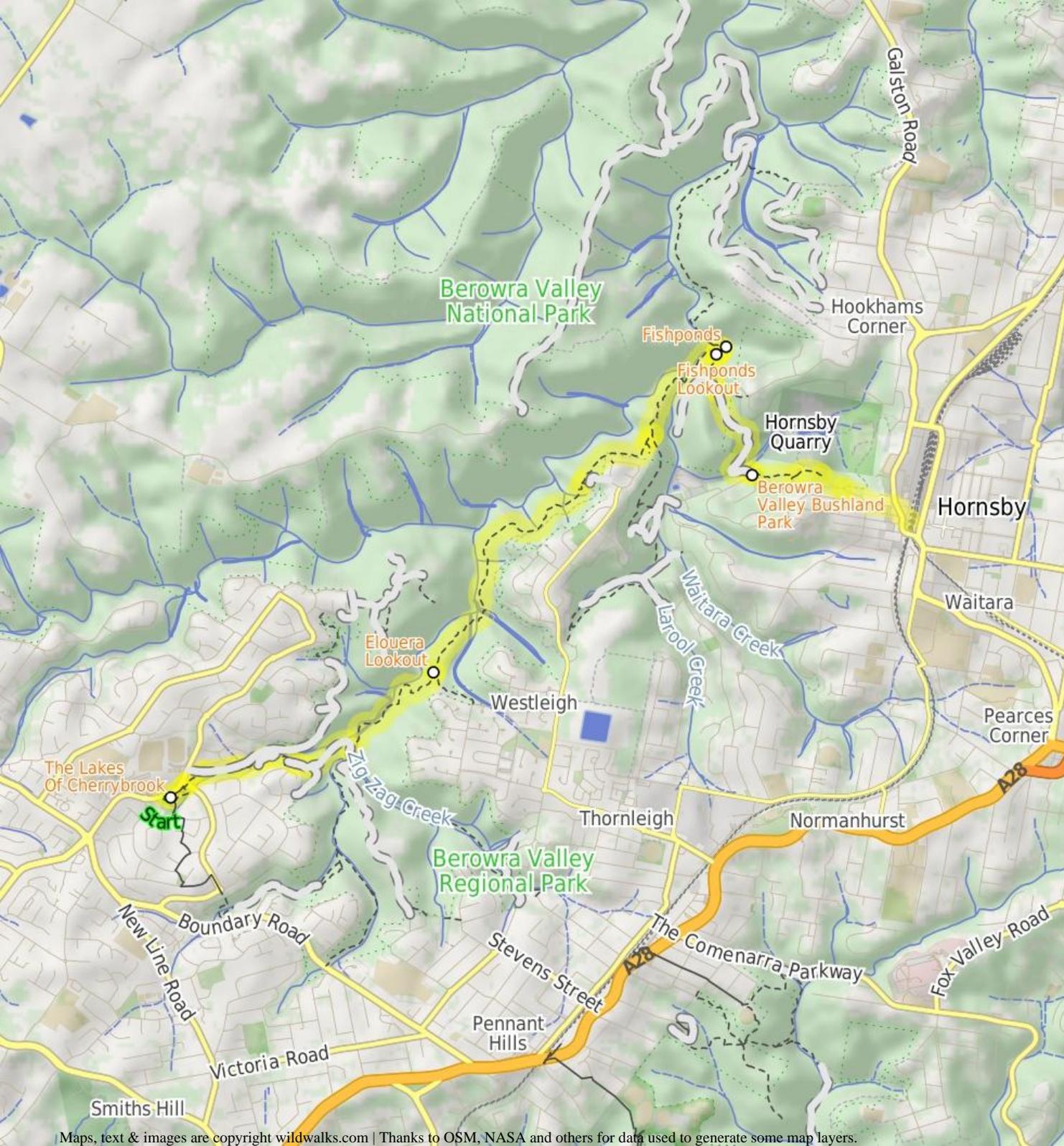


## Cherrybrook to Hornsby via Fishponds



**3 hrs 45 mins**

**Hard track**

**9 km One way**

**536m**

4

A beautiful walk through the Berowra Valley Regional Park. The walk mostly follows the Great North Walk, between Cherrybrook and Hornsby. There are some fantastic lookouts along the way and some excellent scenery along Berowra creek, including the 'Fishponds'. The start and end of the walk are close to good shopping centres, so this is also a good walk for those who like to start or finish their walks in a cafe.

48m

184m

Berowra Valley National Park

## The Lakes Of Cherrybrook

The Lakes Of Cherrybrook is a park at the intersection of Shepherds Dr and Macquarie Dr, Cherrybrook. The lakes featured in the park were formed when the local creek was dammed for the benefit of farmers. The park has a free electric BBQ, sheltered picnic tables, taps and bubblers as well as a playground for the kids. There is a large shopping centre nearby. There are several signposted buswalks in the area, including the 5.1km 'Callicoma Walk' loop track.

## Elouera Lookout

This fenced lookout is on the Benowie Track close to Westleigh. There are uninterrupted views from the clifftop across the Berowra Creek valley, which is rare for the area. As well as being on the Great North Walk, this lookout can be accessed by a short walk from Elouera Rd, Westleigh. This section of fenced rock platform is about 100m long, and there is some limited shade from the casuarina near the lookout if you want to take a rest.

## Fishponds Lookout

Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.

## Fishponds

Fishponds is a long waterhole on Berowra Creek in Berowra Valley Regional Park. The waterhole is lined with tall cliffs and a few sandstone caves. At the southern end, there are stepping stones to help cross the creek, and a small timber bridge at the northern end. This is a beautiful spot and a worthy place to rest and enjoy the water passing by. The waterhole is fairly popular with local teens in summer, cooling off. Swimming and jumping at the Fishponds waterhole has resulted in fatalities - please heed the signs and Cora's parents' plea and enjoy the water from the edge.

## Berowra Valley Bushland Park

'Berowra Valley Bushland Park' is also known as Rosemead Rd Park and is found at the bottom end of Rosemead Rd, Hornsby. This is an open area park surrounded by shady eucalyptus trees, making a pleasant spot to rest on a walk. It has a picnic table with bench seats, and a sheltered free electric BBQ. There is a water tap in the park, near the road. There is also a 'Welcome to Old Mans Valley' information sign with information about the traditional country of the Darug and Guringai peoples.

## Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Metropolitan District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Berowra Valley National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

## Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

## Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

**1:25 000 Map Series:**91304S HORNSBY

**1:100 000 Map Series:**9130 SYDNEY

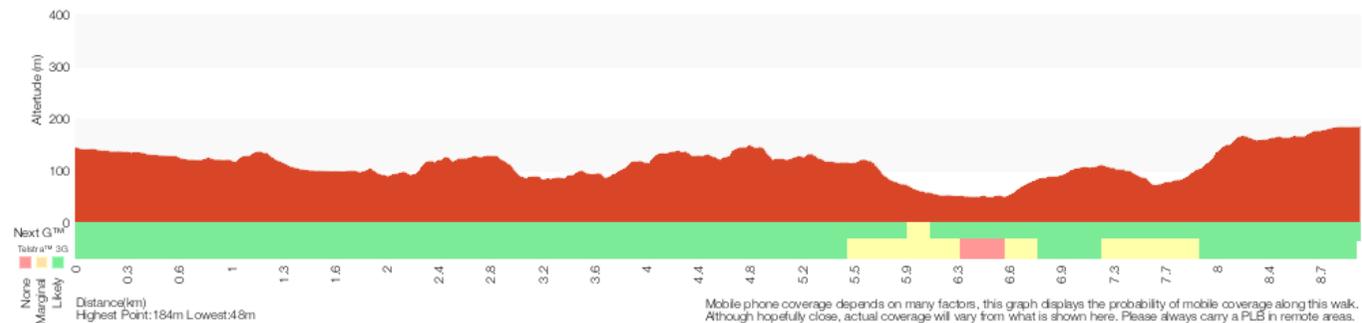
## Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



**Grade 4/6**  
**Hard track**

<b>Length</b>	9 km One way
<b>Time</b>	3 hrs 45 mins
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)



Mobile phone coverage depends on many factors, this graph displays the probability of mobile coverage along this walk. Although hopefully close, actual coverage will vary from what is shown here. Please always carry a PLB in remote areas.

### Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walks overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

**Getting there** You can get to Top of The Lakes Of Cherrybrook park (gps: -33.7217, 151.0442) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Hornsby Train Station (gps: -33.7035, 151.098) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/cthv>

### 0 | Top of The Lakes Of Cherrybrook park

*(50 m 1 mins)* From below 50 Shepherds Drive, opposite the shopping centre, the walk follows the concrete footpath into 'The Lakes Of Cherrybrook' park, keeping the playground to the right. The footpath comes to the signpost for 'Callicoma Walk' just before the unfenced lakes.

### 0.05 | The Lakes Of Cherrybrook

The Lakes Of Cherrybrook is a park at the intersection of Shepherds Dr and Macquarie Dr, Cherrybrook. The lakes featured in the park were formed when the local creek was dammed for the benefit of farmers. The park has a free electric BBQ, sheltered picnic tables, taps and bubblers as well as a playground for the kids. There is a large shopping centre nearby. There are several signposted buswalks in the area, including the 5.1km 'Callicoma Walk' loop track.

### 0.05 | Lakes trackhead

*(120 m 2 mins)* Veer left: From the 'Callicoma Walk' signpost, the walk follows the 'Sydney Cove' arrow along the concrete footpath, keeping the lakes on the right. The walk passes a free BBQ and picnic shelters on the left, and a couple of viewing platforms on the right before coming to an intersection just before the road and beside a low handmade stone wall.

### 0.17 | Int at stone wall

*(180 m 3 mins)* Turn right: From behind the low stone wall, the track follows the concrete footpath down the hill through the graffiti-covered tunnel, emerging in a clearing behind the 'Cherrybrook Girl Guides' building.

Veer right: From the clearing, the walk follows the bush track, initially keeping the Girl Guides hall on the left. The track passes a shortcut track on the right before coming to a 'T' intersection with a management trail marked with track arrows.

### 0.35 | Int. of Blackwattle Trail and Callicoma Walk

*(230 m 4 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail down the hill, keeping the houses to the left, arriving at the signposted intersection at the top of the stairs (with a track on the right).

### 0.59 | Top of the Disturbed Creek stairs

*(170 m 3 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, the walk goes down the steps towards the creek. Immediately after crossing the creek, on concrete stepping stones, the walk bends to the left, following the 'Callicoma Walk' arrow. The walk soon crosses some old concrete slabs and then drops down some more steps. After following the creek, on the left, for a short distance the walk comes to an intersection (with a management trail coming down the hill on the right).

### 0.76 | Int of Callicoma Walk and McKinley trail

*(100 m 2 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail down the hill, keeping the creek on the left and soon arrives at a fork intersection.

### 0.85 | Int of Callicoma Walk and Disturbed Creek trail

*(180 m 4 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track, keeping the creek on the left and immediately passes a 'Callicoma Walk' signpost. The walk continues along the well formed bush track and climbs steeply to an intersection marked with a 'Callicoma Walk' and red GNW signpost.

### 1.04 | Int of Callicoma Walk and Pogson Dr management tra

*(510 m 11 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the asphalted management trail up, over the hill, keeping the houses up to the right and soon arrives at an intersection marked with a 'Callicoma Walk' and red GNW track marker.

Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Callicoma Walk' arrow down the management trail (no asphalt), keeping the power lines to the left. The walk descends steeply for a while then flattens out and soon comes to an intersection with the Great North Walk.

### 1.55 | Int of GNW and Stringybark Ridge trail

*(1 km 27 mins)* Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign down the narrower track. The track leads downhill for about 70m, getting steeper as it goes, and then crosses Berowra Creek - this creek may become impassable after rain. On the other side, the walk comes to an intersection on a small sandy beach. Here, the walk turns left, following the GNW arrows downstream for about 250m among the grass trees and crossing a flat timber bridge. The rocky track then continues for just shy of 250m and crosses a mossy gully on a large flat rock. The track then continues, staying fairly flat for another 170m before bending right and heading steeply uphill. At the top of this climb, the track soon leads to a section of fenced cliff. At the end of the fence, the walk passes through casuarina forest for a short distance before passing alongside another (longer) fenced cliff and coming to the Elouera Lookout, where there is an intersection with the 'Westleigh' track (on your right).

### 2.59 | Elouera Lookout

This fenced lookout is on the Benowie Track close to Westleigh. There are uninterrupted views from the clifftop across the Berowra Creek valley, which is rare for the area. As well as being on the Great North Walk, this lookout can be accessed by a short walk from Elouera Rd, Westleigh. This section of fenced rock platform is about 100m long, and there is some limited shade from the casuarina near the lookout if you want to take a rest.

### 2.59 | Elouera Lookout

*(3.8 km 1 hr 33 mins)* Continue straight: From Elouera Lookout, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the track, keeping the fence and valley to your left. At the end of the fence, the walk bends left following the rocky flat track for about 200m, where the track then becomes progressively steeper for about 250m, winding steeply down then across a flat timber bridge. From here, the track leads beside Berowra Creek for a short time before crossing another flat timber bridge. The track then passes among the pleasant grass trees for about 200m (crossing a couple of small creeks with timber plank spans) to then climb a few sets of timber steps and cross a small (often dry) creek. From here, the track gently winds up along the side of the hill for about 800m, passing through a pleasant casuarina forest then heading across a rocky creek on another small, flat, timber bridge. Just over 100m later, the track crosses a smaller (often dry) creek to then wind uphill for about 100m to a three-way intersection with the signposted 'Quarter Sessions

Rd' track (on your right).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads north along the main rocky track, keeping the valley down to your left. The track leads along beside a rock wall (which is on your right) and through a rock outcrop, where the track soon heads quite steeply uphill along the eroded track for a short time. At the top of this steep section, the rocky track continues to meander much more gently up along the side of the hill for about 300m, then crosses a small, rocky gully, just below some houses. The track then continues gently uphill for about 100m to an intersection with the unsignposted Blackfellows Head track (on your right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north along the clear track, keeping the valley down to your left for about 100m, where the walk comes to a three-way intersection and 'The Jungo' sign points back along the track.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Fishponds' sign past the 'Berowra Valley Regional Park' sign, gently uphill along the narrow ridge. The track is mostly flat for about 200m before it starts to head fairly steeply down over some rocks and down a set of rock steps. This area comes alive with Patersonia lilies and pink wax flowers in early spring. The track then continues fairly gently down along the narrow ridge for another 200m before leading through a crack in a rock, then down a bit further to climb down through a particularly steep rocky section. Near the bottom of this descent, this walk passes a couple of arrow posts, where the track bends right to pass below a large rock overhang. Just beyond this overhang, the track bends left and leads across Waitara Creek at the interesting holes in the rock know as 'the spa'. This creek may become impassable after heavy rain, the rocks can also be slippery. Across the creek, the walk comes to a large rock platform and a Blue Gum Track post. After stopping to enjoy cool spot, this walk continues left along the unfenced rock platform (keeping the creek down to your left). The walk soon steps off this large rock (at the far right-hand corner, through the fork in a tree). This walk heads over another rock platform, then along a notably flat section of track (now with Berowra Creek on your left), passing beside some cascades for about 100m before climbing up and over some rocks and under a sandstone overhang. The track leads around the side of the hill for about 100m, then down to cross a small creek using the small flat timber bridge. The walk then climbs up some timber steps to a fenced lookout over Fishponds, at a well-signposted intersection. A sign points back along the track to 'Thornleigh Station'.

### 6.42 | Fishponds Lookout

Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.

### 6.42 | Fishponds Lookout

*(70 m 2 mins)* Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk follows the 'Galston Gorge' sign along the fenced rock shelf (keeping the fence to your left). The track leads down the rocky steps to the edge of Berowra Creek. The walk crosses the creek using the stepping stones, and comes to a small cave on the other side. This creek may be impassable after rain.

### 6.5 | Fishponds

Fishponds is a long waterhole on Berowra Creek in Berowra Valley Regional Park. The waterhole is lined with tall cliffs and a few sandstone caves. At the southern end, there are stepping stones to help cross the creek, and a small timber bridge at the northern end. This is a beautiful spot and a worthy place to rest and enjoy the water passing by. The waterhole is fairly popular with local teens in summer, cooling off. Swimming and jumping at the Fishponds

waterhole has resulted in fatalities - please heed the signs and Cora's parents' plea and enjoy the water from the edge.

#### **6.5 | Fishponds crossing**

*(70 m 2 mins)* Turn around: From the cave, this walk follows the 'Hornsby Railway Station' sign across Berowra Creek using the concrete stepping stones. This creek may be impassable after rain. The walk then climbs the side of the hill (tending right), heading up the rocky track to a fenced rock shelf. The walk follows the fence to a well-signposted intersection and lookout over Fishponds.

#### **6.57 | Fishponds Lookout**

*(300 m 7 mins)* Turn left: From the lookout, this walk follows the 'Rosemead Rd Trackhead' sign directly away from the view over Berowra Creek. After about 70m, the track leads over a timber footbridge, then leads up the side of the valley for about 100m to climb up the steep carved rock steps (with a hand rail). Here the track leads along the top of this unfenced cliff and soon comes to a well signposted three-way intersection, where a 'Fishponds' sign points back along the track.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Hornsby Station' sign up along the track a short distance to come to an intersection with a wide management trail.

#### **6.86 | Int of Blue Gum Walk and Joes Mountain Service Tra**

*(850 m 19 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow south along the wide management trail, keeping the gully to your left. The walk climbs up the gentle hill for just over 300m, passing through the turpentine forest to a saddle and small clearing. Here the walk continues along the trail as it bends right (ignoring the track to the left) to leads downhill through the blue gum and bracken fern forest. The trail continues moderately steeply down until it bends left to cross Old Mans Creek at the concrete stepping stones. The trail leads left and gently up the hill, passing some houses (on your right) and soon comes to an intersection with a narrower track (on your left) after about 150m.

#### **7.72 | Int of GNW and Rosemead Rd service trail**

*(30 m 1 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow along the narrower track for a short distance, to Berowra Valley Bushland Park at the end of Rosemead Road.

#### **7.75 | Berowra Valley Bushland Park**

'Berowra Valley Bushland Park' is also known as Rosemead Rd Park and is found at the bottom end of Rosemead Rd, Hornsby. This is an open area park surrounded by shady eucalyptus trees, making a pleasant spot to rest on a walk. It has a picnic table with bench seats, and a sheltered free electric BBQ. There is a water tap in the park, near the road. There is also a 'Welcome to Old Mans Valley' information sign with information about the traditional country of the Darug and Guringai peoples.

#### **7.75 | Berowra Valley Bushland Park**

*(540 m 14 mins)* Veer left: From the lower side of 'Berowra Valley Bushland Park', this walk follows the 'Hornsby Station' sign across the park, then follows the GNW arrow up the stone steps, keeping the houses to your right. The walk winds steeply up the steps, leaving the view of the house and finding a welcome flat section of track midway up. The steps then lead more steeply up the side of the valley, along the sheer rock walls for about 100m, and come to an intersection with the Quarry Road management trail, where a 'Great North Walk' sign points back down the the hill.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up a couple of timber steps and then follows the track as it winds up over the gentle rise. Once over the rise, the track then leads down to the

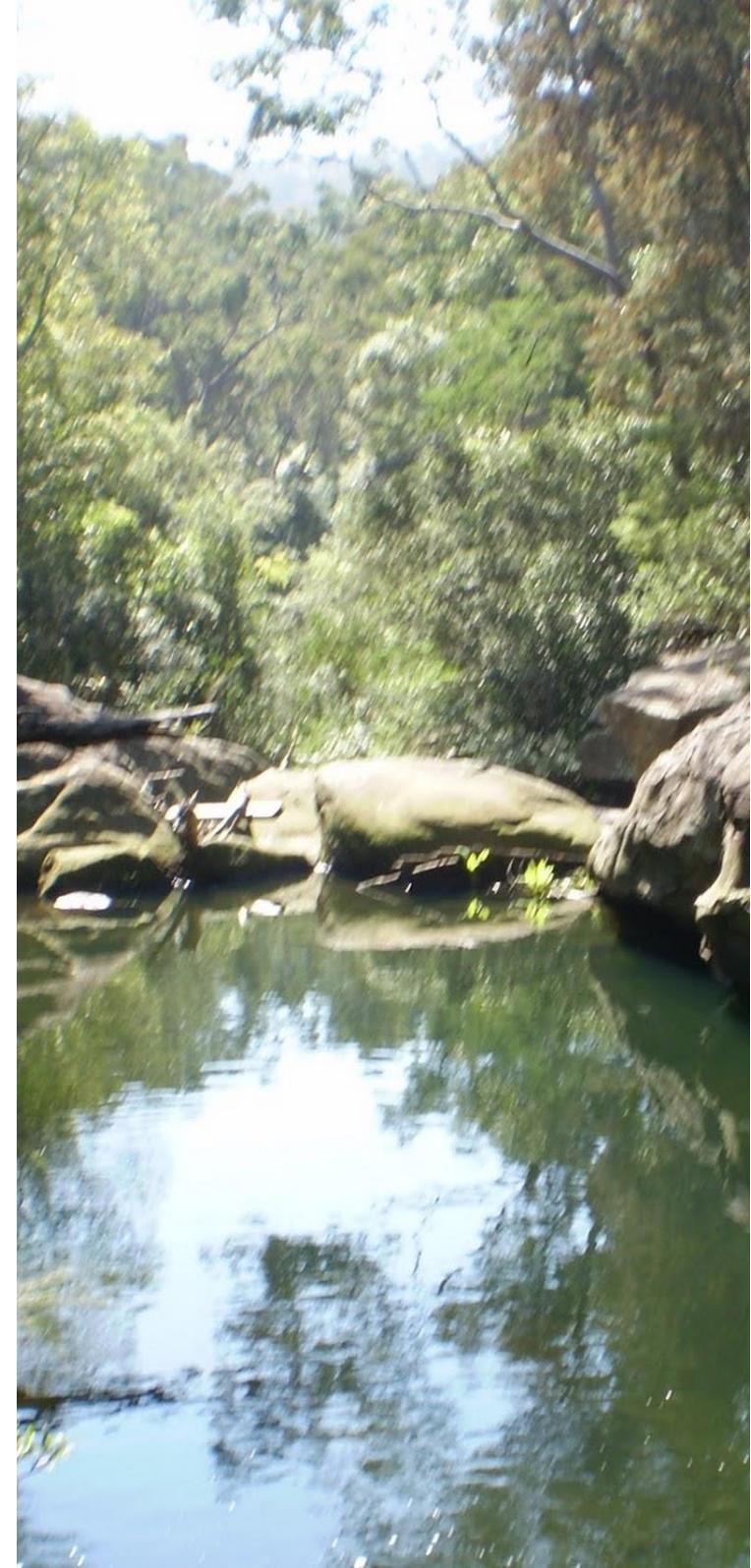
intersection with Quarry Rd, where a 'Great North Walk' sign points back up the track.

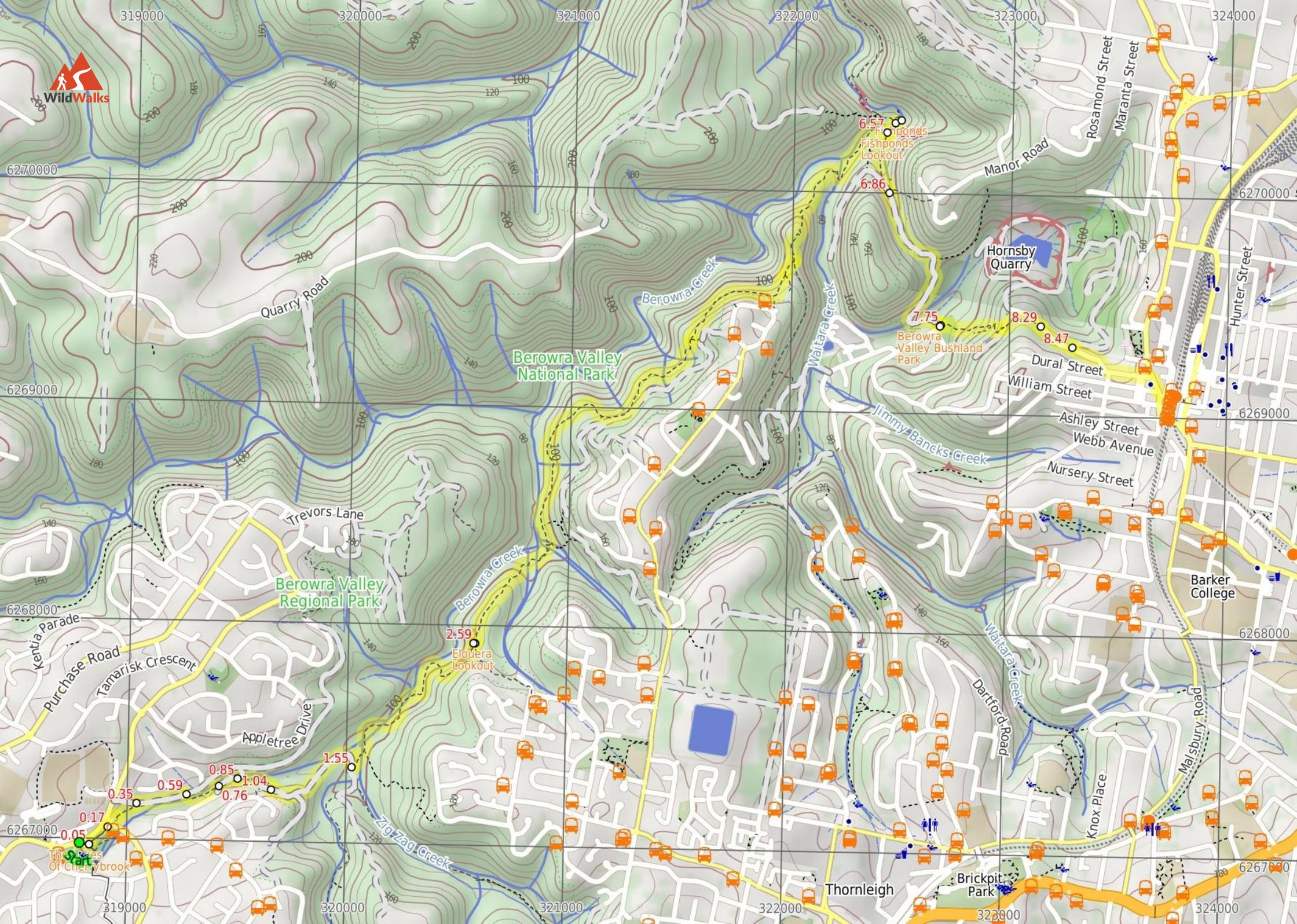
#### **8.29 | Int of Quarry Road and GNW**

*(180 m 4 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road gently uphill away from the face of the 'Great North Walk' sign until just past a couple of house, this walk comes to an intersection with the gated 'Old Mans Valley' management trail (on your left).

#### **8.47 | Int of Quarry Rd and Old Man Valley Service Trail**

*(540 m 10 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Rd up the gentle hill for about 180m, then follows the GNW arrow left onto Dural St. The footpath leads past the unit block, then past a few shops to come to an intersection with the Pacific Hwy. Following the GNW arrow, this walk turns right across 'Dural St', passes a few more shops, then crosses 'Dural Lane' before turning left across the Pacific Hwy at the traffic lights. Here the walk continues straight across the 'Station St' pedestrian crossing, past the large 'Great North Walk' sign and across the bus lane to the western entrance of Hornsby Station.





## Summary navigation sheet for the Cherrybrook to Hornsby via Fishponds



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Top of The Lakes Of Cherrybrook park -33.7217,151.0442 (GR Hornsby, 188670)	0 -4	50 m 1 mins	From below 50 Shepherds Drive, opposite the shopping centre, the walk follows the concrete footpath into 'The Lakes Of Cherrybrook' park, keeping the playground to the right.
0.05	Lakes trackhead -33.7218,151.0447 (GR Hornsby, 188670)	1 -4	120 m 2 mins	Veer left: From the 'Callicoma Walk' signpost, the walk follows the 'Sydney Cove' arrow along the concrete footpath, keeping the lakes on the right.
0.17	Int at stone wall -33.7211,151.0456 (GR Hornsby, 189671)	4 -7	180 m 3 mins	Turn right: From behind the low stone wall, the track follows the concrete footpath down the hill through the graffiti-covered tunnel, emerging in a clearing behind the 'Cherrybrook Girl Guides' building.
0.35	Int. of Blackwattle Trail and Callicoma Walk -33.7201,151.047 (GR Hornsby, 190672)	0 -7	230 m 4 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail down the hill, keeping the houses to the left, arriving at the signposted intersection at the top of the stairs (with a track on the right).
0.59	Top of the Disturbed Creek stairs -33.7198,151.0495 (GR Hornsby, 193672)	0 -8	170 m 3 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, the walk goes down the steps towards the creek.
0.76	Int of Callicoma Walk and McKinley trail -33.7194,151.0511 (GR Hornsby, 194672)	5 -3	100 m 2 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail down the hill, keeping the creek on the left and soon arrives at a fork intersection.
0.85	Int of Callicoma Walk and Disturbed Creek trail -33.7191,151.052 (GR Hornsby, 195673)	13 -6	180 m 4 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track, keeping the creek on the left and immediately passes a 'Callicoma Walk' signpost.
1.04	Int of Callicoma Walk and Pogson Dr management trail -33.7196,151.0537 (GR Hornsby, 197672)	8 -37	510 m 11 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the asphalted management trail up, over the hill, keeping the houses up to the right and soon arrives at an intersection marked with a 'Callicoma Walk' and red GNW ...
1.55	Int of GNW and Stringybark Ridge trail -33.7186,151.0576 (GR Hornsby, 200673)	81 -58	1 km 27 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign down the narrower track.
2.59	Elouera Lookout -33.7136,151.0637 (GR Hornsby, 206679)	216 -290	3.8 km 1 hr 33 mins	Continue straight: From Elouera Lookout, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign along the track, keeping the fence and valley to your left.
6.42	Fishponds Lookout -33.6926,151.0841 (GR Hornsby, 224703)	3 -4	70 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the lookout, this walk follows the 'Galston Gorge' sign along the fenced rock shelf (keeping the fence to your left).
6.50	Fishponds crossing -33.6923,151.0845 (GR Hornsby, 225703)	4 -3	70 m 2 mins	Turn around: From the cave, this walk follows the 'Hornsby Railway Station' sign across Berowra Creek using the concrete stepping stones.
6.57	Fishponds Lookout -33.6926,151.0841 (GR Hornsby, 224703)	39 0	300 m 7 mins	Turn left: From the lookout, this walk follows the 'Rosemead Rd Trackhead' sign directly away from the view over Berowra Creek.
6.86	Int of Blue Gum Walk and Joes Mountain Service Trail -33.6951,151.0842 (GR Hornsby, 224700)	35 -45	850 m 19 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow south along the wide management trail, keeping the gully to your left.
7.72	Int of Great North Walk and Rosemead Rd service trail -33.7004,151.0864 (GR Hornsby, 227694)	4 0	30 m 1 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow along the narrower track for a short distance, to Berowra Valley Bushland Park at the end of Rosemead Road.
7.75	Berowra Valley Bushland Park -33.7005,151.0868 (GR Hornsby, 227694)	89 -12	540 m 14 mins	Veer left: From the lower side of 'Berowra Valley Bushland Park', this walk follows the 'Hornsby Station' sign across the park, then follows the GNW arrow up the stone steps, keeping the houses to your right.
8.29	Int of Quarry Road and Great North Walk -33.7006,151.0917 (GR Hornsby, 231694)	9 -4	180 m 4 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road gently uphill away from the face of the 'Great North Walk' sign until just past a couple of house, this walk comes to an intersection with the gated '...
8.47	Int of Quarry Rd and Old Man Valley Service Trail -33.7015,151.0933 (GR Hornsby, 233693)	25 -4	540 m 10 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Rd up the gentle hill for about 180m, then follows the GNW arrow left onto Dural St.