





Contents

Introduction	3
Map of bushwalks	4
SOUTH	
Terrys Creek	6
Pioneer Track	7
Mambara Track	8
The Jungo	9
Refuge Rock	9
Callicoma Walk	10
Blue Gum circuit	12
Elouera Walk	13
Berowra Valley Regional Park	14
Barnetts Road Reserve	15
Crosslands Reserve	16
NORTH	
Pogson Trig	18
Heritage Bridges Walk	19
Benowie Walking Track	20
Lyrebird Gully	21
Fagan Park and Carrs Bush	22
Salt Marsh Walk	24
Berowra Waters Walk	25
Mangroves boardwalk	26
Walking with dogs in Hornsby Shire	27

More walks...

The **Great North Walk** track links Sydney and Newcastle and has been designed for people of all ages and levels of experience. It provides a series of day and weekend walks with numerous access points, facilities and connections. A detailed map kit can be obtained from Hornsby Council 9847 6853 or the Department of Lands 4920 5074.

The **Harbour to Hawkesbury Walking Track** links Manly and Berowra and showcases some of Sydney's most scenic bushland, harbours and waterways. More information and a map can be obtained from Manly Council 9976 1500 or The National Parks Centre 1300 361 967.

Hornsby Shire's Natural Environment

Hornsby Shire Council is committed to protecting the natural environment and is involved with managing over 6,000 hectares of public bushland and 174 Parks including 134 playgrounds and 12 garden parks.

Get out and about and enjoy your local environment. Take a bushwalk through one of Council's reserves, Berowra Valley Regional Park, Lane Cove National Park, Marramarra National Park or Muogomarra Nature Reserve, picnic in a formal garden, or simply enjoy the views at one of several lookouts.

Hornsby Council is proud of being the Bushland Shire and we encourage you to take a step outside and be inspired by what you experience.

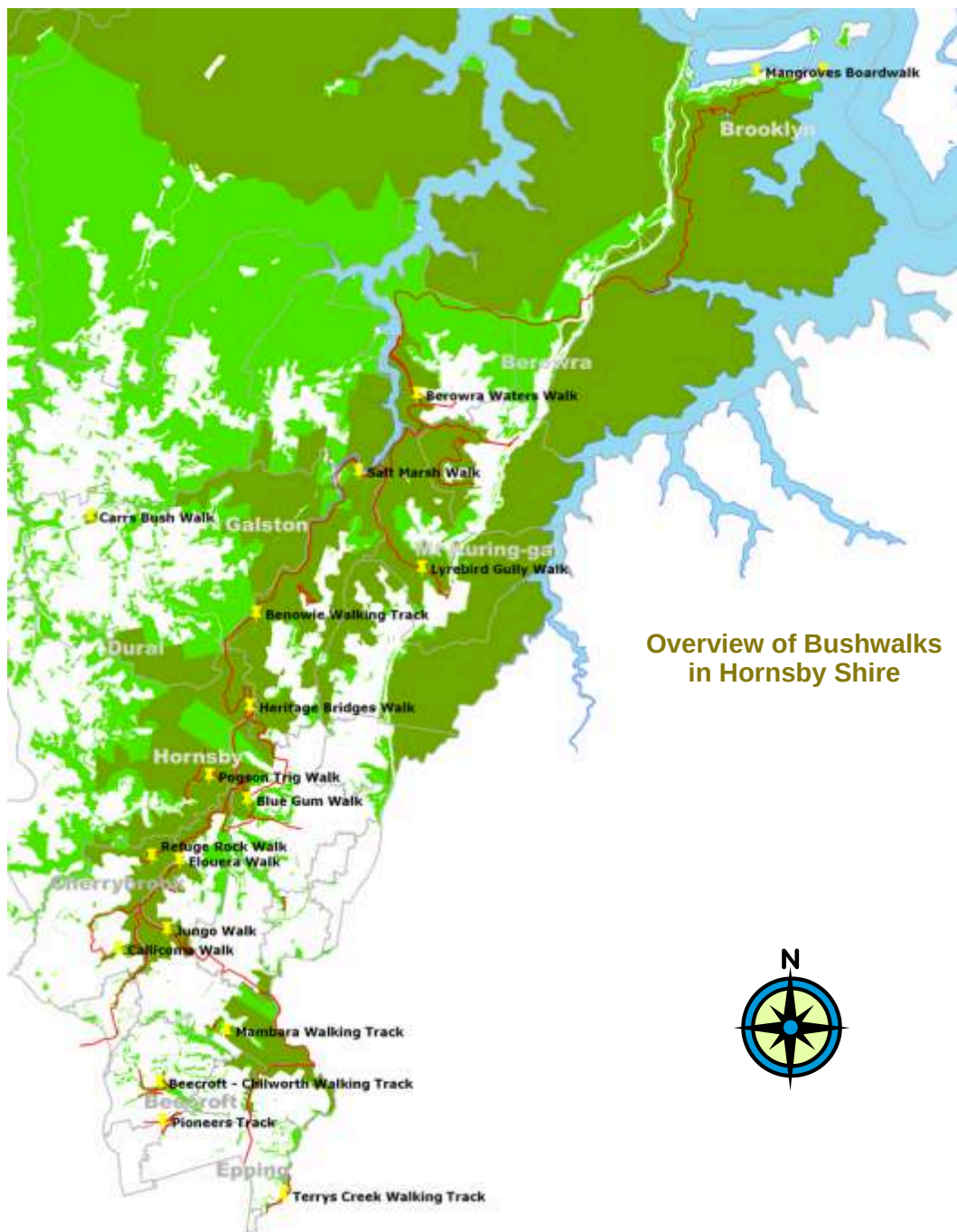


To report track maintenance or signage issues please contact the relevant land managers listed:

The Great North Walk track is managed by Department of Lands.
Phone 4920 5074.

Tracks within Berowra Valley Regional Park and Lane Cove National Park are managed by National Parks and Wildlife Services. Contact Kalkari Visitors Centre 9472 9300 (for BVRP) and 9412 1811 (for LCNP)

Most other tracks in the Hornsby area are managed by Hornsby Council.
Contact 9847 6853.



Overview of Bushwalks in Hornsby Shire

Maps of individual walks can be found at council's website:
www.bushland.nsw.gov.au

Bushwalking safety

What to wear:

Enclosed footwear with a non-slip sole.
Protective clothing, long sleeves etc.
A wide-brim hat
Sunscreen

What to carry:

Depending on your length of walk you should bring:
Drinking water
Snack/lunch
First aid kit (even on short walks)
Insect repellent
Mobile phone (coverage may not be available in valleys)
Wet weather gear

Remember:

Check the weather forecast and avoid walking in very cold, wet, windy or hot weather and on Total Fire Ban days.

Walk with at least one other person.

Inform someone of your walking plans and what time you expect to return.

Walk at a pace which is comfortable for you and your walking group.

Take regular rest stops.

Throughout the walk, take fluids regularly.

The tracks in this booklet are a guide only and occasionally may have to deviate or close due to weather conditions or fire hazards.

For more details on the walks within Berowra Valley Regional Park, see “A Guide to Berowra Valley Regional Park”

Free Guided Bushwalks Program

Hornsby Council's Bushland and Biodiversity Team conduct free guided bushwalks around many areas of the shire and cover several of the walks listed in this guide.

Walks usually take 2- 3 hours and there are easy, medium and difficult tracks to try. Guides are friendly, professional and knowledgeable about the local flora and fauna, history and geology of the area.

Bookings are essential and it is best to book early as places are limited to 15 for day walks and 10 for evening spotlight walks.

Walks are generally not suitable for children under 5. Older children are usually able to manage the easy walks.

Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and a drink and snack.

Phone Council's Environment Customer Service on 9847 6853 for bookings or if you require further information.

The current program is available by visiting www.bushland.hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

Terrys Creek walk

Location: The walking track runs between Vimiera Park (Essex St) and Dence Park (Stanley Rd) Epping.

Features: In the 1830s the Great North Road ran past Vimiera Park and local legend is that this grassed area was the camping spot for travellers on their first night out from Sydney Town. Dence Park was named after a local landholder by the name of Mr Dence who bequeathed his land to council.

Flora & Fauna: Setting off from Vimiera Park you will walk through an area of threatened Blue Gum High Forest which grows on shale derived soil. The main canopy trees are Sydney Blue Gum, Turpentine and Blackbutt.

Further along the creekline the vegetation features rainforest species with the main canopy trees being Grey Myrtle, Coachwood and Water Gum. Towards the Dence Park end of the walk you will notice another change in the appearance of the bushland with this area being a typical example of the sort of vegetation that grows on sandstone derived soils.

Eastern water dragons are common along the creekline and it is sometimes possible to find one sunning itself on a warm rock. Mature trees provide nesting opportunities and hollows for possums and many bird species including parrots and owls.

Length: 1.5km.

Grade: Easy to moderate.

Facilities: Toilets at Dence Park.



Eastern water dragons are sometimes found sunbathing on warm rocks along the creekline.

Pioneers' Track

Location: The track can be accessed at several points including Ray Park, Little Ray Park, Ridge St. and behind the Scout hall on Plympton Rd, Epping.

Features: Pioneers' Track meanders through Epping, Beecroft and Carlingford and with the aid of interpretive signage, traces the early European history of the area.

From this relatively small area of Hornsby Shire, a vast amount of history has been gleaned from local family members, friends, volunteers and local historians. Ancestors, colourful local characters, childhood memories, tales of hardship and love stories have come to life once again.

Walk through this area and imagine the type of people and lives they lead. Two hundred years ago it would have been a very different place; tall, pristine forests where houses now stand, fruit orchards and nurseries through which busy roads now run and large families living from the land, making bricks from the earth and cutting timber from these forests for their homes and livelihood.

Flora & Fauna: The Upper Devlin's Creek system flows through a series of reserves that link together to form a bushland corridor stretching all the way to the Lane Cove National Park. Not only do corridors provide food and shelter, but they also allow for fauna to move safely between core bush areas. The surrounding bushland is classified as a "Tall Open Forest" plant community. The dominant canopy species are Blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis*, Sydney Turpentine *Syncarpia glomulifera*, Sydney Red Gum *Angophora costata*, and the Sydney Blue Gum *Eucalyptus saligna*.

Length: The entire length of track, return trip 2.8km. Ray Park circuit 750m.

Grade: Easy (with some slightly graded sections)

The once heavily forested area of Devlins Creek circa mid 1800s



The Mambara Track

- Location:** The beginning of the track is located at the entrance to Pennant Hills Sporting Complex just beyond the roundabout off Britannia Street, Pennant Hills. A small car park is located adjacent to the track.
- Features:** The Mambara Track has been designed to be accessible for everybody and is particularly suited to those people with access difficulties. The concrete path allows access for people with disabilities (e.g. wheelchairs), the elderly and parents with strollers.
- The track provides a sample of what typical Sydney Open Forest is like, introducing you to a diverse range of flora and fauna habitats. Stop and listen along the way and try to count how many different bird sounds there are.
- Interpretive signs are located along the track to point out features of interest and allow you to interact more easily with the unique ecological environment surrounding you.
- Facilities:** Disabled toilets are located at Ern Holms Oval, Britannia St.
- Length:** 800m or about 30 minutes.
- Grade:** Easy - suitable for prams and wheelchairs.

Below: The Mambara Track is
idea for people using
wheelchairs and prams.
Right: Blackbutt *Eucalyptus*



Jungo Walk

Location: Starting at Bellamy Street, Pennant Hills (located exactly halfway between Pennant Hills and Thornleigh Stations), to Thornleigh then back to Morrison Place, Pennant Hills, returning to Bellamy Street via Laurence Street.

Flora & Fauna: Enjoy the flora of our open native Sydney sandstone region which include eucalypts, banksias (which bear spikes of red and yellow flowers from January to May), and golden pea flowers (which flower profusely in spring). The track joins up with the Great North Walk and drops down to Berowra Creek.

Features: The long term effects of weathering can be seen on the Sydney sandstone which has resulted in the creation of many waterfalls and gullies, including a natural rock shelter which can shelter up to a dozen people! After heavy rainfall the overhanging rock ledge waterfall is spectacular. There are three ways to end this walk, the easiest and most scenic is via the Great North Walk exit where you can view some large Angophoras along the way.

Length: 5km or about 2 hours.

Grade: Easy.

Refuge Rock

Location: Trevor Lane off Purchase Rd, Cherrybrook to Refuge Rock and return.

Flora & Fauna: The start of this walk provides an excellent introduction to typical Sydney woodland of Scribbly Gums, Red Bloodwoods and Old Man Banksias. The understorey with its rich diversity means that something is always in flower. In summer, the Stringybark's large white blossoms attract a variety of insects. Continuing straight ahead at the forking of the track will lead you to a stand Sydney Red Gums with their beautiful red-tan smooth bark. In December the red blossoms of Christmas Bush can be seen along the slope down to outcroppings of Sydney sandstone. This botanically diverse Hawkesbury sandstone vegetation is creates a delightful display when in flower. Next is the arrival at Refuge Rock, a myriad of sandstone outcroppings in different textures and shades.

The surrounding vegetation of the rock platform is unique, consisting of bracken, banksias, grass trees, blackbutts and the uncommon variety of eucalyptus, the whipstick mallee ash.

Length: 2 km or up to two hours.

Grade: Easy. This walk is suitable for families and the elderly.

Callicoma Walk

Location: Lakes Reserve at the corner of Shepherds and Macquarie Drives in Greenway Estate, Cherrybrook.

Features: The Callicoma Walk is a circular track from the Lakes Reserve in Cherrybrook. Starting at a chain of ponds, the picnic area is home to many waterbirds, including the Pied Cormorant, water hens and ducks.

As you follow the path under Macquarie Drive the walk introduces you to a gradation of vegetation from forest down by the creek to woodland on the valley sides. Be sure to watch for the dry cave-like overhangs as you depart the fire trail leading to the shady fern area.

Flora & Fauna: The dry sandstone ridges of this area are characterised by Narrow Leaved Angophoras, Scribbly Gums, Geebung, Rice Flowers and small Flannel Flowers. Along the creeklines, moist ferns and epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants) grow. Massive 6m high caves, fallen boulders and an 8m high waterfall rock face make this a diverse and interesting walk.

Length: 5 kilometres or about 2 to 3 hours.

Grade: Moderate.

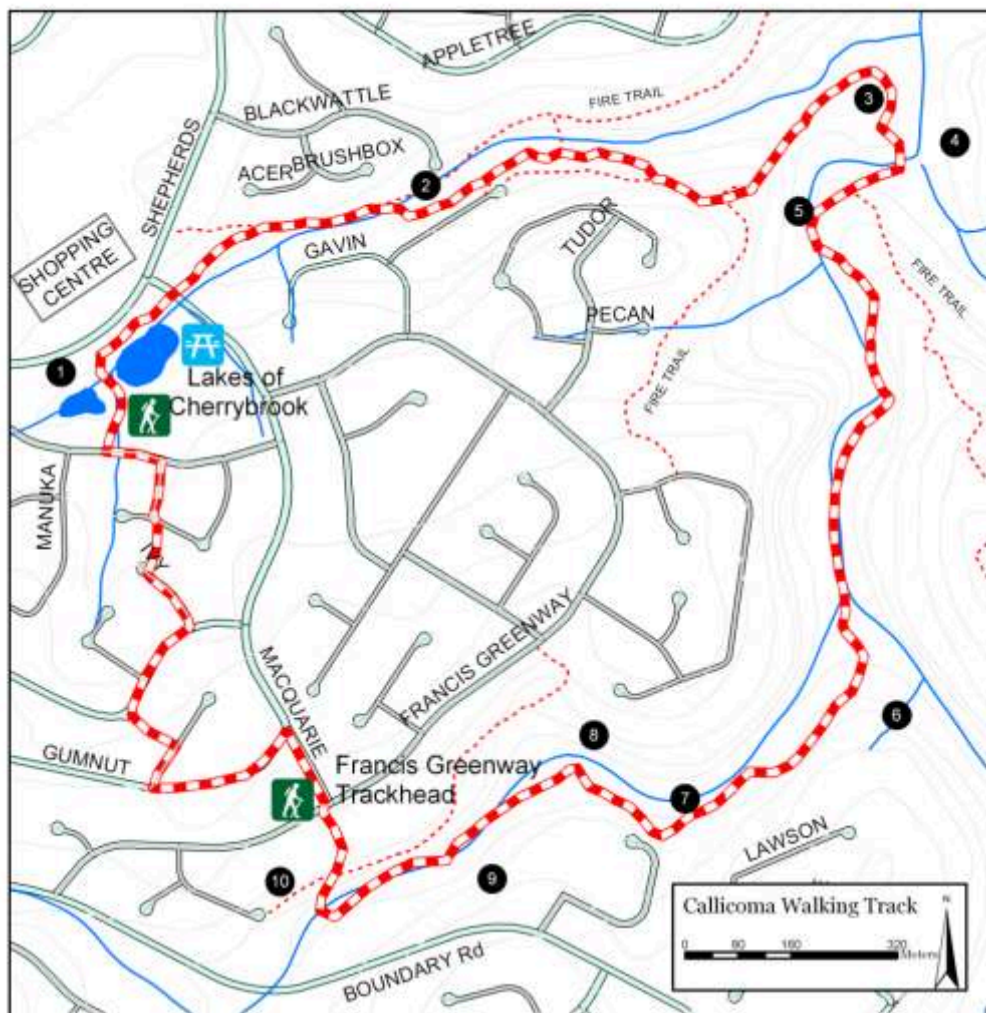
Callicoma serratifolia is a plant of historic interest as the first timbers used for the wattle and daub huts of the early settlers were cut from these trees. This plant was common at that time around Sydney Cove.

The bark of *Callicoma* is rough and dark brown with a pinkish-brown inner layer.

The serrated leaves, which are a distinctive feature of this plant, are 50-130 mm long, broadly lance-shaped and sharply pointed. They are smooth and shiny on the upper surface and pale with whitish or rust coloured hairs below with prominent raised veins. Additional interest is provided by the pale bronze colouring of the young foliage that is covered with fine rusty hairs.



Cherrybrook Lakes



- 1 THE LAKES- These lakes were part of a dam system built by farmers in the Cherrybrook area.
- 2 DISTURBED CREEK - influenced by nutrient increases, sewer construction and siltation. The creek is being progressively regenerated.
- 3 THE RIDGE - you are now walking through a Peppermint Gum, *Eucalyptus piperita* and Narrow-leaved Apple, *Angophora bakeri* forest, uncommon in the Berowra Valley Regional Park.
- 4 THE JUNGLE- A junction with The Great North Walk.
- 5 FALLEN TREE- Animals use these logs as natural bridges. The log's decay adds nutrients to the soil and new trees grow to replace them.
- 6 THE CAVE- An impressive wind sculptured cave. Have a close look at the layers, this indicates changing conditions during the rock's formation.
- 7 THE ROCK- Here the plants become typical xerophytes (dry plants) including large grass-trees, Old man banksias, Hakeas and Grevilleas.
- 8 COACHWOOD GROTTTO- Divert from the main track to this impressive stand of coachwoods.
- 9 CALLICOMA & COACHWOOD- A section of temperate rainforest which includes Callicoma, Coachwood, Christmas Bush and Lillypilly.
- 10 BLACKBUTT REDGUM FOREST- The hollows are popular nesting places for birds and marsupials.

Blue Gum Walk

Location: This loop walk starts at Rosemead Road, Hornsby and ends at Ginger Meggs Park (about 400 metres from Rosemead Road starting point, which can be reached by following the road up to the left). There is access to this walk from Hornsby Station, through Dural St. and down the steep convict steps.

Features: This track is for those who love to explore! Venture into Old Mans Valley and admire the stately stand of Sydney Blue Gums. Originating on volcanic soil this site of an ancient diatrema has meant the production of a fertile strip 10km long.

Surrounded by creeks and largely unaffected by development, this area is one of the easiest places to observe our unique botanical heritage.

One magnificent tree on the walk is the leaning Angophora which has been struck by lightning. When the track becomes a path, clamber over rocks and enjoy the view from the chiselled steps as the valley drops away.

Relax and explore the Fishponds which are a real treat for first timers. On the way to Waitara Creek clamber over tumbled rocks and boulders and be greeted by the most scenic part, an area dominated by rock overhangs and the creek lined by Angophoras and Water Gums. Climb your way back to the top and follow the Old Sawyers route used in the 1800s for timber transportation.

Length: 4.3 km, allow about 1.5 to 2 hours.

Grade: Moderate to difficult.

Mature trees develop large hollows which are important habitat for owls and Gang-gang Cockatoos.





Keep an eye out during the day for nesting birds and sleeping possums - sometimes found in unusual places!



Elouera Walk

Location: Start at De Saxe Close, Westleigh (the park entrance is located at the end of De Saxe Close behind a stone wall). Finish at Rosemead Road Hornsby.

Features: The walk begins with an example of a large Sydney Red Gum, the first of many you will see along this walk. This bush track has an interesting origin, being formed from an old road line built in the 1890s to carry stone from the bush quarry. At the bottom of this, the track is diverted onto a bullock trail constructed in 1912 and is lined with Sydney Peppermints and Red Gums.

From the quarry the track leads down to Zig Zag Creek demonstrating the typical headwaters of creeks rising in sandstone country near Sydney. From the creek you head to the Jungo with views of steep sheltered cliffs and sunlight slanting through the canopy of Sydney Peppermints.

After a short but strenuous climb the sandstone ridge opens up a great view to the north of Thornleigh Gully which makes the climb well worth the effort.

Length: 9 km or about 4 to 5 hours.

Grade: Moderate with a few short difficult sections.

Berowra Valley

Regional Park

Location: The regional park covers more than 3800 ha of bushland within Hornsby Shire and extends 16km long and between 1 - 6km wide between Pennant Hills in the South and Berowra in the North. The Great North Walk, which is a major walking track within the Park, provides trackheads (entry points) at Berowra, Mt Kuring-gai (Glenview Road), Mt Colah, Asquith, Hornsby, Galston Gorge, Pennant Hills (Bellamy Street) and Cherrybrook (Callicoma Walk).

Access: Mount Kuring-gai and Berowra railway stations are close to the northern section of the Park. The main public road through the mid-section of the Park is Galston Road. Other road access is via Berowra Waters Road and Somerville Road to the north-east and Crosslands Road to the north-west. The southern section of the Park adjoins the suburbs of Cherrybrook, Thornleigh and Pennant Hills. Access to these areas of the Park is via numerous trackheads, most of which are within walking distance of local railway stations. Trail bikes and horse riding are not permitted.

Toilets: Toilets are available at Crosslands Reserve and Berowra Waters in the carpark area on the western side of the water.

Camping: Short term camping is available in Crosslands Reserve by arrangement with council. There are designated camping areas along the Great North Walk. Call the Parks Facilities Officer on 9847 6791 for details and bookings.

Facilities: Picnic facilities are provided at Crosslands Reserve, The Jungo and Berowra Waters.

Features: Items of Aboriginal heritage and European historical interest are contained within the Park including middens, the zig zag railway and historic quarry at Thornleigh.

Main recreational activities in the Park include bushwalking, nature appreciation, jogging, boating, picnicking, fishing, cycling, camping and leashed dog walking in designated areas.

Scenic views can be found at Galston Gorge, Barnetts Reserve and at Naa Badu Lookout. Playground facilities are provided at Crosslands Reserve and at Barnetts Reserve.

Detailed maps for the Great North Walk, which passes through Berowra Valley Regional Park, can be found in the Discovery Kit which also contains information on walk distances, facilities, and transport.

Available from council's environment counter for \$11.00

Barnetts Road Reserve

- Location:** At the intersection of Barnetts Road and Wyanna Street, Berowra Heights
- Size:** Approximately three hectares
- Access:** Entry from a small carpark adjacent to the street. Wheelchair access to picnic area from carpark.
- Features:** Barnetts Reserve is part of Berowra Valley Regional Park and contains vegetation typical of the sandstone ridges of the Park. The main feature is the spectacular view looking west over Berowra Creek from the lookout which is accessible from a path from the car park. The reserve also contains a playground surrounded by a grassed area.
- Facilities:** There are three picnic tables with seats on concrete slabs. The tables are linked by concrete paths to the small car park to enable easy disabled access. Children's playground. Drinking water available.
- Flora & Fauna:** Away from the developed picnic area magnificent grass trees can be found amongst the bushland. Native orchids can also be seen clinging to the trunks of the larger trees.



Crosslands Reserve

Location: Hornsby Heights

Access: Vehicle access is via a 2.5km unsealed road at the end of Somerville Rd. Hornsby Heights. Access is also available by foot from Hornsby in the south and Berowra along the Benowie Walking Track which forms part of the Great North Walk.

Pets: No dogs or horses permitted.

Toilets: Toilets are situated at both southern and northern ends of the reserve.

Features: Playground at southern end. Children's bike track at northern end. Launching areas for canoes are from the boat ramp or sandy areas adjacent to the car park. Popular fishing spots are found downstream and can be accessed along the walking tracks.

Camping: Fees apply. Bookings must be made with council's Parks Facilities Officer. Phone 9847 6791 for current costs. Maximum stay is 10 days. Vehicles are not permitted in camping areas. For safety reasons it is recommended that you camp away from large trees.

Facilities: A number of picnic shelters, tables and BBQs are found throughout the reserve. Council provides a booking facility for large groups. Phone council's Parks Facilities Officer on 9847 6791.

Flora & Fauna: Low Woodland/ Open Scrub is found on the ridges, with canopies of Red Bloodwood and Scribbly Gum, while Open Forest/Woodland dominates the sheltered hillsides, with Blackbutts, Smooth-Barked Apple and Sydney Peppermint. Where the valley widens, Tall Open Forest comprising Sydney Blue Gums and Grey Ironbarks is common. Closer to the water, River Mangroves and Swamp Oaks grow in a marine influenced environment and between Crosslands and Calna Creek pockets of saltmarsh join the mangroves. Rich in natural diversity, this area provides habitat for the koala, Spotted-Tailed Quoll and Powerful Owl and many other rare and threatened species. Parrots, honey-eaters and water birds such as the White-Faced Heron and Pied Cormorant are often seen.

Bushwalks: The track head for the Benowie Track is found at Crosslands and forms part of the Great North Walk between Sydney and Newcastle. From Crosslands, walks can be taken to:
Galston Gorge 6.8km moderate (1/2 day)
Berowra Waters 7km moderate (1/2 day)
Berowra Station 6.5km moderate (1/2 day)
Mt Kuring-gai Station 8km (1/2 day)
"Place of Winds" Interpretive Trail 1km (45mins return from Northern end)



Below: Spectacular view overlooking Berowra Valley Regional Park.

Left: Boardwalk at Crosslamds.

Top: Glossy-black cockatoos favour the casuarinas at Crosslamds.

Above: Look out in the mangroves for colourful Semaphore Crabs.



Pogson Trig Walk

Location: The Pogson Trig walk starts at the fire trail gate at the end of Quarry Road, Dural and arrives at Pogsons Trig. From the Trig marker follow the north fire trail along Tunks Ridge. When the track reaches the Rifle Range safety zone turn back and once back at the Trig, take the track to the left to visit the rare sandstone swamp. Retrace your path to Trig and then turn left along the fire trail to return to the main fire trail gate.

Features: The vegetation along the first part of this walk is typical sandstone heath and scrub woodland, containing examples of two types of scribbly gums - Narrow-leaved Scribbly Gum *Eucalyptus racemosa* and Broad-leaved Scribbly Gum *Eucalyptus haemastoma*. There are many fine examples of Banksias along this trail including the Heath-leaved Banksia *Banksia ericifolia*, Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata* and Hairpin Banksia *Banksia spinulosa*.

The eastern trail features the carnivorous Sundew *Drosera Spatulata* which is a small red rosette close to the ground. The sandstone swamp on the left hand side of this trail consists of sedges, shrubs, grass trees and other small plants. The swamp has shrunk by half the size since 1970 and this is thought to be caused by the drop in the water table or a change in the fire regime.

Length: 2km or approximately 1 hour.

Grade: Easy



Sundew *Drosera Spatulata*

Heritage Bridges Walk

Location: This walk begins at the Clarinda St. Wetlands in Hornsby and ends at the bottom of Galston Gorge. For walkers who prefer to only walk one way, a car can be left at the Galston Gorge picnic area.

Features: The constructed wetlands at the end of Clarinda St. Hornsby begins this walk and is an interesting example of how council is treating storm water run-off and creating habitat for native frogs and birds.

Taking the fire-trail to the right you will notice tall ridge top tree species such as Sydney Peppermint *Eucalyptus piperita*, Red Gum *Angophora costata* and the rare eucalypt *Eucalyptus camfieldii*.

At the junction at the large clearing take the left fire trail and continue past a concrete watercourse and sewer line. At the round sewer manhole, turn left from the fire trail onto a track which leads down the slope to a Casuarina forest.

Rainforest vegetation becomes apparent closer to the creek and you can see stands of Grey Myrtle *Backhousia myrtifolia*, ferns and water gums.

At the foot of the hill the Steele Military Bridge, now one of only four remaining in service in NSW, crosses Berowra Creek. This historic Warren Truss bridge was installed in 1964-65 to provide fire-fighting vehicles with access to Dural from Hornsby.

Further along, the Tunks Ridge Rest area where camping is permitted, is at the junction of the Great North Walk and another fire trail which leads to Quarry Rd. Dural. The end of the track which leads down to the creek in Galston Gorge is very steep and is suitable only for the very fit. A steel-rung ladder helps walkers descend the steep rock cliffs.

The Tunks Creek Bridge is historically significant as it is one of only five McDonald Truss Bridges remaining in use.

Length: 5.4km one-way.

Grade: Moderate to difficult.



The historic Tunks Creek Bridge in Galston Gorge.

Benowie Walking Track

- Location:** The Benowie Walking Track has six access points: Bellamy Street, Thornleigh; Rosemead Road, Hornsby; Galston Gorge; Glenview Road, Mount Kuring-gai; Crosslands Reserve and Berowra Waters .
- Features:** The Benowie Walking Track is a 25 km track offering a variety of different walks. The Benowie track makes up part of the Great North Walk that extends from Sydney Cove to Newcastle. This track is managed by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.
- The Benowie Track has many historical features including Aboriginal relics such as rock carvings. Other points of interest include:
Thornleigh zig-zag railway and historic quarry;
Blackfellows Head (named after the discovery of an ancient Aboriginal skull), Old Mans Valley which is an eroded volcanic extrusion;
the old sandstone steps built during the Depression;
Fishponds waterhole which is popular for picnicking;
Steeley Bridge which is a prefabricated military bridge; and
Rockyfall Rapids which has a camping site on the eastern bank.
- Flora & Fauna:** The Benowie Walking Track takes you through a diverse array of flora. Commonly found species include Sydney Blue Gum, Blackbutt, She Oak, Sydney Peppermint and Smooth-barked Apple mixed with Coachwood, Blackwattle and Pittosporum.
- Wildlife is also prolific and birds which are frequently seen include honeyeaters, fantails and parrots, as well as waterbirds such as the Pied Cormorant, White Faced Heron and Dusky Moorhen. If you are lucky you may even spot Satin Bowerbirds and Lyrebirds. There are also many nocturnal marsupials.
- Length:** 25 km, although several entrance and exit points are available for shorter walks.
- Grade:** Moderate to difficult.



Blackbutt
Eucalyptus pilularis

Lyrebird Gully Walk

Location: From the intersection of Glenview Rd. and Pacific Hwy. Mt Kuring-gai to Crowley Rd. Berowra, via Berowra Creek. Walkers may park a car at either end or catch the train back to the start.

Features: This walk leads you through an Open Forest of angophoras, turpentines and Peppermint Gums. This track crosses over exposed sandstone flats with rock pools and cascades developing into a lovely rainforest with She Oaks, Coachwoods, and ferns.

Down on the creek bed, boulders lie at all angles seemingly having tumbled from the escarpment above. One of the many highlights of this walk is the 8m high, 15m wide overhanging waterfall. Climb the overhanging boulders then down into another creek bed, the only viable crossing being via a pile of jumbled and discarded boulders. Rainforest and idyllic pools lead you into one of the best walking stretches in the Berowra Valley.

Under a canopy of trees enjoy the pools, ferns and sunbaking lizards. Following through a Casuarina grove you will come across mangroves and saltmarshes. Climb up the rocks and walk further up the track to view a memorable landscape.

After negotiating the watercourse and the thick vegetation you arrive at the zig zag steps that ascend to a fire trail with panoramic views over where you have just travelled.

Length: 9km. 4 - 6 hours.

Grade: Moderate to hard with two steep sections.



Close-up of an unfurled frond of the Soft Tree Fern *Dicksonia antarctica*.

Fagan Park and Carrs Bush

- Location:** Access is either via Arcadia Rd (for parkland area) or Carrs Rd (for Carrs Bush area) Galston.
There is parking at both entrances.
General Entry Fee: \$4.00 per car or \$1.10 per person on a bus.
Guided tours available on Monday, Tuesday and Friday only.
Phone the Parks Facilities Officer 9847 6791 for more details.
- Features:** The Gardens of Many Nations (10ha of landscaped gardens)
Netherby Cottage - The Fagan family homestead
(Open Tuesdays and every second Sunday)
Children's Playgrounds
Eco-Garden - A productive, educational and sustainable garden.
Unsealed paths for bicycle riding
Guided tours are conducted by the Rangers and the Friends of Fagan Park on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and cost \$50 for a coach and \$30 for a minibus.
- Facilities:** The Arcadia Rd area contains one large picnic shelter with electric BBQ facilities that require \$1.00 coins to operate.
The Carrs Rd area contains three large picnic shelters with BBQs. These can be booked through Council -a booking fee of \$57 per day applies.
There are also numerous small picnic shelters available which do not require booking.
- Pets:** Dogs are allowed on leads.
- Flora & Fauna:** The Carrs Bush area contains a significant stand of White Mahogany *Eucalyptus acmenoides* and a highly significant remnant of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, which is now endangered.
It has been described as the best remaining example in the Sydney area.
The man-made dams are home to many waterbirds which can be seen in the water or perched in surrounding trees. Waterbirds found here include: the Australian Wood Duck, Chestnut Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian White Ibis, Purple Swamp Hen and the Black Swan.
- Walking tracks:** There are short walking trails through Carrs Bush with interpretive signs which explain the conservation value and the important features of the endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and the fauna species that use this habitat including the Long-nosed bandicoot.



Top and above:

Scenic lakes, shady grass areas and gardens make Fagan Park the perfect picnic spot.

Right:

An easy walking trails meanders thorough Carrs Bush, a good example of the endangered ecological community, Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

Saltmarsh Walk

Location: Begins from Crosslands Reserve, Hornsby Heights and ends at Sams Creek.

Features: The “Place of Winds” interpretive trail follows a section of the Great North Walk and passes through mangroves, salt marshes, woodlands and forest areas with past evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

Flora & Fauna: Mangrove swamps are important to the river ecosystem and provide protection and homes for water birds and small marine animals. The root systems protect the banks from erosion. Brackish water is formed as sea water flows in with the high tide and mixes with fresh water flowing down the river.. All plants and animals which live here are tolerant of fresh and salt water and changing salt levels.

Saltmarsh areas are becoming smaller in Berowra Creek and are now listed as an endangered ecological community in this part of NSW. They are a unique habitat for many animals, including waterfowl visiting on their migratory paths.

The Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* is a threatened species living in this area and is the largest Australian night bird (60cm tall). A skilled hunter and strictly carnivorous, its main food source is mammals such as possums and gliders.

Length: 1.2km - about 1 hour return.

Grade: Moderate.

Facilities: Toilets, BBQ and picnic facilities are available in Crosslands Reserve.



Above: Warrigal Spinach
Tetragonia tetragonioides.
Cooked leaves are edible.

Left: Saltmarsh areas in
Crosslands Reserve create a
unique habitat for many animals
and birds.

Berowra Waters Walk

Location: Starts from the end of Berkely Close, Berowra Heights to Berowra Waters.

Features: This section of the Great North Walk begins with a steep descent and follows Banggarai Creek, a tributary of Berowra Creek Catchment. Take the narrow bush track on the right and descend steps towards the creek. After following the creekline for around 200m there is a steep rise out of the valley which is assisted by 60 steps and iron U-treads set in the rock.

The descent to Berowra Creek provides examples of sandstone vegetation with various Banksias, native peas, grass trees, the geebung *Persoonia pinifolia*, Mountain Devil *Lambertia formosa*, and the occasional Waratah *Telopea speciosissima*.

As the track proceeds downstream towards Berowra Waters you can see an extensive Aboriginal midden of oyster shells. These middens are of cultural significance and are protected under State government legislation.

Below the track close to the water is another significant natural feature known as Britannia Rock.

Facilities: Toilets, a boat ramp and picnic facilities are available at Berowra Waters.

Length: 3.6km

Grade: Moderate, with three steep sections.



Picturesque Berowra Waters.

Brooklyn River and Foreshore Walk

Location: The entrance to the walk begins in Brooklyn Park, off Brooklyn Rd, near the War Memorial.

Flora & Fauna: The entrance to the walk begins in a forests of Swamp Mahogany *Eucalyptus robusta* and Broad-leaf Paperbark *Melaleuca quiquinervia* which forms part of the endangered Swamp Sclerophyll Forest. At low tide further along the boardwalk the mud flats come alive with tiny Semaphore crabs which scurry in and out of holes in search of food. Further along the boardwalk saltmarsh grows in the intertidal zone behind the mangroves. Unlike mangroves they are not regularly covered by the tide. Saltmarsh can be covered with a shallow layer of brackish water which provides the ideal habitat for insects such as dragonflies and water beetles. Coastal Saltmarsh is listed as an endangered ecological community in this part of NSW.

Towards the end of the boardwalk mangroves *Avicennia marina* and *Aegiceras corniculatum* are the first trees that meets the water. They are adapted to high salt levels and the covering of their root system by water. To survive tidal flows mangrove roots, or peg roots, grow upwards and act as a 'snorkel'. These 'snorkels' are called pneumatophores and can be seen at low tide.

The threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo visits Brooklyn Park to feast on the seeds of the Swamp She-oak which can be found furthest away from the salt water.

Length: 250m - about 15 minutes

Grade: Easy. Wheelchair access.



The boardwalk provides a great opportunity to view the Hawkesbury River's foreshore.

Also in the area:

McKell Park is at the end of Dangar Road, Brooklyn and overlooks the Hawkesbury River.

The park has picnic shelters, electric barbeques, toilets, a children's playground and a 'Federation' interpretive walk. There are change rooms and an enclosed (protected) swimming area/small tidal beach.

Walking your dog in Hornsby Shire

Hornsby Shire Council has five full-time and two time-share off leash areas for exercising and training dogs. The facilities are fully fenced and have waste bins, dog waste bags, taps and water bowls.

Full-time sites are located at:

- Rofe Park, Galston Rd, Hornsby Heights
- Ruddock Park, Eucalyptus Drive, Westleigh
- Greenway Park, Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook
- Asquith Park, northern side of Asquith Oval
- Crossroads Reserve, cnr Turner & Berowra Waters Rds, Berowra Heights

Areas available Monday to Friday only are located at:

- Epping Oval, Norfolk Road, Epping
- Woods St Oval, Woods St, North Epping



To ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all users, please remember to:
Keep your dog on a lead until inside the fenced area with the gate closed
Ensure that your dog is kept under control at all times.
Pick up and dispose of your dog's waste at all times.

Before leaving the Off Leash Dog Area, please ensure the following:
Secure your dog on lead before opening the gate and ensure that the gate is closed behind you.
Take extra care when near children and consider other users of the reserve.

Please note that, as a dog owner, you are responsible for your dog's actions at all times inside and outside of the Off Leash Dog Area.

Penalties for non-compliance will be in accordance with the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 and Regulations 1999.



Wildlife Protection Areas

Council has declared Wildlife Protection Areas in bushland reserves which are being managed to conserve the unique biodiversity of the region.

Keep your dogs on a leash in designated Wildlife Protection Areas. Stay on designated tracks and utilise Council's leash-free areas.

Owners of dogs found roaming in bushland off leash in Wildlife Protection Areas can incur a penalty of \$165 under Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act (1998).

For a full list of Wildlife Protection Areas visit www.bushland.hornsby.nsw.gov.au or ring 9847 6832 for more information.



Useful Contacts

Hornsby Council general enquiries
9847 6666
Internet: www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Environment Division
Customer Service
9847 6853

Free guided bushwalk program
bookings
9847 6853

Bushland and Biodiversity enquiries
9847 6832

Bushcare enquiries
9484 9572

Berowra Ferry enquiries
9847 6740

Information on bicycle tracks
9847 6524

Parks facilities bookings
9847 6791

National Parks and Wildlife Service
1300 361 967

Hornsby Rural Fire Service
9847 6619

WIRES
(Wildlife Information and Rescue Service)
8977 3333

Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services
9413 4300

Great North Walk enquiries
Department of Lands
4920 5074