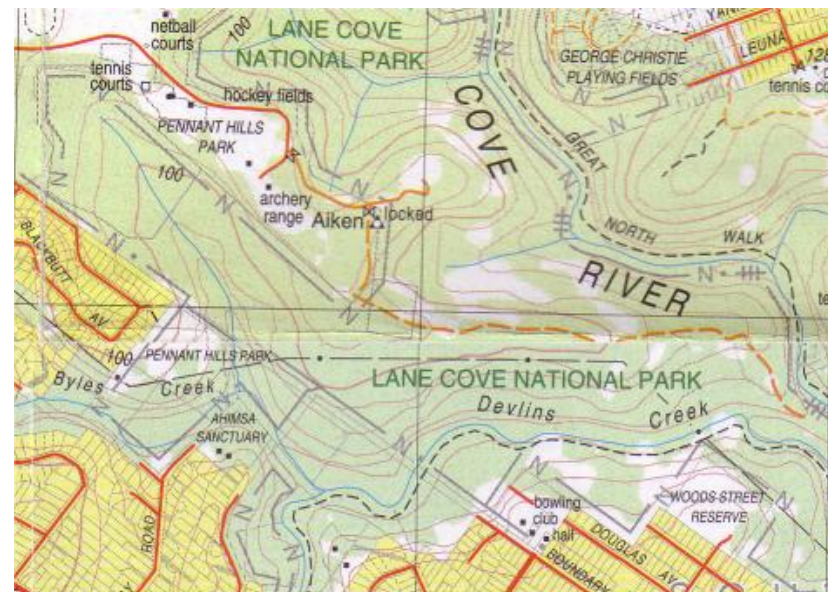
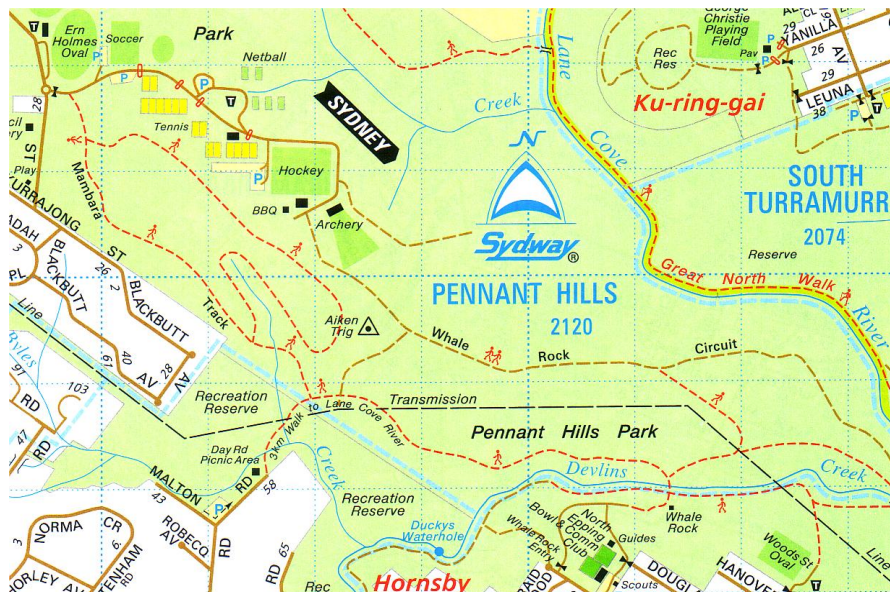


Whale Rock and Devlins Creek

This circuit takes in some of the loveliest parts of Lane Cove National Park, heading up a quiet, rocky footpath to Pennant Hills Oval and then following the ridge along Pennant Hills fire trail down to Devlins Creek. Many of the 550 native flora species that have been identified in the park can be found along this circuit, and the quirky Whale Rock is a place that is well-loved by locals.

Finding the Track

From Cheltenham railway station, exit on the northern side and head right along Sutherland Road, and then first left along Day Road. Head down Day Road for half a kilometre. The track starts just beyond the car park at the end of Day Road.



Sources:

Sydney's Best Bush, Park & City Walks – Sydney Morning Herald by Veechi Stuart (walk #26)

Greater Sydney Sydway 2012

Topographical & Orthophoto Map 1:25 000 -

Hornsby 9130-4S

Parramatta River 9130-3N

Whale Rock and Devlins Creek

1 At the end of Day Road, follow walking track signs to Lane Cove River. Almost immediately, a sidetrack on the right branches off to the back entrance of Ahisma, a National Trust property, which is an interesting place to wander around, if you're up for a diversion so near the beginning of your walk.

4 As the Mambra Track hairpins left, go right, emerging onto the bitumen road that circles Pennant Hills Oval. Stick to the right, past all the tennis courts.



7 Almost a kilometre further on, the track forks, with a bitumen road heading uphill. You need to stick to the right, following Devlins Creek, but before you do, look up to your left to see the distinctive Whale Rock peering back, an eye-like feature on a sandstone outcrop. This 'eye' has been formed by the difference in weathering of the hard and soft bands of iron oxide.

2 200 metres from the end of Day Road, the track forks. Keep left, following signs to Pennant Hills, crossing Byles creek on stepping stones and following the rocky track uphill. Christmas bush, boronia and pimelia provide spring and summer wildflowers, underneath a canopy of banksias, gnarled tea-trees and a fire-damaged stand of tall blackbutts.

5 As the bitumen road curves around the back of the hockey field, there's a locked gate on your left. Go left here, and 200 metres further along, turn right at the next locked gate. This is the Pennant Hills fire trail, and although it can be uncomfortably hot in summer, there's lovely bush all around and far-reaching city views.

8 After another 700 metres, just after Duckys Waterholes, the fire trail forks once more. Head right, crossing the creek on the concrete causeway, following the signs to Cheltenham. (This causeway can be awash after heavy rain.)

3 Near the top of the ridge, the track energies onto the paved Mambra Track (Mambra is an Aboriginal word for the Geebung species, an important food source). Head right along here.

6 The firetrail descends to Devlins Creek, meeting up with another firetrail. Bear right, following signs to Cheltenham and looping around to follow Devlins Creek. This stretch along Devlins Creek is lovely, with birds filling the air with their calls. As you cross the creek once, twice and then a third time, you may spot lizards or water dragons sunning themselves on rocks; there are 16 different snakes and lizards living in the park.

9 Only another 300 metres or so and you're back at the bottom of Day Road. Head left back up the hill to complete your circuit.

Whale Rock and Devlins Creek

