

# your guide to a walk along the Pioneers' Track

## Other bushwalks in Hornsby Shire

For more information about other bushwalks around Hornsby Shire including the Free Guided Bushwalks program visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushland](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushland) or contact 9847 6666.

For more information about the history of the local area visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library) or contact 9847 6807.

Natural Resources Branch  
Hornsby Shire Council  
296 Pacific Highway, Hornsby  
PO Box 37, Hornsby NSW 1630

Telephone 9847 6832  
8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushland](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushland)

**Cover photo:** Sonter family packing their fruit crop in 1911. The Sonter orchard was on the south western corner of Ray and Midson Roads, Epping dating back to 1888.

**Inside photo:** Anne Mobbs packing apricots for the Sydney market in the early 20th century.

**Photographer:** Rex Hazlewood



## About the track

Pioneers' Track is an easy 2.8km loop track which meanders through Epping, Beecroft and Carlingford tracing the area's early European history.

From this relatively small area of Hornsby Shire, a vast amount of history has been gleaned from relatives and friends of early settlers, volunteers and local historians. Tales of hardship, love and laughter brought to life once again the colourful characters and childhood memories of yesteryear.

Have a walk through this area to envisage life two hundred years ago. Imagine tall, beautiful forests where houses now stand, fruit orchards and nurseries through which busy roads now run and large families living from the land. Imagine the people growing their own food, making bricks from the earth and cutting timber from these forests for their homes and livelihood.

This region has a rich indigenous history of the Wallumedja clan who ranged from the Lane Cove to Parramatta Rivers, one of the many clans of the Darug people.

The bushland that lines the creek and track has been restored in partnership with Hornsby Shire Council and the Bushcare volunteer program. It supports vegetation communities such as the Blackbutt Gully Forest and the Ecologically Endangered Blue Gum High Forest. This bushland provides important habitat and a wildlife corridor for our local fauna such as the Powerful Owl and Sugar Gliders.

### Optional: Extend your walk to the Habitat Havens for flora and fauna information

If you would like to extend your bushwalk further, you can take The Link Track through Beecroft and Chilworth Reserve, a short street walk away.

## Pioneers' Track – heritage walk and nature trail

Along the Pioneers' Track you will find interpretive signage with information about:

1. The history of Devlins Creek
2. The Martin Bros. Quarry
3. The Dawson family and poultry farm
4. Orcharding in the area
5. The Ray family
6. Creeklife
7. The brick kiln and clay pits
8. The Tunks family
9. Forests and timber-getters
10. The Hazlewood orchard and nursery
11. Charles Tucker and family
12. First Settlers and their homesteads
13. The Ross and Maher families
14. The Mobbs, Rosen and Larsen families
15. The Midson and Wooster families

Length: Entire length of track, return trip 2.8km  
Ray Park Circuit: 750m  
Degree of difficulty: Easy (with some slightly graded sections)



**RISK:** The creek is subject to flooding



The information shelter near Roselea Public School contains information about:

- Local Aboriginal history
- Bushcare and bush regeneration
- The natural environment of the area
- Pennant Hills Wireless Station
- Early settler life
- Roads and transport of the local area

