

FRESHWATER HERITAGE AND SURFING HISTORY

- 12 With surf breaks that are famous worldwide, Manly-Freshwater was named a National Surf Reserve in 2010 and a World Surfing Reserve in 2012.
- 13 **Freshwater View Reserve** represents an early creative endeavour to establish terraced gardens on the rugged headland slopes. With a grand sandstone entrance, the park boasts fantastic views.

Freshwater or Harbord?

A subdivision in 1886 was named Harbord Estate, after the wife of the then Governor. The beach area and land behind was known as Freshwater, after the creek that opened there. But campers gave Freshwater a bad name. In 1923 a push to disassociate the area with the bad name of Freshwater saw the suburb officially named Harbord. With many still preferring the name Freshwater it was formally reinstated in 2008.



Isabel Letham

Local girl Isabel Letham (left) went on to have a successful surfing career after her tandem ride with the Duke in January 1915.

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Hello FRESHWATER HERITAGE



FRESHWATER HERITAGE AND SURFING HISTORY

Freshwater has a rich beach culture stretching for more than 100 years. Come and learn about the area's surfing history and other interesting historical facts.

- ① The **Duke Kahanamoku Statue and Memorial Garden** commemorates Duke's famous surfing demonstration at Freshwater in 1915 that popularised surfing in Australia. The demonstration included a tandem ride with 15-year-old local, Isabel Letham, who went on to be an accomplished surfer, inducted into the Australian Surfing Hall of Fame. Many of Australia's top surfers are recognised here.
- ② Officially opened in 1925, the **Freshwater rockpool** remains a popular swimming spot. In winter, the occasional New Zealand Fur Seal can also be spotted hanging out on the rocks surrounding the pool.
- ③ Founded in 1908, the first substantial **Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club** opened in 1935. Representing inter-war Mediterranean style architecture, it forms an integral part of the modern club. Visit the Heritage Room to see the Duke's board and other memorabilia.
- ④ Built in 1908, this heritage listed weatherboard building is significant for its federation style architecture and as an early meeting place and recreation venue.
- ⑤ Opened in 1928, the **Harbord Beach Hotel** is an example of an inter-war hotel building with influences of Californian bungalow style.
- ⑥ An example of inter-war **Fire Station** architecture, the first permanent Fire Station in Harbord opened in 1925 and operated for 20 years. In 1949 the building was converted to a Baby Health Centre.
- ⑦ The foundation stone of the **Harbord Literary Institute** was laid in July 1918. The building has hosted many activities over the years, including regular dances by the Violet Club in the early days.
- ⑧ The **Soldiers Avenue** Brushboxes were planted to commemorate those who died in World War I. Only two of the original tree guards remain.
- ⑨ Named after local serviceman Leslie Jacka, **Jacka Park Memorial Garden** first opened in 1979 and contains an early memorial obelisk, flag pole and wall of remembrance.
- ⑩ Enjoy the lush streetscape of Wyuna Avenue, with **heritage listed** Brushbox trees lining the street.
- ⑪ Planted by local school children, 22 **Norfolk Island Pines** line Koolooro Ave. While not native to this area, they are a prominent example of a seaside planting.

GRADE
Easy

DISTANCE
3.5km

TIME
1.5 - 2 hours loop

PATH
Formed track, beach walking, gentle hills, many steps



Duke Kahanamoku, 1915

First Permanent Fire Station



- ★ START HERE
- 🚻 TOILETS
- OTHER TRAILS
- P PARKING
- 🚌 BUS STOP

0 60 120
SCALE 1:6000 (METRES)