

## B. WINDSOR HERITAGE WALK – THE PENINSULA PRECINCT

**2 km walk**

**1 hour**

**Map nos. 11 – 24**

Leaving the Thompson Square precinct, from the intersection of George and Bridge Streets, walk down Bridge Street towards the Green Hills Burial Ground. This is the first location on the walk, which takes you to the Peninsula area. The site of early land grants, farms established 1794-1798, and many significant public buildings of the Colonial era, this area was known as **The Peninsula** by 1802.

The early grants on the Peninsula were subdivided into suburban lots and offered for sale by Laban White in 1842. The area today includes a variety of housing styles ranging from Victorian cottages and inter-war bungalows to modern houses all of which contribute to the unique character of the streetscape. Within this precinct John Tebbutt also built several observatories from which he made several important astronomical discoveries. The lower flood-prone land has been taken up by turf farms and on the riverbank Governor Phillip Park is home to the Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Clubhouse which was formed in 1938.

***Please note that this brochure includes many privately owned buildings which are not open for public inspection and may be viewed from the public street only.***

### **11. Green Hills Burial Ground**

From the early 1800s until Governor Macquarie proclaimed the new burial ground in 1811, (now the cemetery surrounding St Matthews Anglican Church, Windsor), the citizens of Green Hills were buried on the bank of South Creek or on their farms. A memorial was unveiled in March 1999 dedicated to those early settlers who were buried near this site. It is thought that from 1810 until the 1840s, criminals continued to be buried here in unmarked graves.

### **12. Fitzroy Bridge**

Several types of bridges have been erected over South Creek since European settlement in 1794. Initially a floating bridge was constructed in 1802 by Andrew Thompson who collected tolls from passing traffic. Later, in 1813 a log bridge was constructed under the supervision of John Howe known as Howe's Bridge. In 1848 a new wooden arch bridge named after Governor Fitzroy replaced the former structure only to be replaced by an iron bridge in 1879. The present concrete bridge was built in 1974.

***Take the route under Fitzroy Bridge to safely cross Windsor Road.***

### **13. The Toll House**

One of six constructed in the colony, a toll house (which included accommodation for the tollkeeper) was built on this site in 1834 under the governorship of Sir Richard Bourke, but collapsed during the disastrous flood of 1864. The present building was constructed on the sandstone foundations of the

previous structure, and was in use until 1887. The three sided bay window facing the road was designed so that the toll keeper could easily observe the thoroughfare from both directions. The location was ideal as there was no easy route around the toll house by persons seeking to evade the payment for crossing South Creek.

#### **14. Site of Windsor Gaol**

A large two storey brick gaol was built on this site in 1859 surrounded by a high brick wall with heavy iron gates facing Court Street. The building consisted on two rows of cells flanking a corridor on each floor with a separate kitchen and solitary confinement cell. The gaol was demolished in March 1936 and the cedar woodwork and iron fittings were taken to Parramatta Gaol for use there. The land was then subdivided into housing lots and only a small section of the perimeter wall remains.

#### **15. Military Barracks Stables**

A glimpse of the Windsor Police Station Stables can be seen directly across from the site of the gaol. Originally part of the military barracks site, they formed an important historic element in the Windsor Police precinct until the station's relocation to Mileham Street in 2010.

#### **16. Windsor Court House**

Convict architect Francis Greenway designed this building which was completed in 1822 by builder William Cox using convict labour. During the early years of the settlement at Windsor the building was used for many purposes including church services, meetings, elections, concerts and other entertainments. The building which features cedar joinery throughout is still in use today and is open for inspection when the court is not in session. An 1820s portrait of Governor Lachlan Macquarie which was commissioned by the citizens of the Hawkesbury hangs inside the court house in the public gallery although there has been some controversy surrounding the authenticity of the painting in recent years.

#### **17. Former Peninsula Inn**

The first licensee of these premises was John Shearing. Also known as the Court House Inn and Swallows Inn, this building is a fine example of an inn of the period. In spring and summer fairy-martins nest here under the eaves. The building may be recognised by fans of the old television series *A Country Practice*, as the surgery of Dr Terence Elliott.

#### **18. The Blue House**

Occupying a commanding position overlooking The Peninsula, this Victorian villa dating from about 1875 takes its name from the vivid blue glass which surrounds the front entrance. Constructed from facebrick by local contractor Mr Mullinger for a branch of the Tebbutt family it then became the Mullinger family home for many years. *The Blue House* includes a wide encircling verandah supported by decorative open cast iron columns with delicate iron valances and French doors complete with original shutters. The original slate roof is supported by bracketed eaves and dominated by a central chimney. There are some similarities in style with *Sunny Brae* in Fitzgerald Street (see Part C Windsor Heritage Walk – Windsor Mall Precinct) which was built about the same time.

#### **19. North Street Cottages**

North Street was named after Samuel North, the Police Magistrate at Windsor from 1829 to 1843. As many of the buildings in central Windsor were destroyed by fire in 1874, the North Street cottages provide an interesting and attractive example of the streetscape of the town in the mid-nineteenth century. The roofing style on numbers 25 to 23, known as a jerkin-head, provided shelter for people during times of flood. Some of the cottages were restored under a program financed by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in the 1980s.

***Nos. 20 and 21 are on private property and can be viewed from the end of North St.***

## **20. John Tebbutt Observatories (private property)**

John Tebbutt (1834-1916) **[pictured]**, gentleman astronomer and scientist, built his first observatory in 1863 (now demolished) and a second building (circular) in 1874 to accommodate a larger telescope. The square building was constructed in 1879. Tebbutt's meticulous astronomical and meteorological observations earned the accolade and respect of the scientific community. He discovered the great comet of 1861 and was made a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, London in 1873. Recently a large celestial globe owned by Tebbutt was restored and is now part of the collection of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum in Baker Street, Windsor. Tebbutt's telescope installed in 1888 has also been returned to the observatory building.

## **21. Peninsula House**

John Tebbutt inherited this property known as The Peninsula which includes *Peninsula House*, the family home which had been built in 1844, from his father in 1870. The home contains some fine original features such as marble chimney pieces and cedar joinery. The slate roof is supported by delicate cast iron columns. Prior to 1842 the farm had been leased by Rev. Samuel Marsden. The property including the turf farm, home and observatories are still owned by the descendants of John Tebbutt today.

## **22. Tara**

Located at 31 George Street, this Victorian villa with attractive scalloped barge boards and bay window set in a lovely cottage garden was built in 1893 for the sub-inspector of police at Windsor, John James Fitzpatrick. He named his residence *Tara* in remembrance of his Irish heritage. The land was originally part of a 30 grant to Samuel Wilcox and remained in the Fitzpatrick family until 1905 when it was purchased by George John Gardner. In 1912 the home was sold to Hilton Stanley Johnston a descendant of Andrew Johnston of Ebenezer and remained with the Johnston family until the 1990s when it was purchased by acclaimed local artist Greg Hansell. Fitzpatrick's son, John Charles Lucas Fitzpatrick commenced publication of *The Windsor and Richmond Gazette* (now *Hawkesbury Gazette*) in 1888.

## **23. Old Government House Site**

In April 1796 a cottage was constructed for the commanding officer of the garrison of soldiers stationed at Green Hills (later Windsor) and was mentioned by Governor Hunter in a list of public buildings erected since 1796. Although often referred to as the government house, it was never intended as an official residence for the governor of the colony of New South Wales although Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his party did stay in the cottage while exploring the district. The structure was built of timber with a shingle roof and included a cellar and a separate kitchen. Occupants have included Lieutenant Neil McKellar (1797-99), Lieutenant Thomas Hobby and Police Magistrate Samuel North (1829-1844). The house was sold into private ownership and was demolished in 1922.

## **24. Site of Windsor Barracks and Guardhouse**

A substantial brick barracks was completed on this site in 1818 by Richard Fitzgerald accommodating up to sixty soldiers. The foundations of the guardhouse constructed in 1830 at the entrance to the barracks were unearthed by road works in 1976 and the site preserved. The guardhouse consisted of three small cells which were used for the confinement of subordinate soldiers. The site was surrounded by a high wall, remnants of which survive today. The barracks and guardhouse were demolished in about 1928 to make way for the construction of a new residence, police station and lockup which were the centre of policing operations in the district until 2010.

***Cross safely at the pedestrian lights corner Macquarie and Bridge Streets to return to Thompson Square.***

## OTHER WINDSOR HERITAGE WALKS

### **A. Thompson Square precinct      nos. 1 – 10**

With the focus on Thompson Square, this walk features many fine examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings. The square was named by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in honour of his friend Andrew Thompson and was originally the centre of the village known as Green Hills which was proclaimed the town of Windsor by Governor Macquarie in December 1810.

**500m walk, 30 minutes.**

### **C. Windsor Mall precinct      nos. 25 – 53**

Commencing at the waterwheel near Baker Street, this walk travels through the commercial heart of Windsor returning to Thompson Square via The Terrace. Along Windsor Mall and further along George Street, a variety of architectural styles may be observed above street level. Many buildings started their life as residences but were later converted to shop fronts as the demand for commercial premises grew. The walk also takes in several churches and the Windsor Reservoir, an item of industrial heritage significance.

**2 km walk, 1 hour.**

### **D. McQuade Park precinct      nos. 54 – 83**

Continuing along George Street from New Street to the Windsor Railway Station and back along The Terrace, discover the residential areas of Windsor as they have developed around McQuade Park. The park was planned by Macquarie when the town was laid out in 1810. Of special interest is St Matthews Anglican Church which was commenced in 1817 during the time of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and its associated burial ground and rectory.

**3.5 km walk, 2 hours.**

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For further information call the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre (02) 4560 4620 or 1300 362 874. Or visit [www.hawkesburytourism.com.au](http://www.hawkesburytourism.com.au)

The Centre is at Ham Common (opposite Richmond RAAF Base), Hawkesbury Valley Way, CLARENDON NSW 2756. Open 7 days. Managed by Hawkesbury City Council

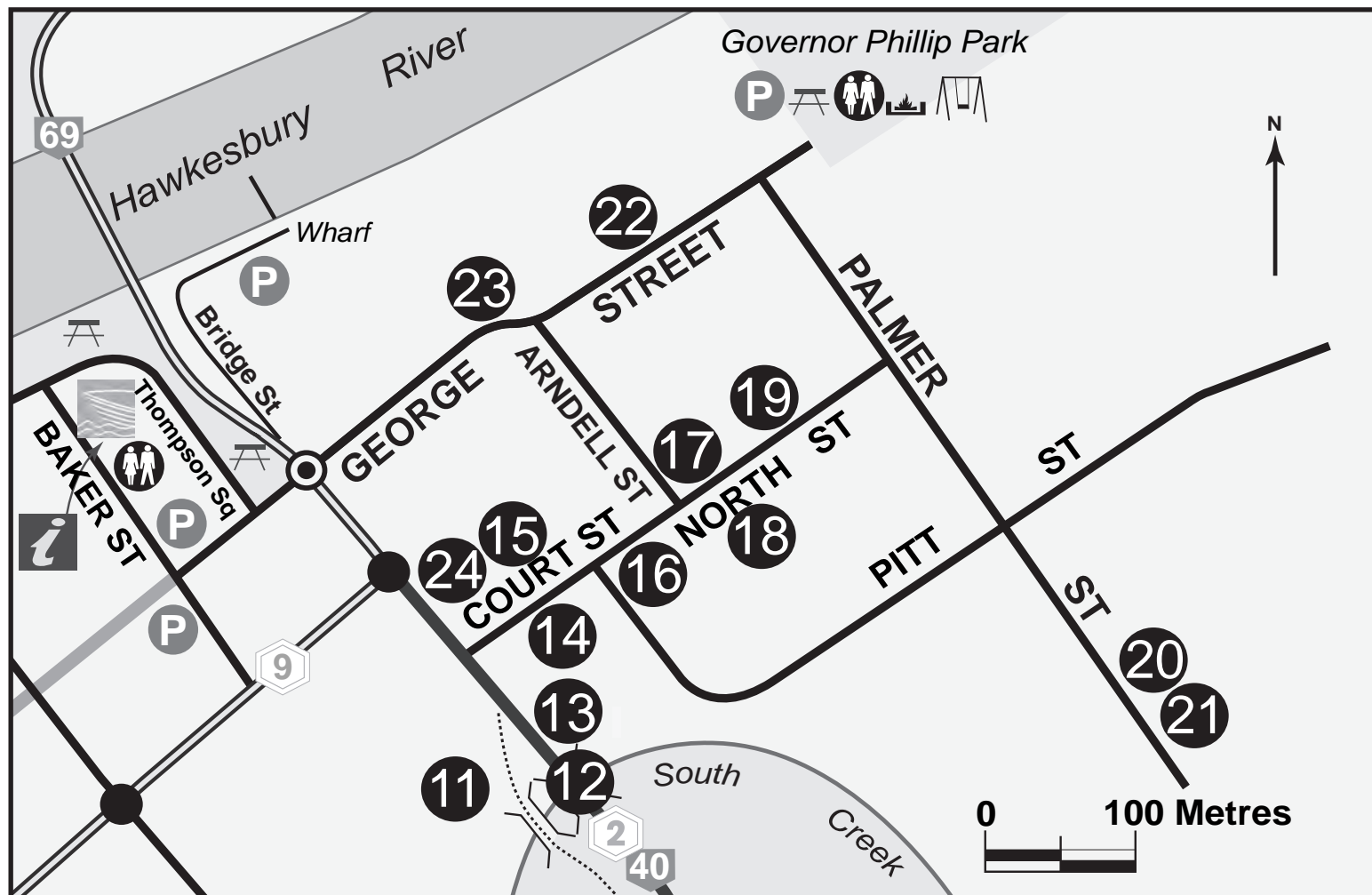
## B. WINDSOR HERITAGE WALK - The Peninsula precinct

- 11. Green Hills Burial Ground
- 12. Fitzroy Bridge
- 13. The Tollhouse
- 14. Site of Windsor Gaol
- 15. Stables
- 16. Windsor Courthouse
- 17. Former Peninsula Inn
- 18. The Blue House

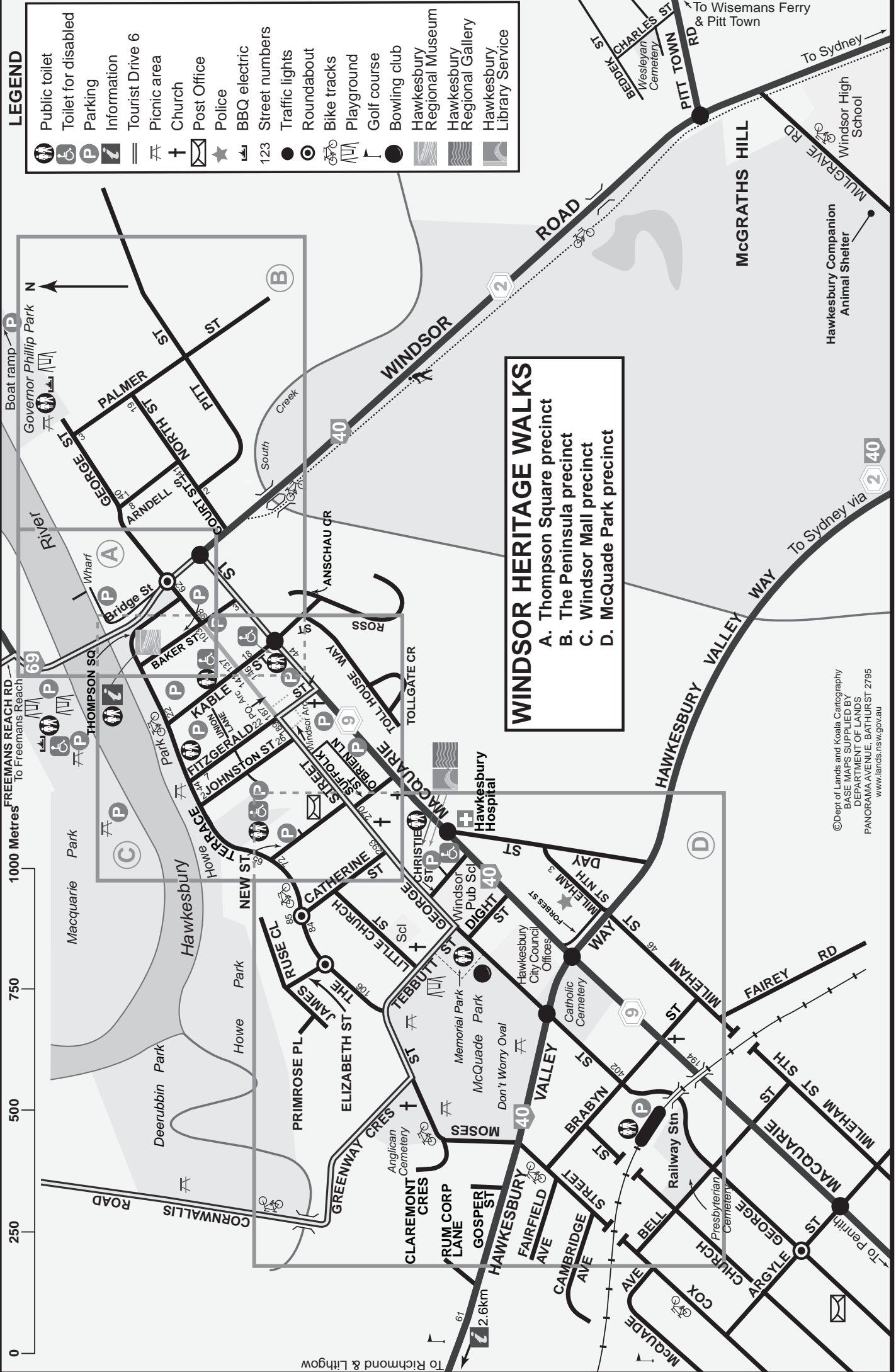
- 19. North Street Cottages
- 20. John Tebbutt Observatories - (private property)
- 21. Peninsula House
- 22. Tara
- 23. Old Government House Site
- 24. Site of Windsor Barracks and Guardhouse



Hawkesbury Regional Museum



WILBERFORCE ROAD  
To Wilberforce &  
Singleton



**LEGEND**

- Public toilet
- Toilet for disabled
- Parking
- Information
- Tourist Drive 6
- Picnic area
- Church
- Post Office
- Police
- BBQ electric
- Street numbers
- Traffic lights
- Roundabout
- Bike tracks
- Playground
- Golf course
- Bowling club
- Hawkesbury Regional Museum
- Hawkesbury Regional Gallery
- Hawkesbury Library Service

**WINDSOR HERITAGE WALKS**  
A. Thompson Square precinct  
B. The Peninsula precinct  
C. Windsor Mall precinct  
D. McQuade Park precinct

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