

Continue up the main walk and exit into Westbourne Street. This was the most northern point for the tramline that used to run from North Sydney in the 1880s.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY

Facing us as we exit from the cemetery is the building of the Gore Hill campus of the University of Technology, Sydney, first established here as the Institute of Technology in 1968.

NORTH SYDNEY COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION

The first classes were held here as North Sydney Technical College in 1949. Enter the T.A.F.E. grounds and proceed towards C Block, you will come across the Business Centre. The Business Centre with its picket fence and garden was formerly the coach house to "Valetta" which was demolished in 1939. Notice the beam on the outside used to lift hay into the loft. "Valetta"- which was the setting for a romantic novel of the time "The Lovers Mile"- was a large two storey house which replaced William Gore's original "Artarmon House" (c1818-1869).

From the coach house walk through the T.A.F.E. carpark towards the multi storied carpark of the Royal North Shore Hospital. In the industrial area immediately below you is the Waste Transfer Station located in Lanceley Place.

BRICK PITS

Bricks had first been made on the Gore Hill estate in 1828. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s Artarmon was the biggest brick making area in N.S.W. Notice the view across this area to the Chatswood Business District.

Walk north down Reserve Road. On your left observe the enormous area that was excavated out of the hill to make the bricks. Magney & Waynton owned 70 acres around where you are now. A tunnel was constructed under Reserve Road in 1910 to connect their two brick yards. At the height of their brick making they had also constructed a railway across Herbert Street parallel to Reserve Road to provide transport to the main railway line.

The brick pits all suffered from the bank crash of the 1890s, the Depressions of the 1890s and 1930s, and the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Although the stacks were very high they spewed out lots of dark smoke that left a pall over the whole area. By 1965 the County of Cumberland Plan recommended that all brickmaking cease in the area. The land was then zoned light industrial accommodating such industries as you see around you.

On the corner of Frederick Street is Willoughby Council Depot. This area was the site of the Wilson brick works. At the height of their production they were making 360,000 bricks a month.

Carlotta Street is named after "Carlotta Cottage" which stood on the corner of Carlotta and Clarendon Streets about 1868. Two early pioneers of the area- John Ffrench (Gore's grandson) and Richard Seldon lived in this street. Wilson's brickyard extended to this street.

On the horizon to your left you can see the ABN TV tower. The ABC opened here in 1956. As you continue north you will cross the Gore Hill Freeway.

THE GORE HILL FREEWAY

connects Longueville Road to Willoughby Road and the approaches to the Harbour Bridge. This part of the freeway was opened in 1992. Take note of the noise abatement walls and the planting of native species in the green strips near the walls. The connection with the local area has been kept in the copies of Walter Burley Griffin tiles used to decorate parts of the surface. North of the Freeway you will move into parts of the residential area of Artarmon.

ARTARMON

William Gore named Artarmon after his ancestral home in Ireland. In 1969 the Artarmon Redevelopment Plan was the beginning of the careful zoning of Artarmon so that high and medium rise apartments were kept between the railway line and the Pacific Highway, along with a sprinkling of attractive townhouses and single dwellings. To the east of the railway line, bounded by Sydney and Stafford Roads is the Artarmon Urban Conservation area. It is located approximately in the north east corner of Gore's land. In 1989 it was classified by the National Trust because of its comparatively untouched urban landscape of Federation, Californian Bungalow and interwar housing.

THOMPSON PARK

is on the corner of Reserve and Barton Roads. The park was named in 1925 after the first federal member for North Sydney, whose electorate was in this area. Turn right down Barton Road, note the "Phyllis Burke Court" Housing Commission flats on your right built in 1968.

ARTARMON PUBLIC SCHOOL

on the corner of Abbott Road was established in 1910 with 66 pupils. It expanded to the other side of the road in 1928.

Turn right down Jersey Road and left at Hampden Road.

ARTARMON SHOPPING CENTRE

You are now in the centre of a pleasant little shopping area. You may like to stop here to refresh yourself.

ARTARMON STATION

opened in 1898 is approximately situated at the centre of Gore's land. The Artarmon Village Green is the land fronting both the east and west sides of the railway station. During the 1930s Depression the gardens were supported by voluntary labour as well as by subscription. Later a full time gardener was employed. They were officially opened in 1968. Notice the memorial to Charles Wickham who was instrumental in planning and working on the form that the gardens take today.

Continue up Hampden Road and turn left into Palmer Street and right onto the Pacific Highway.

MOWBRAY ROAD & PACIFIC HIGHWAY

The corner of Mowbray Road and the Pacific Highway was the early hub of the municipality. The Great Northern Hotel was opened in 1870 surrounded by its own paddocks and vegetable gardens. The present building was erected in the 1930s. Just north of the hotel was J.Hammond's butcher shop. An early police station and lockup was further south along the highway

CHATSWOOD SOUTH UNITING CHURCH

on the opposite corner was built in the 1870s replacing an earlier church, the Bush Mission Station and Sabbath School, which was established in 1862. The cemetery behind the church is very interesting as many of the area's pioneers are buried here. Although the church used to be in the city of Willoughby, since 1895 it has been in the Lane Cove local government area.

THE CHATSWOOD TANKS

on the corner of Mowbray Road and the Pacific Highway have been pumping water to the area since 1888.

Walking east down Mowbray Road, the electricity substation next to the tanks was the first one on the north shore. It was built in 1916 and the second storey was added in 1923.

MOWBRAY HOUSE SCHOOL

Opposite you on Mowbray Road are the offices of Sydney Electricity. This used to be the site of Mowbray House School. The main house of the school – which operated from 1906 to 1954 – is the building with the red tiled roof fronting Mowbray Road. The building that used to be the school chapel has had a variety of uses since it was first erected on this site in 1875. It was first used as a School of Arts, then became the Council Chambers and then the Chapel for Mowbray House School. In 1957 it was dismantled and rebuilt as the Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Beaconsfield Road. Two prominent old boys of the school are Gough Whitlam and Kenneth Slessor.

MOWBRAY ROAD

Strolling east down Mowbray Road you can see some of the interesting and eclectic collection of cottages and grand houses that were built here around the turn of the century. No.2 Orchard Road on the corner of Mowbray Road was the home of the James family. The house was built about 1890. No. 338 is a Federation style cottage built about 1905, whereas No.333 "Llandillo" built in 1908 is of Late Victorian design. No.317 "Loretto" is of Victorian design built in 1901. No.315 "Hilton"- originally called "Broxbourne" was built in 1903. No. 318 was built in 1911. No. 283 "Clearview" -originally "Yamala" – was built in 1884 by Alexander Simpson who also built the Cammeray Suspension Bridge and St Stephen's Anglican Church at the corner of Sydney Street.

TINDALE ROAD is opposite "Clearview".

Turn right down Tindale into a typically quiet, leafy, residential street of this pleasant suburb. Most of the houses along this street are of the Californian Bungalow style popular in the 20s and 30s with an occasional Federation style cottage.

ARTARMON UNITING CHURCH at the junction of

Artarmon and Tindale Roads was built in the 1920s.

THE DAVID WARNER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

is a branch of Willoughby Library. It stands at the junction of Elizabeth Street and Tindale Road and was built in 1958. David Warner was a former Mayor of Willoughby. The library replaced one run by volunteers, founded by Mary Matheson in 1944.

WILKES PLAZA was named after an alderman of

Willoughby Council.

Walk through Wilkes Plaza under the railway line and turn left into Hampden Road.

CLELAND PARK on the corner of Barton Road is

named after a former Mayor of Willoughby. The park was originally intended as the site of Willoughby Council Chambers but after the present site was chosen it was declared a park in 1908.

ARTARMON PARK

The remains of Artarmon Park between Parkes Road and Punch Street gives you another glimpse into the original Recreation Reserve stretching from Gore Hill Park to Jersey Road to Artarmon Reserve on the other side of the railway line. Now Cleland Park, Artarmon Reserve and Gore Hill Park are the only pieces left.

As you continue down Hampden Road/Herbert Street you will pass over.

CLARKE BRIDGE

This goes over the Gore Hill Freeway and is named after an ex-alderman of Willoughby Council (1921-25). This bridge replaces one opened in 1932. From here you will move from the residential areas of Artarmon to the light industrial and business area. Note the different range of businesses the area appeals to - wines, electrical, governmental – e.g. SBS studios and Telecom.

LANCELEY COTTAGE

As you pass the back of the Royal North Shore Hospital you can see in the grounds the cottage that was originally the home of the Lanceley family who were pioneer brickworkers in the area. You may also notice the Wellcome Pharmaceutical laboratories on Herbert Street.

As you approach the former railway station site at St Leonards you will see on your left Nissen huts that were erected in the 1950s as small business accommodation. These were ex-army huts surplus after the 2nd World War. If you look behind the brick facade you will see the curved corrugated iron structure of the huts.

You will now find yourself back where you started at the former site of St Leonards Railway Station.

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W A L K

ST. LEONARDS

ARTARMON

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Artarmon Reserve

Royal North Shore Hospital

Gore Hill Park

Cemetery

North Sydney TAFE College

Waste Transfer Station

ABN 2 Television Studios

Cleland Park

Thomson Park

Streets and labels: SYDNEY STREET, ONYX ROAD, STAFFORD ROAD, SHEPHERD ROAD, SMITH ROAD, WEEDON ROAD, CARLOS ROAD, ARTARMON ROAD, CAMERON AVENUE, BURRA ROAD, TINDALE ROAD, MOWBRAY ROAD, MUTTAMA ROAD, ELIZABETH STREET, HAMPDEN ROAD, PALMER STREET, JERSEY ROAD, BARTON ROAD, PARKES ROAD, GORE HILL FREEWAY, PUNCH ST., HERBERT STREET, FREDERICK STREET, CLEG STREET, RESERVE ROAD, WESTBOURNE ST., RESERVE ROAD, LANCELEY PLACE, CAMPBELL STREET, CARLOTTA STREET, DICKSON AVENUE, WHITING STREET, PACIFIC HIGHWAY, MOWBRAY ROAD, PACIFIC HIGHWAY, RESERVE ROAD, PACIFIC HIGHWAY

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