

Fiddens Wharf walking track



1 hr 27 mins

Moderate track

3

4.3 km Circuit

▲ 159m

This walk explores some of the hills and river banks of the Lane Cove National Park. Leaving the weir precinct on Max Allen Drive, the walk follows the Great North Walk over the hill and down to Fiddens Wharf (just near the oval). The return journey, past Schwartz Homestead, provides a great chance to see some local heritage. The track passes several picnic areas by the river providing a great chance to rest, eat and enjoy the view.

2m

Lane Cove National Park

Schwartz Homestead

The Schwartz Homestead is a neat little white and green 1920's timber cottage with a balcony on three sides. It was probably built by orchardist George Warr, who leased the land from 1917. [More info.](#)

Baker's Cottage

Baker's Cottage was built in 1865 as the residence of William Baker and his family. The cottage once stood in the middle of a well-kept garden and orchard. The cottage itself was once larger, with more rooms and a verandah surrounding it. The residence changed hands only twice, and was then appropriated by the Minister of Lands in 1938.

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 ([Lane Cove 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:91303N PARRAMATTA RIVER

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 3/6
Moderate track

Length	4.3 km Circuit
Time	1 hr 27 mins
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
Infrastructure	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 walk's 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 Max Allen Drive Bridge (gps: -33.7907, 151.156) by car or bus. Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

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

0 | Max Allen Drive Bridge

(220 m 5 mins) From the bridge, this walk heads gently uphill along the road to the intersection with the visible concrete stairs just below the National Parks Office.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the road uphill, keeping the short sandstone wall and National Parks office on your left. The road soon bends left and leads up past the staff parking, to an intersection (with a track on your right) marked with a large 'Great North Walk' sign.

0.22 | Int. GNW near Naamaroo

(20 m) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up the timber steps away from the road. The track passes a 'Caution - Swimming in Lane Cover River is not advisable...' sign and then comes to an intersection with a wider management trail.

0.24 | Int. GNW and Naamaroo Service Trail

(300 m 8 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide trail uphill, initially keeping the cliff line to your right. The trail bends right then leads uphill for about 130m, coming to an intersection (just below the power lines) where a 'Park Visitors Centre' sign points back down the hill.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Blue Hole - Fiddens Wharf' sign and power line up along the wide management trail. Just as the trail flattens out, this walk comes to a signposted intersection with a narrower track (on your left).

0.53 | Int. GNW and Bradfield Rd Access Trk

(110 m 2 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow posts down the timber steps. The track gently meanders through the open forest for a short time then heads up a few steps to come to a T-intersection with a sealed road.

0.64 | Northern Int. Bradfield Rd and GNW

(30 m) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow down along the road for a short distance and comes to another signposted intersection with a track (on your right).

0.67 | Southern Int. Bradfield Rd and GNW

(430 m 9 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the NPWS arrow up the timber steps, away from the road. The track soon leads down a longer set of timber steps where the track meanders through the bush, passing a few rocky outcrops before heading down the another series of timber stairs. Just beyond these steps, the track leads to a T-intersection with a wide management trail, marked with a 'Sandstone Hillslope Community' information sign.

1.1 | Int. GNW and Thistlethwaytes Picnic Area Trk

(800 m 16 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the upper arrow on the historic walk sign post, gently uphill along the wide trail. The trail leads through the casuarina forest for about 30m then passes the 'Scribbly Gum' information sign. The trail then bends left and leads downhill, narrowing significantly. Here the track heads down a series of timber steps to pass a 'Sydney Red Gum' information sign. The track then crosses the ferny gully and passes the 'Sandstone Gully Community' and then the 'Sydney Peppermint' information signs. From here, the track leads across another gully then up and along the side of a steep hill (with an unfenced cliff to your left) for about 70m, coming to a rock platform with a 'Blackbutts' information sign. Here the walk leads down the staircase and stone path for a short time and crosses the 'weedy' creek on a short timber boardwalk. The now flat track leads for another 50m to a signposted intersection (with some steps on your right), where a 'Visitor Centre Loop' sign points back along the track.

1.9 | Bottom of Fiddens Wharf Oval Trk

(1.1 km 23 mins) Turn around: From the intersection, the track follows the 'Visitors Centre Loop' arrow along the track, keeping the river to your right. After about 50m, this walk heads over a short timber boardwalk and crosses the 'weedy' creek. The walk then heads up some steps and a staircase to the top of a rock platform, where there is a 'Blackbutts' information sign. The track leads gently up along the side of hill for about 70m, passing an unfenced cliff to your right, where the track bends left to lead across a rock gully. The track then leads past the 'Sydney Peppermint' and 'Sandstone Gully Community' information signs and across a ferny gully to find a 'Sydney Red Gum' information sign. From here, the walk heads up a series of timber steps to where the track suddenly widens into a mostly flat trail. This trail soon bends right and leads through the casuarina forest, past the 'Scribbly Gum' information sign to an intersection (with a narrower track on your left), just before the 'Sandstone Hillslope Community' information sign. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads around the hillside, with the river below on the right. The walk tends left as it contours around the hill. It then descends over speed bumps for approximately 50m to the car park of Thistlethwaytes picnic area.

3.05 | Thistlethwaytes Picnic Area

(260 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk heads down the road, with the water to the right. The walk continues down the road for a short time, to the intersection with the entrance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Depot on the left, and the Schwartz Homestead a short distance up the hill.

3.3 | Schwartz Homestead

The Schwartz Homestead is a neat little white and green 1920's timber cottage with a balcony on three sides. It was probably built by orchardist George Warr, who leased the land from 1917. [More info.](#)

3.3 | Schwartz Homestead

(370 m 7 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the road, with the water on the right. The walk tends left, continuing up the road to pass a brick building on the right, before coming to the signposted intersection, opposite Baker's Flat.

3.67 | Optional sidetrip to Baker's Cottage

(120 m 3 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, the walk heads up the stairs tending right, up the hill. The walk passes a sign about native grasses before continuing right, to Baker's Cottage. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

3.67 | Baker's Cottage

Baker's Cottage was built in 1865 as the residence of William Baker and his family. The cottage once stood in the middle of a well-kept garden and orchard. The cottage itself was once larger, with more rooms and a verandah surrounding it. The residence changed hands only twice, and was then appropriated by the Minister of Lands in 1938.

3.67 | Int. Opposite Bakers Flat

(330 m 7 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down the road towards the car park at '29 Bakers Flat'. The walk continues along the road to pass the clearing and tend right, up the hill, to an intersection with a bush track on the right.

4 | Int. Max Allen Dr and Jenkins Hill Trk

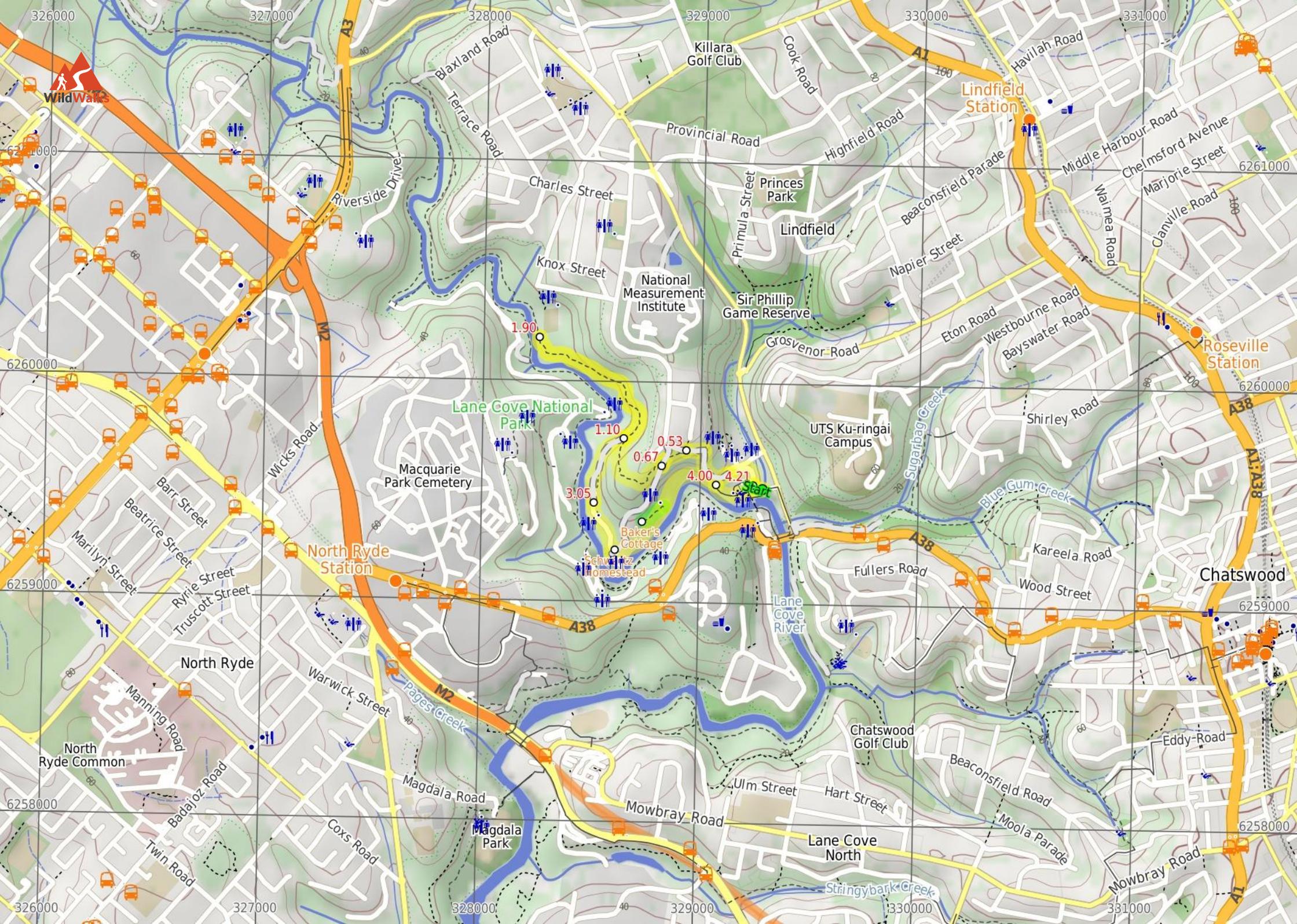
(210 m 5 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the path for approximately 50m to pass a toilet block on the left of the track. The track continues to an intersection with a railed footpath.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the slight gradient, away from the toilet block to the large concreted area above the weir.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the footpath to the road.

4.21 | Int. National Parks Office Trk and Max Allen Dr

(50 m 1 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads gently down along the road to an intersection just before the bridge, marked with the 'Great North Walk' track head signs.



WildWalks

Lindfield Station

Roseville Station

North Ryde Station

Chatswood

Lane Cove National Park

Baker's Cottage

Schwartz Homestead

UTS Ku-ringai Campus

National Measurement Institute

Sir Phillip Game Reserve

Macquarie Park Cemetery

Chatswood Golf Club

Magdala Park

Lane Cove North

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Summary navigation sheet for the Fiddens Wharf walking track



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Max Allen Drive Bridge -33.7907,151.156 (GR Parramatta River, 293595)	14 0	220 m 5 mins	From the bridge, this walk heads gently uphill along the road to the intersection with the visible concrete stairs just below the National Parks Office.
0.22	Int. Great North Walk near Naamaroo -33.7901,151.1545 (GR Parramatta River, 291596)	1 0	20 m	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up the timber steps away from the road.
0.24	Int. Great North Walk and Naamaroo Service Trail -33.7901,151.1543 (GR Parramatta River, 291596)	31 -1	300 m 8 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide trail uphill, initially keeping the cliff line to your right.
0.53	Int. Great North Walk and Bradfield Rd Access Trk -33.7891,151.1523 (GR Parramatta River, 289597)	4 -1	110 m 2 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow posts down the timber steps.
0.64	Northern Int. Bradfield Rd and Great North Walk -33.7895,151.1512 (GR Parramatta River, 288596)	0 -1	30 m	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow down along the road for a short distance and comes to another signposted intersection with a track (on your right).
0.67	Southern Int. Bradfield Rd and Great North Walk -33.7897,151.1511 (GR Parramatta River, 288596)	8 -28	430 m 9 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the NPWS arrow up the timber steps, away from the road.
1.10	Int. Great North Walk and Thistlethwaytes Picnic Area Trk -33.7886,151.1492 (GR Parramatta River, 286597)	23 -44	800 m 16 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the upper arrow on the historic walk sign post, gently uphill along the wide trail.
1.90	Bottom of Fiddens Wharf Oval Trk -33.7845,151.145 (GR Parramatta River, 283602)	49 -51	1.1 km 23 mins	Turn around: From the intersection, the track follows the 'Visitors Centre Loop' arrow along the track, keeping the river to your right.
3.05	Thistlethwaytes Picnic Area -33.7912,151.1477 (GR Parramatta River, 285594)	4 -6	260 m 5 mins	Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk heads down the road, with the water to the right.
3.30	Schwartz Homestead -33.7933,151.1486 (GR Parramatta River, 286592)	9 -7	370 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the road, with the water on the right.
3.67	Int. Opposite Bakers Flat -33.7914,151.1511 (GR Parramatta River, 288594)	10 -1	120 m 3 mins	Optional sidetrip to Baker's Cottage. Turn left : From the intersection, the walk heads up the stairs tending right, up the hill.
3.67	Int. Opposite Bakers Flat -33.7914,151.1511 (GR Parramatta River, 288594)	15 -10	330 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down the road towards the car park at '29 Bakers Flat'.
4.00	Int. Max Allen Dr and Jenkins Hill Trk -33.7905,151.1537 (GR Parramatta River, 291595)	1 -7	210 m 5 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the path for approximately 50m to pass a toilet block on the left of the track.
4.21	Int. National Parks Office Trk and Max Allen Dr -33.7906,151.1556 (GR Parramatta River, 292595)	0 -2	50 m 1 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads gently down along the road to an intersection just before the bridge, marked with the 'Great North Walk' track head signs.