

# Hornsby to Galston Gorge

4 hrs

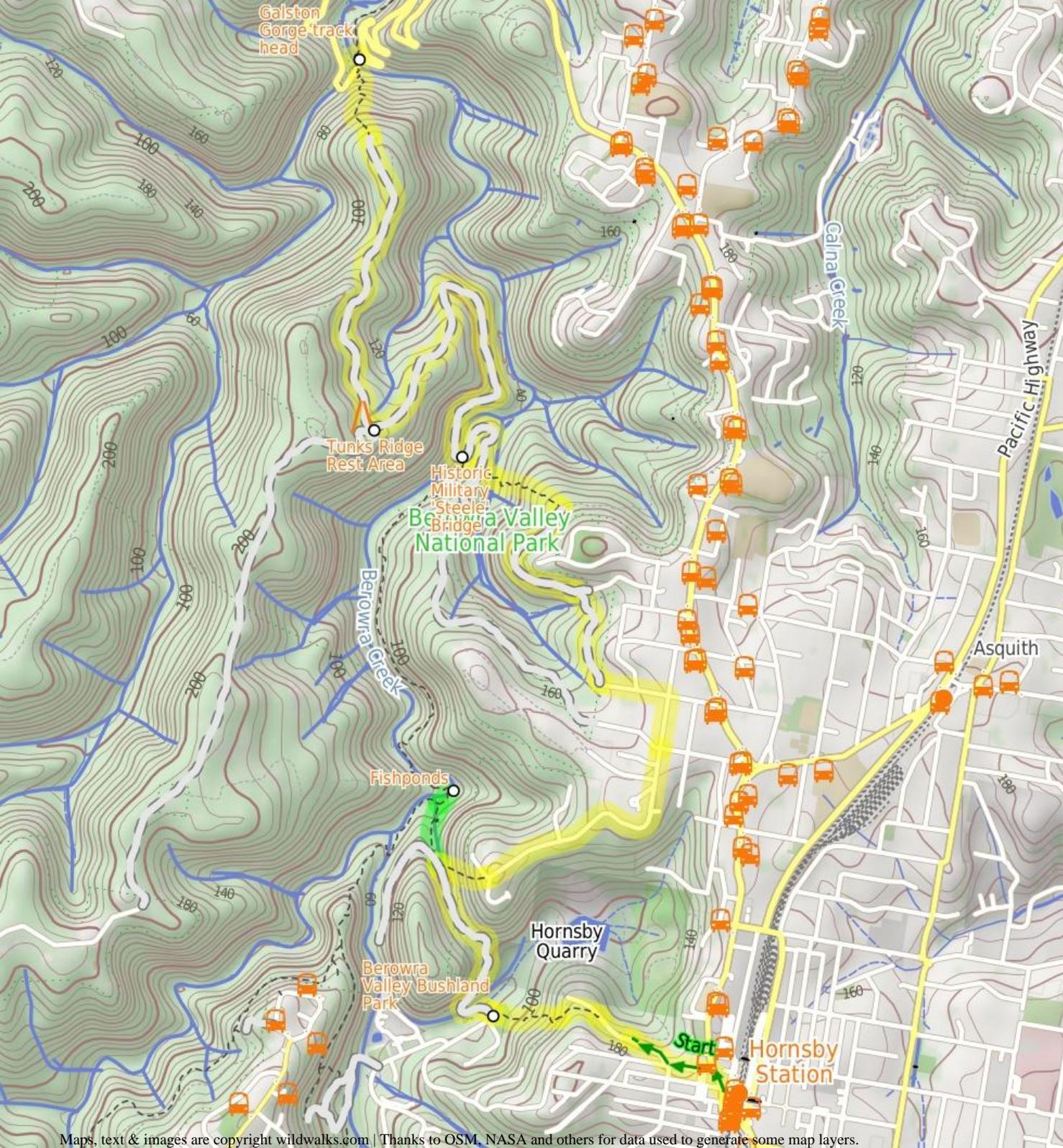
Hard track

9.7 km One way

473m

4

Starting at Hornsby station, you soon head into the bush and down the steep depression era stone steps through the volcanic Old Mans Valley, to a picnic area at the end of Rosemead Rd. Here you follow the Blue Gum walk through one of Sydney's rare Blue Gum Forest stands to then cross Berowra Creek a few times at Fishponds waterhole. After exploring the edge of the valley you will cross the Steele Military Bridge before climbing to Tunks Ridge rest area. Not far from here the walk starts to lead steeply down enjoying more sandstone caves to cross under Galston Road to find the Galston trackhead. Note this walk was re-routed in early 2016 to go via the streets of Hornsby Heights. This re-route is due to the multi-agency decision to close the Fishponds to Steele Bridge section of the Benowie Track. This decision has upset many people and the protest continues.



20m

193m

Berowra Valley National Park

## 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.

## 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.

## Historic Military 'Steele' Bridge

This large steel and timber bridge spans Berowra Creek north of Fishponds. The creek is fairly wide at this point and the bridge provides a great view of the sandstone overhangs along the creek's edge. The bridge was commissioned in 1965 to allow access for fire trucks. The bridge was designed by Major General Sir Clive Steele in 1942. Bridges of this type were critical during the WWII South West Pacific campaigns. The bridge is designed on the Warren truss style and is one of only 4 'Steele' bridges still in use in NSW. [More info.](#)

## Tunks Ridge Rest Area

Tunks Ridge Rest Area is a large, shady and gently sloping campsite at the junction of three management trails. There is no water or other facilities (you will need to carry your own in). A sign at the top of the campsite reminds campers that there is a one night limit and that it is a fuel stove only area (no campfires). Please note that the composting toilet has been removed and no longer available.

## Galston Gorge track head

Galston Gorge track head is located at a small car park on the eastern side of Berowra Creek, near the bottom of the gorge on Galston Road. This track head is a good access point for those wanting to do sections of the Great North Walk and is well signposted. Keep an eye open for the local chickens.

## 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

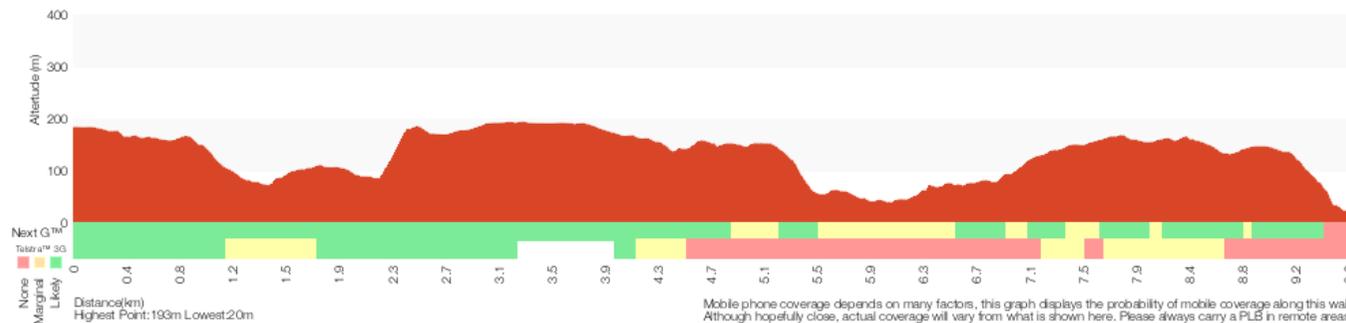
## Grade

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>	9.7 km One way
<b>Time</b>	4 hrs
<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>	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
<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 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 Hornsby Train Station (gps: -33.7035, 151.098) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Galston Gorge track head (gps: -33.6646, 151.0803). 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/htgg>

### 0 | Hornsby Train Station

*(720 m 14 mins)* From the western side of Hornsby Railway Station, this walk first crosses the bus lane, then follows the large 'To the Great North Walk' sign across the Station St pedestrian crossing, and then across the Pacific Highway at the traffic lights. Here the walk turns right and follows the footpath (across 'Dural Lane') past some shops to cross 'Dural St'. The walk then turns left and follows the footpath down along 'Dural St', past a few more shops. Continuing past the units, this walk then turns right onto 'Quarry Rd' and follows the road down the gently hill for about 180m to an intersection with 'Old Mans Valley' management trail and locked gate (on your right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road down the gentle hill, leaving the houses behind to come to an intersection with a track, signposted with a 'Great North Walk' sign (on your left).

### 0.72 | Int of Quarry Road and GNW

*(540 m 14 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign up the hill. The track leads up over the rise, then continues down to the intersection with the Quarry Rd Management trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign down the steep rock steps. The walk winds steeply down a number of sets of stone steps, passing some large rock walls for a bit over 100m, to find a welcome flat section of track midway the hill. As the track leads past some houses (through the trees on your left), this walk heads down more steps before coming to the open area of 'Berowra Valley Bushland Park', at the end of Rosemead Road.

### 1.26 | 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.

### 1.26 | Berowra Valley Bushland Park

*(910 m 21 mins)* Veer right: From the lower side of Berowra Valley Bushland Park (at the end of Rosemead Rd, Hornsby), this walk follows the 'Fishponds 1.2km' arrow on the large sign, down the track for approximately 30m, to the intersection with the Rosemead management trail, marked with a Great North Walk arrow.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the wide rocky management trail as it bends left (and passing some houses off to the

left). The trail then bends right and leads across Old Mans Creek using some concrete stepping stones. The walk then continues by heading up the moderately steep hill and then through a thick blue gum and bracken fern forest. The wide trail leads to the top of the hill then bends left, (ignoring the track on the right) to pass over a saddle. Here the trail leads down the gentle hill, through the turpentine forest for just over 300m to find an intersection with narrower track on the right, marked with arrow posts.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Great North Walk' arrow down the narrower track a short distance to find a three-way intersection marked with a large 'Great North Walk' signpost.

### 2.18 | Optional sidetrip to Fishponds crossing

*(340 m 8 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Fishponds' sign along the flat narrow track past the 'Berowra Valley Regional Park' sign. The track soon bends left (passing along the top of an unfenced cliff) then winds down some steep carved rock steps (with a hand rail). The rocky track then leads down along the side of the valley for just over 100m to cross a timber foot bridge. The track then continues for another 70m to find a fenced rock platform and signposted intersection.

Turn right: 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. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer left.

### 2.18 | 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.

### 2.18 | Int of GNW and Manor Rd Bushtrack

*(230 m 13 mins)* Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Alternative Route' arrow on the GNW sign. The track dips before heading steeply uphill, zigzagging in several sections. The walk leads you up a large metal staircase to the top of the cliffs, coming to the intersection of Manor Rd and Dilkera Cl.

### 2.4 | Corner of Dilkera and Manor Rd

*(1.7 km 31 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Manor Rd as it initially heads up a gentle hill. After about 600m, Manor Road turns to skirt about Mount Wilga Hospital, and the road changes name to Rosamond St. The walk continues along to the intersection with Stewart Ave on the left (this is a four-way intersection, with Carrington Rd on the right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north along Rosamond St following the Great North Walk arrow. The walk then turns left into Clarinda St and follows it to the end of the road, to find the 'Clarinda Wetlands' sign.

### 4.06 | End of Clarinda St

*(1.1 km 24 mins)* Turn right: From the end of Clarinda St Hornsby, this walk heads around the green gate with the 'Berowra Valley Regional Park' sign on it, keeping the 'Clarinda wetlands' to the left. The walk follows the management trail, which soon bends left and gently winds through the bushland. There are some interesting rock formations on the right and the

occasional valley view on the left. The track is fairly flat most of the way, until a left-hand bend that leads down to cross a small creek, and then up the other side of the valley. Once the track flattens out again, it comes to an intersection with the Simon Pl management trail on the right, at a fairly large clearing.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the flat management trail, heading away from Simon Place past the 'Berowra Valley Regional Park', 'Dogs Prohibited' sign. The walk gently meanders along the trail, enjoying the ferns and sandstone rocks for a while until coming to a 'Great North Walk' sign highlighting the intersection with small track on the left.

### 5.14 | Int of Clarinda St and waterfall track

*(470 m 13 mins)* Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads down the hill along the narrow track, following the 'Great North Walk' sign. The track is rocky and steep in a few places. Take care as the track turns at the top of some smaller cliffs while winding down the hill. Steps have been made from rocks and logs, making this track a bit more gentle, and there are some carved steps in the steeper sections. At the bottom of a small flight stone stairs, the walk crosses the creek on the rocks just in front of the waterfall.

Veer right: From the waterfall, this walk climbs the stone stairs (keeping the waterfall initially on the left) and then turns right, heading up out of the gully. Once at the top of the stairs, the walk heads through the bush until soon coming to a 'T' intersection with the Stewart St management trail, signposted with a large 'Great North Walk' sign.

### 5.61 | Int of Stewart Ave service trail and waterfall tra

*(400 m 8 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Galston Gorge 4km' arrow down the hill along the wide management trail. For the most part, the trail gently heads downhill then bends around to the left, leading to an intersection just before Steele Bridge.

### 6 | Historic Military 'Steele' Bridge

This large steel and timber bridge spans Berowra Creek north of Fishponds. The creek is fairly wide at this point and the bridge provides a great view of the sandstone overhangs along the creek's edge. The bridge was commissioned in 1965 to allow access for fire trucks. The bridge was designed by Major General Sir Clive Steele in 1942. Bridges of this type were critical during the WWII South West Pacific campaigns. The bridge is designed on the Warren truss style and is one of only 4 'Steele' bridges still in use in NSW. [More info.](#)

### 6 | Steele Bridge

*(1.8 km 44 mins)* Veer right: From the intersection, this walk crosses the 'Historic Military Steele Bridge' and turns right to follow the 'Crosslands' sign uphill along the wide management trail. After about 200m, the trail becomes steeper (and is concreted) for around 150m, then flattens out just before the left bend. The trail continues to climb (enjoying the valley views to the right) for another 400m, after which the trail becomes quite steep again for for about 600m (here the trail is sealed then concreted in two sections). From the top of the second concreted section, the trail leads gently uphill for just shy of 300m to the well-signposted 'Tunks Ridge Rest Area', where a sign points back down the trail to 'Stewart St Hornsby Trackhead'.

### 7.78 | Tunks Ridge Rest Area

Tunks Ridge Rest Area is a large, shady and gently sloping campsite at the junction of three management trails. There is no water or other facilities (you will need to carry your own in). A sign at the top of the campsite reminds campers that there is a one night limit and that it is a fuel stove only area (no campfires). Please note that the composting toilet has been removed and no longer available.

### 7.78 | Tunks Ridge Rest Area

(1.4 km 28 mins) Turn right: From the top of the rest area, this walk follows the 'Galston Gorge' AND 'Crosslands Reserve' signs along the wide management trail, keeping the valley to your right. The trail winds along the side of the ridge (passing along the base of a long rock wall, up to your left) for about 700m, until the trail comes to the top of the ridge. From here, the trail leads for another 500m, down across a saddle then up to a clear Y-intersection. The walk takes the left branch and passes a few 'Regeneration Area' signs over about 250m, coming to a well-signposted intersection with narrower track (on your left), partway around the right-hand bend.

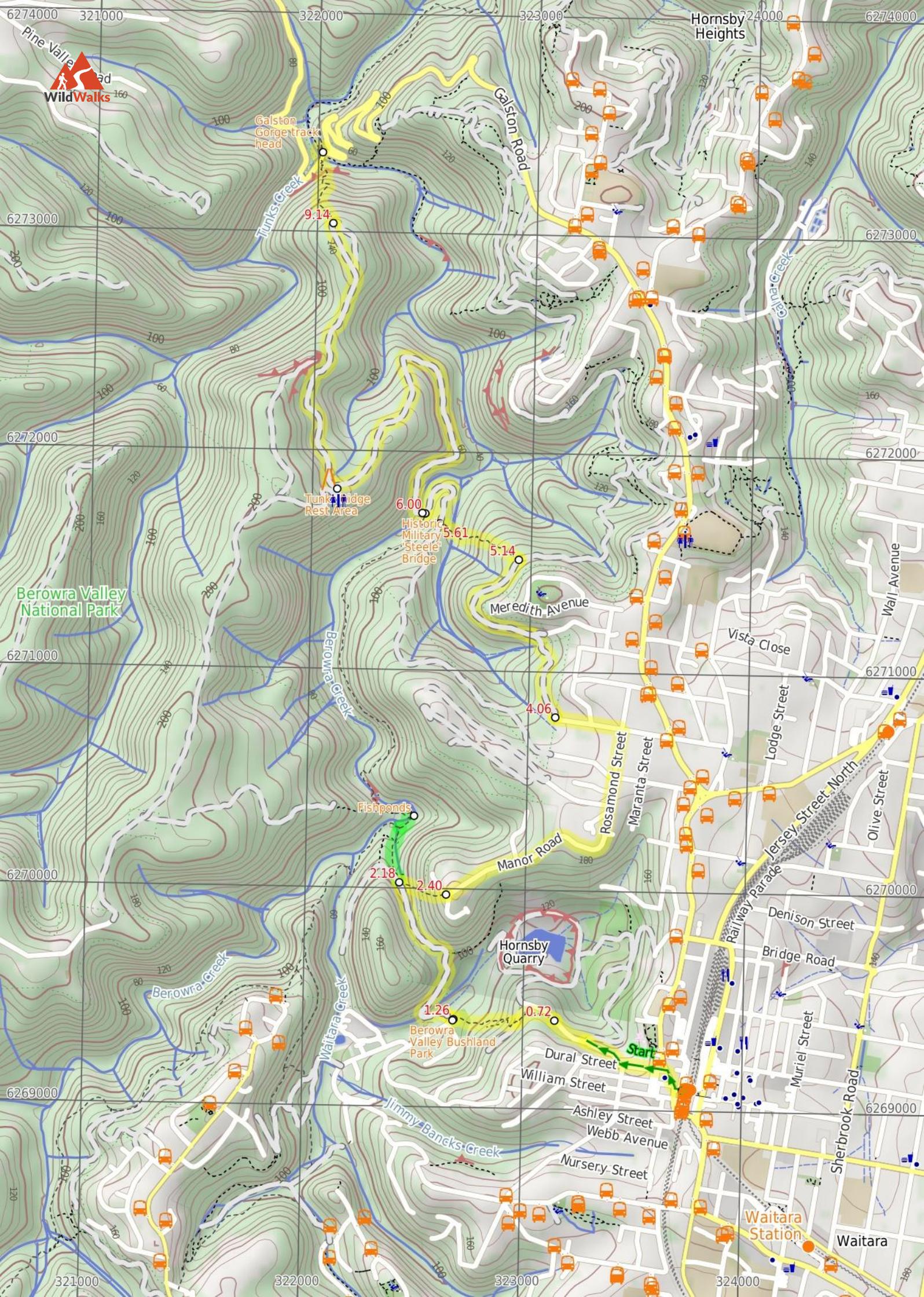
### 9.14 | Int of GNW and Galston Gorge track

(550 m 16 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Galston Gorge' sign down the steep rocky track as it zigzags down towards the valley. About 40m down the hill, the track comes to a 'Great North Walk - Walkers Registration' box. After leaving your comments, this walk continues downhill, passing through a crack in the rock where the walk bends right and follows along the particularly rocky section for about 150m and comes to a fence. The fence guides down a steep section, passing a cave, and comes to the top of a metal peg ladder. This walk climbs down the ladder, then follows the rock wall (keeping the road to your left), heading down through a crack and along another fence, then coming to a flat area beside the road. Here the walk follows the GNW arrow to the right and down under the bridge. The walk crosses the creek, usually a bit more than ankle deep. This creek maybe impassable after rain - the road bridge above offers an alternate way across, but watch and listen for traffic. On the other bank, the walk turns left to follow the track uphill. The track well-formed track climbs to the well-signposted and paved Galston Gorge trackhead, where a 'Fishponds' sign points back down the track.

### 9.68 | Galston Gorge track head

Galston Gorge track head is located at a small car park on the eastern side of Berowra Creek, near the bottom of the gorge on Galston Road. This track head is a good access point for those wanting to do sections of the Great North Walk and is well signposted. Keep an eye open for the local chickens.





Berowra Valley National Park

Hornsby Heights

Waitara Station

Waitara

## Summary navigation sheet for the Hornsby to Galston Gorge



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Hornsby Train Station -33.7035,151.098 (GR Hornsby, 237691)	8 -34	720 m 14 mins	From the western side of Hornsby Railway Station, this walk first crosses the bus lane, then follows the large 'To the Great North Walk' sign across the Station St pedestrian crossing, and then across the Pacific Hi...
0.72	Int of Quarry Road and Great North Walk -33.7006,151.0917 (GR Hornsby, 231694)	12 -89	540 m 14 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign up the hill.
1.26	Berowra Valley Bushland Park -33.7005,151.0867 (GR Hornsby, 227694)	45 -42	910 m 21 mins	Veer right: From the lower side of Berowra Valley Bushland Park (at the end of Rosemead Rd, Hornsby), this walk follows the 'Fishponds 1.2km' arrow on the large sign, down the track for approximately 30m, to the int...
2.18	Int of Great North Walk and Manor Rd Bushtrack -33.6949,151.0841 (GR Hornsby, 224700)	3 -40	340 m 8 mins	Optional sidetrip to Fishponds crossing. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Fishponds' sign along the flat narrow track past the 'Berowra Valley Regional Park' sign.
2.18	Int of GNW and Manor Rd Bushtrack -33.6949,151.0841 (GR Hornsby, 224700)	95 0	230 m 13 mins	Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Alternative Route' arrow on the GNW sign.
2.40	Corner of Dilkeria and Manor Rd -33.6954,151.0864 (GR Hornsby, 226700)	36 -49	1.7 km 31 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Manor Rd as it initially heads up a gentle hill.
4.06	End of Clarinda St -33.6881,151.0917 (GR Hornsby, 231708)	51 -66	1.1 km 24 mins	Turn right: From the end of Clarinda St Hornsby, this walk heads around the green gate with the 'Berowra Valley Regional Park' sign on it, keeping the 'Clarinda wetlands' to the left.
5.14	Int of Clarinda St and waterfall track -33.6816,151.09 (GR Hornsby, 229715)	9 -98	470 m 13 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads down the hill along the narrow track, following the 'Great North Walk' sign.
5.61	Int of Stewart Ave service trail and waterfall track -33.6801,151.0861 (GR Hornsby, 226717)	5 -29	400 m 8 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Galston Gorge 4km' arrow down the hill along the wide management trail.
6.00	Steele Bridge -33.6797,151.0854 (GR Hornsby, 225717)	160 -33	1.8 km 44 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk crosses the 'Historic Military Steele Bridge' and turns right to follow the 'Crosslands' sign uphill along the wide management trail.
7.78	Tunks Ridge Rest Area -33.6785,151.0809 (GR Hornsby, 221718)	38 -68	1.4 km 28 mins	Turn right: From the top of the rest area, this walk follows the 'Galston Gorge' AND 'Crosslands Reserve' signs along the wide management trail, keeping the valley to your right.
9.14	Int of Great North Walk and Galston Gorge track -33.6677,151.0809 (GR Hornsby, 221730)	14 -119	550 m 16 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Galston Gorge' sign down the steep rocky track as it zigzags down towards the valley.