

# HORNSBY HERITAGE WALK

HORNSBY SHIRE LIBRARY  
AND INFORMATION SERVICES



*Railway Hotel 1888*

# ENJOY YOUR LOCAL WALK

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**We acknowledge we are on the traditional lands of the Darug and Guringai Peoples and pay our respects to elders past and present.**

This is a self-guided historic walking tour of the business/retail precinct of Hornsby. It is an easy-grade walk which takes approximately 90 minutes to complete or can be split into two shorter walks, eg the east side of the railway station and the west side of the railway station. We hope you enjoy experiencing Hornsby's buildings, parks and monuments of significance and do remind you to please take care while walking the route.

## STOP!

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Stay on the footpath.



## LOOK!

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Right, left and right again.



## LISTEN!

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For any other traffic including bicycles.



## THINK!

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Is it safe for me to cross?



## CROSS!

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With care and keep looking out for other vehicles.



## CONTACT

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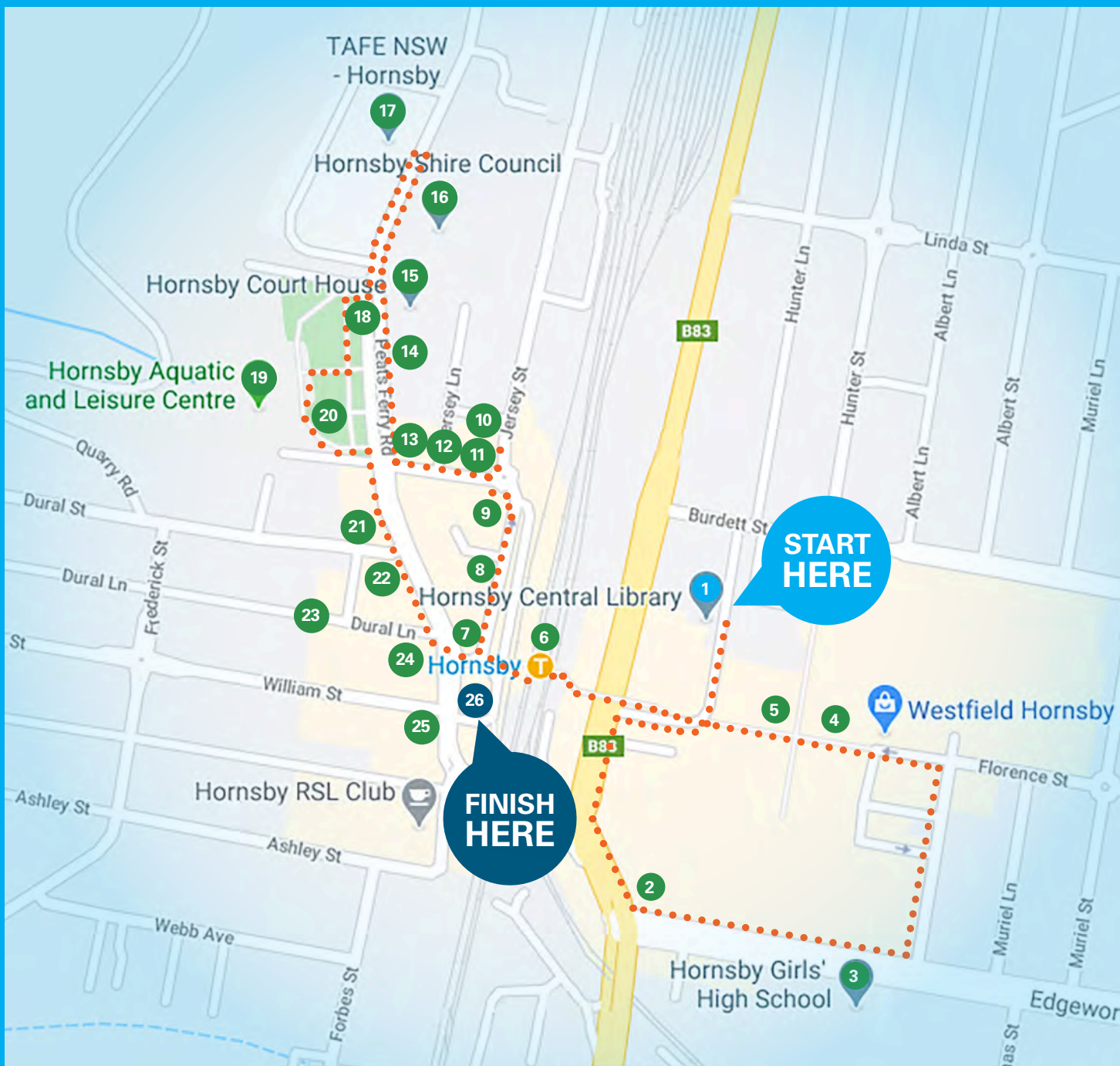
### **Hornsby Library**

28-44 George Street (Entrance via Hunter Lane)  
Hornsby NSW 2077  
**9847 6813**

For more information about your local library visit:  
**[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library)**



# HORNSBY HERITAGE WALK MAP



# START FROM HORNSBY SHIRE LIBRARY IN HUNTER LANE

1



*Hornsby Shire Library 1972*

**Hornsby Shire Library** officially opened on April 29, 1972 and was located at the back of the main forecourt area next to the current Council Chambers in Peats Ferry Road. The original library building had two levels. It was relocated to its present site in 1995. This building was previously a supermarket.

*Lane, walk to George Street, turn left and walk to the corner of Edgeworth David Avenue and the Pacific Highway.*

2



*Pakenham*

**Pakenham** was a mansion previously on the site of Westfield Shopping Centre. It was built in 1894 by James Channon, reputed to be the wealthiest man in Hornsby. Channon, a Sydney businessman who had asthma, was advised by doctors to move to the cleaner air of Hornsby plateau. The house had two storeys, 22 rooms and a luxurious interior with woodwork of cedar, and paving tiles and

marble mantelpieces imported from Italy. The family had maids, a cook, and a gardener. When his children grew up, they lived with their families on the estate, in three cottages along what is now George Street. In 1935 the house became a private hospital called St Kilda. It was pulled down in 1960 to make way for Westfield.

*Walk east along Edgeworth David Avenue and on your right, you will see Hornsby Girls High School.*

3



*Hornsby Girls High School*

**Hornsby Girls High School** was opened on September 20, 1930 by the Minister for Education, Mr. Drummond. In his speech he mentioned the importance of secondary education for students to enhance their employment prospects. Sir Edgeworth David also spoke at the opening ceremony. At the opening there were 21 classrooms, a library and an assembly hall providing

seating for 570 people with an adjoining cinema operating room. External architecture follows a proportioned Dutch style with elevations treated in a dark brick base to the floor level and cement rendering above.

*Turn left at Albert Street, watch out for cars exiting the car park, then turn left at Florence Street. Walk up to the fountain. On both sides of the fountain you will see the Westfield Shopping Centre.*

4



*Westfield Shopping Centre in 1961*

**Westfield Shopping Centre** opened in 1961 with one department store and 22 shops. In 1966 Coles New World supermarket opened, the first in NSW. The centre was enlarged in 1968 to four times its original size and enlarged again in 1979. Further redevelopment began in 1999 and the cinema complex opened in 2001. As well as Pakenham, Hornsby lost several shops in the Florence Street Mall to make way for the new building.

5



*Hornsby Water Sculpture*

**Hornsby Water Sculpture** is the largest water-driven pendulum clock in the world and weighs 20 tonnes. Designed by Victor Cusack and unveiled in 1993, it incorporates a Greek clock from the 4th century BC, a thousand-year-old Chinese waterwheel clock with 20 articulated buckets, and an 18th century English tubular cast bronze carillon designed as a musical instrument. The theme is 'Man, Time and the Environment' and integrates flora and fauna found in Hornsby Shire. More information is on the four plaques on the wall of the fountain.

Can you find all the penguins,

water birds, flying foxes, lizards, eagle, pelicans, rams, fish and goannas on the sculpture?

*Walk down Florence Street towards the footbridge.*

*Florence Street is believed to be named after Florence Cotton, daughter of James Channon who owned Pakenham.*

6



*Hornsby Railway Station circa 1920*

**Hornsby Railway Station** opened in 1886 on the Northern (Newcastle) Line and the North Shore Line reached Hornsby in 1890. Before the railway line was built, the location of present-day Hornsby was called Jack's Island and sparsely populated. When the station opened it was called Hornsby Station, though the village of Hornsby was at present day

Normanhurst. In 1894, after community pressure led by a resident named Norman Selfe, another station called Hornsby was built in the village and this station renamed Hornsby Junction. However, these similar names caused confusion and in 1898, the former village of Hornsby was renamed Normanhurst, after Norman Selfe, and Jack's Island was named Hornsby as we know it today. The railway was electrified in 1928.



*As you exit the west side of the station walkway, look down to see the rainbow serpent mosaic on the footpath.*



*Marble Mosaic and Terrazzo footpath  
created by David Humphries*

**Rainbow Serpent Mosaic** was commissioned by Hornsby Shire Council and developed in partnership with the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation, Lang O'Rourke and Rail Corp. This artwork was developed with members of the Hornsby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee. It celebrates the Shire's rich indigenous heritage and culture and reminds commuters they are on the traditional land of the Darug and Guringai people.

*Turn right and walk down Station Street.*



*CountryLink luggage office, Hornsby  
Railway Station, 2006*

**Railway Station buildings** of interest are on the right. The gabled roof building was built in 1886 and was part of the original station. Extended in 1950 it was used as the CountryLink luggage office before becoming part of the new platform 5. Further ahead is the Arts and Crafts style signal box building which was constructed about 1900.

*Look to your left to see the historic Railway Hotel.*



*The Railway Hotel circa 1920*

**The Railway Hotel** was the first hotel built in the township and one of the first commercial buildings. It was built in 1888, soon after the railway opened. At the time these streets were called Burdett and Jersey Streets. Now these sections have been renamed Coronation and Station streets. The hotel has since been substantially renovated.

*Cross over the pedestrian crossing and walk down Jersey Street to The Browsers Cottage.*

10



*The Browsersy Cottage, 5 Jersey Street  
Hornsby, 2006.*

**The Browsersy Cottage** was built by the stationmaster, James Glynn, circa 1902. Originally called 'Strathmore', but is now known as The Browsersy after an antique shop that was there at one time. It was the first permanent location for Hornsby Shire Council from 1907 until 1915. The Federation Queen Anne cottage contains a Marseilles tile roof with terracotta ridge capping and a prominent

flying gable. The verandah is edged in slate and original timberwork. Jersey Street was named after Lord Jersey, governor of NSW at the time the railway was completed.

*Walkback to 1-3 Jersey Street where you will find the Fusion Shop.*

11



*1-3 Jersey Street, Hornsby, 2016.*

**1-3 Jersey Street, Hornsby** was the location of the Bank of North Queensland, the first bank in Hornsby. Later it became a bootmaker's shop, then a fruit shop which is still remembered today. Food parcels were distributed there during the Great Depression. The Beattie family ran the shop around 1920 and Beattie Lane is named after them. The building built circa 1910, has an unusual

brick and roughcast decoration above the shopfronts with a skillion roof that slopes away from the parapeted street facade. It is now owned by Hornsby Shire Council.

*Walk back to and then along Coronation Street.*

12



*Burdett Street in the 1890s now known as  
Coronation Street. Note: The Railway Hotel  
is in the foreground.*

**Coronation Street** was Hornsby's first shopping centre. It was originally part of Burdett Street, but was divided by the railway line. It was renamed Colah Street and then Coronation Street in 1910 just prior to George V's coronation in 1911. The shops on the north side were built the earliest, numbers 5-7 in 1887 and numbers 1-3 in 1903. The shops on the south side were built between 1903 and 1912. The upper storeys are largely unchanged.

13



*Hornsby Post Office 1911*

### **Hornsby Post Office**

opened on this site in 1910, relocating from a previous location. It was remodelled, and extensions were added over the years however, this building was demolished in 1989. This new Post Office opened in 1990.

*Cross Peats Ferry Road at the*

*lights, look back for a better view of the Post Office and Coronation Street, then walk north towards Hornsby TAFE. Look from across the road for the best view of stops 14 to 16.*

14



*Hornsby Police Station circa 1909*

### **Hornsby Police Station**

was established on this site in 1909. The building housed Constable Wade with his wife and family and had four rooms and a kitchen with steel ceilings. The lock-up contained three cells, two for males and one for females. There was a charge room and two exercise yards with grill roofs. The original building was demolished, and the current station opened in 1991.

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*Hornsby Court House circa 1927*

### **Hornsby Court**

proceedings started in Hornsby in 1907 in the old Drill Hall which was near this site. The present building was built in 1925, cost £4,500 to construct and was first used in January 1926. Mr. Percy Law, on behalf of the legal profession, congratulated Mr. Cohen on being the first magistrate to preside in the new building.

16



*Hornsby Council Chambers circa 1919*

### **Hornsby Shire Council**

was built in 1915, when meetings moved from 5 Jersey Street. The second storey was added in 1930. The administration buildings, including the original library, opened in 1972. In 1970 during the excavation, workmen unearthed a cannon from 1877 which had been used by

volunteers at the old Drill Hall. It was given to Victoria Barracks in Sydney for the Bicentenary where it was restored by the Royal Australian Engineers and is now on display. They made a small-scale model for the Council, currently on display at the library.

*Now look to your left where the TAFE College now stands.*



17



*Hornsby School of Arts*

damaged in the bushfire of 1957 and the home science school was destroyed. They moved into the School of Arts building but it was demolished in 1969. Hornsby TAFE is now on this site.

*Walk back along to Hornsby Park. You will find public toilets available and you might like to spend some time relaxing in this tranquil setting before continuing the walking tour. Stop and smell the roses!*

18



*Hornsby Park, looking south, circa 1965*

in 1836. The valley was originally a timber collecting and orchard area and other families such as the Harrington family soon joined the Higgins family in the valley.

**Hornsby School of Arts** was established in 1888 and situated on Peat's Ferry Road next to Hornsby Park. The first ever Hornsby Shire Council meeting was held in the building in 1906. A public school and girls home science school were built on the same site. The public school and School of Arts were badly

**Hornsby Park** was set aside as a reserve in 1896 and became used as a park after the First World War. Hornsby Park is situated on part of the Higgins original land grant. Thomas Edward Higgins (1800-1865) was the earliest known European settler near modern Hornsby. His land grant in Old Man's Valley was confirmed

19



*Entrance to the old Hornsby Aquatic Centre*

**Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre** is situated in Hornsby Park. In 1935 Hornsby Councillor T E Rofe raised the subject at a Council meeting that Hornsby needed suitable public swimming baths, to serve an immense population in a growing Shire. It was not until 1962 that his vision was realised when the Hornsby Olympic Swimming Pool was

opened. The pool was refurbished in 1995. However, due to its gradual deterioration, the complex was closed in 2010 to make way for a new \$27 million Aquatic Centre that was officially opened by the then Prime Minister Tony Abbott in 2014.

*Cross Coronation Street at the lights and walk along Peats Ferry Road.*

20



*Western side of Peats Ferry Road circa 1920  
Note the façade of these buildings has not  
changed much in one hundred years.*

Bridge Rd and Jersey St North to Asquith in 2014. The old section of the Pacific Highway then reverted to its original name Peats Ferry Road.

**Peats Ferry Road** was built between 1847 and 1852 and named after George Peat who ran a ferry service across the Hawkesbury River. The road provided a Sydney-to-Newcastle route alternative to the Great North Road further west. It was upgraded in the 1920s and 30s and later named the Pacific Highway. The highway officially changed to follow a new route in Hornsby along George St,

21



*Rural Bank building circa 1950*

**Old Rural Bank** at 193 Peats Ferry Road was built circa 1940 and is a good example of a Post-War Modern Style bank building. It consists of two storeys with parapet, textured brick walls with polished stone at base and smooth and moulded render has been used for decoration. It has an excellent stucco motif over the window and an interesting metal decoration above the door. It has been a real estate agency for many years.

*Cross Dural Street and continue walking down Peats Ferry Road.*

22



*Bank of New South Wales building circa 1924*

*Walk down to Dural Lane. NOTE: Please watch for passing traffic as this lane is a thoroughfare.*

**Old Bank of New South Wales** is on the corner of Dural Street and Peats Ferry Road and was designed by Spain, Cosh & Dods. The bank opened for business in September 1918 and a second storey was added in 1924. Redevelopment of the former bank took place in 2006 but the new building retained the historic façade.

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*Dural Lane Hornsby, 2018*

**Dural Lane** When you stroll down Dural Lane you will be fully transported back in time, with both sides now displaying murals depicting Hornsby in the early 20th Century. The streetscape was created by Hugues Sineux, who painted the first instalment in 2016 and completed the second in 2017. How many Ginger Meggs could you find? Can you find two cats?

*Cross Peats Ferry Road at the lights then cross over to the Cenotaph Park where you will get a good view of stops 24-26.*

24



*Hornsby Cinema in 1954*

**Odeon** was opened in 1914 and called Hornsby Picture House. The building was rebuilt in 1921 and again in the 1930s when art-deco was at the forefront of building design. The Odeon which was so named in the mid-1990s, is the only single-screen cinema left operating in Sydney.

25



*Forbes Footwear store 2006*

**Forbes Footwear** Hornsby's current oldest retailer was established in 1940 by the late James Forbes, a gold miner from Queensland. James's philosophy was simple, "If you provide a quality product and unmatched service for a fair price the customer will be satisfied and will always return". The Forbes family owned the whole building and once lived above the shop.

They named it Willander Court after William Alexander Forbes, James' brother who died in the Second World War. Forbes Footwear a fourth-generation owned company is still a family run business today.

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*Hornsby War Memorial c1928*

**Hornsby War Memorial** was unveiled on 27 April 1923 by Australian Governor-General Lord Forster to honour the locals who fell in World War One. The monument is set in granite and is built of buff granite with panels inscribed in gold lettering. This memorial was originally located opposite William Street but as it was in the centre of

the roadway it was later moved to its present position on Peats Ferry Road in Cenotaph Park.

*Walking tour ends here. We hope you enjoyed learning more about the history of Hornsby.*



**Please think before you bin this guide.**

**After reading, pass it on to someone else who might find it useful or recycle it.**

**Discover more about Hornsby Shire by visiting [Hornsby Shire Recollects hornsbyshire.recollect.net.au](http://HornsbyShireRecollects.hornsbyshire.recollect.net.au) OR phone Hornsby Shire Library 9847 6813**