



## Katandra Reserve Explorer

2 hrs 45 mins

Moderate track

5.3 km Circuit

▲ 350m

3

This walk is a great way to explore the many highlights of Katandra Reserve. Starting at the lower picnic area, you circumnavigate Seymour Pond via the Waterman Walk, then discover some wonderful Strangler Fig trees in the rainforest. As the walk climbs, the forest dries out a little, which opens up more views. Taking the Guringai walk along the base of the cliff will then bring you up to St Johns picnic area and lookout. After enjoying the views from the top, take Graves walk down along the ridge and back to your starting point.

19m

201m

Katandra Reserve

## Katandra Rd Picnic Area

The Katandra Road Picnic Area is found at the end of a short driveway (signposted at the intersection of Katandra Rd and Croton Ave, Holgate). The picnic area is in front of the ranger's residence and is open from 7am to 6pm daily. The picnic area provides some toilets, garbage bins, two picnic tables, parking and an information sign.

## Seymour Pond Picnic Area

The Seymour Pond Picnic Area is found on the dam wall at the eastern end of Seymour Pond in Katandra Reserve. The picnic area provides a couple of picnic tables and a garbage bin. The picnic area is set in a lovely naturally shaded area in view of the Seymour Pond and beside Watermans and Toomeys walks.

## Seymour Pond

Seymour Pond is medium-sized water body in Katandra Reserve. The pond is fed by a spring coming from the cliffs at the top of the reserve. The small creek was dammed in the early 1900's to provide water for a farm on the south side (growing vegetables). The pond is home to water birds, large lizards and other wildlife. The council does not allow swimming in the pond, helping to maintain the ecosystem that now relies on this pond. There are a few spots beside the pond where you can enjoy the cool climate and the visiting birds.

## Waterman View

Waterman view (informally named) is a viewing point at the western end of Seymour Pond. The platform has a couple of long bench seats. A timber platform on the water's edge means that visitors can get right up near the water. Signs here remind visitors that swimming is not allowed. This is a great spot to enjoy the birds and other life around the pond.

## Strangler Fig Tube

This Strangler Fig Tube is found beside Toomey Walk, just north of Seymour Pond. The scientific name of the tree is *Ficus obliqua* and it is listed on the Significant Tree Register. This Small-leaved Fig has grown around a large fallen log. The log has long-since rotted away, leaving a knotted tubular structure. Strangler Figs often grow from seeds dropped by birds. The seeds may fall on logs or rocks and the roots will make their way to the ground (to provided water, nutrients and a firm anchor), whilst the rest of the tree grows upwards for light. [More info.](#)

## 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 Hunter District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region, unknown](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ()
- 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:

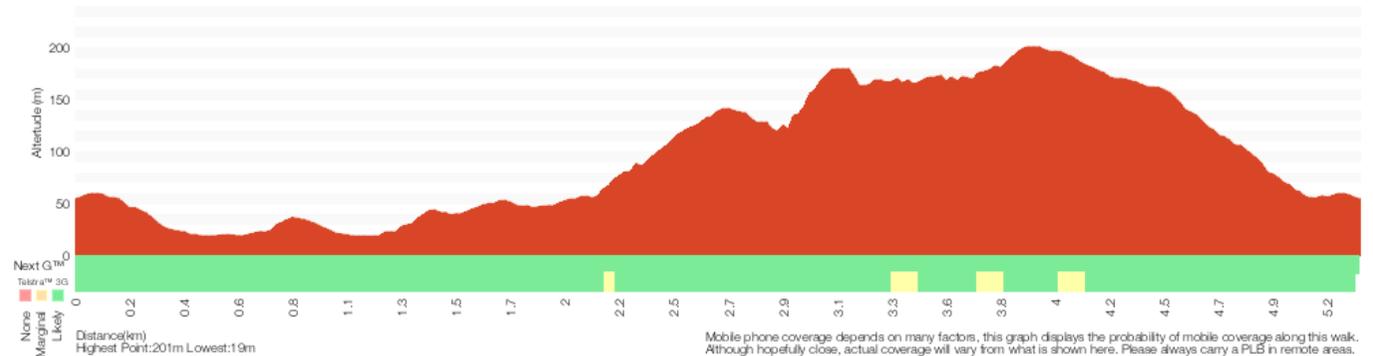
- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep 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:**91312S GOSFORD

**1:100 000 Map Series:**9131 GOSFORD



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.

## 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

<b>Length</b>	5.3 km Circuit
<b>Time</b>	2 hrs 45 mins
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Clearly signposted (1/6)
<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)

### 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 Katandra Rd Gate (gps: -33.415, 151.3965) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

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.tl/kr>

### 0 | Katandra Rd Gate

(70 m 2 mins) From the gate (at the junction of Katandra Rd and Croton Ave), this walk follows the sealed driveway up the hill, soon coming to the car park and information board.

### 0.07 | Katandra Rd Picnic Area

The Katandra Road Picnic Area is found at the end of a short driveway (signposted at the intersection of Katandra Rd and Croton Ave, Holgate). The picnic area is in front of the ranger's residence and is open from 7am to 6pm daily. The picnic area provides some toilets, garbage bins, two picnic tables, parking and an information sign.

### 0.07 | Katandra Rd picnic area

(450 m 11 mins) Turn right: From the picnic area, this walk follows the 'Seymour Pond' and 'Waterman Walk' signs north-east along the clear track. The track soon heads down a series of steps and, shortly after turning right (at a locked gate), this walk comes to a three-way intersection marked with two blue/white arrows on a post.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the upper arrow down the hill, keeping the fence and house to the right. The track heads down the hill then steps down into a palm-filled valley. Here, the walk climbs some steps and passes the 'Commemorating 10 years of bushcaring in Katandra Reserve' plaque, then bends right and around a sharp left-hand bend and past the number '5' post (and old Wombat Hole). The track continues around the gully to cross a few small bridges and come to a picnic area and a 'Seymour Pond' sign.

### 0.52 | Seymour Pond Picnic Area

The Seymour Pond Picnic Area is found on the dam wall at the eastern end of Seymour Pond in Katandra Reserve. The picnic area provides a couple of picnic tables and a garbage bin. The picnic area is set in a lovely naturally shaded area in view of the Seymour Pond and beside Watermans and Toomeys walks.

### 0.52 | Seymour Pond

Seymour Pond is medium-sized water body in Katandra Reserve. The pond is fed by a spring coming from the cliffs at the top of the reserve. The small creek was dammed in the early 1900's to provide water for a farm on the south side (growing vegetables). The pond is home to water birds, large lizards and other wildlife. The council does not allow swimming in the pond, helping to maintain the ecosystem that now relies on this pond. There are a few spots beside the pond where you can enjoy the cool climate and the visiting birds.

### 0.52 | Seymour Pond Picnic area

(110 m 2 mins) Veer left: From the picnic tables, this walk heads past the

'Seymour Pond' sign (following the right-hand 'Waterman walk' arrow) and follows the track, keeping the pond close by on the right. The track soon leads to a viewing platform with long bench seats - Waterman view.

### 0.62 | Waterman View

Waterman view (informally named) is a viewing point at the western end of Seymour Pond. The platform has a couple of long bench seats. A timber platform on the water's edge means that visitors can get right up near the water. Signs here remind visitors that swimming is not allowed. This is a great spot to enjoy the birds and other life around the pond.

### 0.62 | Waterman View

(550 m 11 mins) Turn left: From the pond viewing point, this walk follows the timber track, keeping filtered views of the water to the right. The timber soon stops and the dirt track continues down some stairs, over a few small bridges, and soon crosses a bigger bridge just after a bench seat. From here, the track turns right, down the other side of the gully, where it crosses a few more small bridges before coming to a three-way intersection. The intersection is on timber boardwalk, just after a bridge where a sign points back along 'Waterman Walk'.

### 1.18 | Int of Waterman and Toomey walks

(60 m 1 mins) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Toomey Walk' sign along the boardwalk, away from the pond. Soon the walk follows the track along the gully then follows the timber steps as they bend right and head up to the number '4' post, next to the Strangler Fig tube.

### 1.24 | Strangler Fig Tube

This Strangler Fig Tube is found beside Toomey Walk, just north of Seymour Pond. The scientific name of the tree is *Ficus obliqua* and it is listed on the Significant Tree Register. This Small-leaved Fig has grown around a large fallen log. The log has long-since rotted away, leaving a knotted tubular structure. Strangler Figs often grow from seeds dropped by birds. The seeds may fall on logs or rocks and the roots will make their way to the ground (to provided water, nutrients and a firm anchor), whilst the rest of the tree grows upwards for light. [More info.](#)

### 1.24 | Strangler Fig Tube

(420 m 9 mins) Continue straight: From the Number '4' post, this walk heads to the top of the stairs and turns left around the Strangler Fig. The track soon crosses a small creek on a bridge then heads up a long flight of timber stairs. After gently winding through the forest, the track comes to post '3' (a large Turpentine Tree). The track then continues, crossing a few more creeks on small timber bridges and heading along the valley floor to a large timber platform and an even larger Strangler Fig tree.

### 1.66 | Strangler Fig platform

The Strangler Fig platform on Toomey Walk has been built to help walkers better appreciate this amazing feat of survival. The tree is formally know as *Ficus obliqua* and is listed on the Significant tree Register. More commonly know as a 'Small-leaved Fig' , this tree has an amazing root structure that grasps onto a large mossy boulder before heading underground. The platform is in a lovely shaded spot on the valley floor and the bench seat makes an inviting offer to sit whilst you soak up the surroundings. [More info.](#)

### 1.66 | Strangler Fig platform

(1 km 25 mins) Turn right: From the Strangler Fig Tree platform, this walk heads up the stairs and bends right to follow the track, which gently winds through the valley. After crossing a few creeks (on small timber bridges), this walk leaves the dense forest as is starts to climb the hill. The track zigzags a couple of times then climbs more gently for a while. The track then becomes

steeper again and climbs a couple of longer sets of stairs before coming to a large clearing with a 'Toomey walk' arrow pointing back, marking the end of the 'Ridgeway Road' trail.

### 2.7 | End of Ridgeway Rd trail

(130 m 4 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the right-hand arrow on the 'Toomey Walk' sign north-west along the clear track. The track soon comes to a three-way intersection marked with some arrows and timber posts (on the left).

### 2.82 | Lower Int of Toomey walk and Katandra Horse track

(330 m 11 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the lower arrow through the timber posts and along the narrower track. After about 100m, the track passes some interesting rock formations then starts to zigzag up the hill. The track then leads through a cleft in a rock and up a few steps to a three-way intersection, with a 'Toomey Walk' sign pointing back down the steps.

### 3.15 | Int of Toomey and Guringai Walks

(360 m 10 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Guringai Walk' sign south, down the hill and stairs, keeping the valley on the left. The track soon follows the base of the cliff and passes a short section of track with broken glass (this is directly below St Johns Lookout). From here, the track keeps the cliff face on the right as it dips down then up some stairs, coming close to the cliff. The track continues along the base of the cliff, passing a long section of handrail, after which the walk comes to a post '8' next to a large Blackbutt tree.

### 3.51 | Blackbutt

This Blackbutt tree is found at the base of the cliff next to post 8 on Guringai walk. The *Eucalyptus pilularis* is the scientific name for this tree that can grow as high as 70m. The tree has a brown fibrous bark on the lower half then a smooth grey bark at the top. The trees name 'pilularis' is Latin for small pill, referring to the tree's fruit

### 3.51 | Post 8

(420 m 10 mins) Continue straight: From post '8', this walk heads up the stairs, keeping the valley to the left. The track leads along the base of the cliff for a little while until crossing a small bridge. The track then zigzags up the hill, passing some angophoras and grass trees before coming out of the bush to a large clearing and a sign pointing back down along 'Guringai Walk'.

### 3.94 | Optional sidetrip to St Johns Lookout

(250 m 4 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads through the clearing towards the picnic area, soon coming to the car park and information sign.

Continue straight: From the car park (signposted as 'Katandra' on Toomeys Rd), this walk heads across the picnic area and past the BBQ shelters, keeping the road up the hill to the left. Soon the walk comes to a sandstone footpath in front of the toilet block.

Turn right: From the toilet block, this walk follows the footpath past the information sign to the fenced and signposted 'St Johns Lookout' At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

### 3.94 | St Johns Lookout picnic area

St Johns Lookout picnic area is a large open area found at the top of Katandra Reserve on Toomeys Rd. The picnic area provides wheelchair accessible toilets, picnic tables, free electric BBQ's, parking areas and information boards. There is plenty of open space with some natural shade provided by the surrounding trees. There are garbage bins provided but no drinking water.

### **3.94 | St Johns Lookout**

This fenced lookout is found at the top of Katandra Reserve, near the toilets. The lookout was upgraded by Gosford Council in September 2009 and now provides a safer platform and easier access. From the lookout, there are extensive views south-east over Matcham, Erina Heights and Terrigal, out to the ocean. The Guringai Walk passes below the lookout - please take extra care to not drop anything from the platform.

### **3.94 | Southern end of Guringai walk**

*(70 m 2 mins)* Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads through the clearing towards the 'Mount Mouat Walk' and 'Graves Walk' signs. At these signs, the walk heads left, out of the clearing and down the track for a short distance to the signposted intersection with 'Graves Walk' and 'Mouat Walk'.

### **4.01 | Int of Graves and Mouat Walks**

*(790 m 22 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Graves Walk' sign between the timbers posts and down along the track. The track winds down the hill then passes between a few more timber posts, past an arrow marker and a few more meters to another arrow marker and intersection with a short link track (to the horse trail).

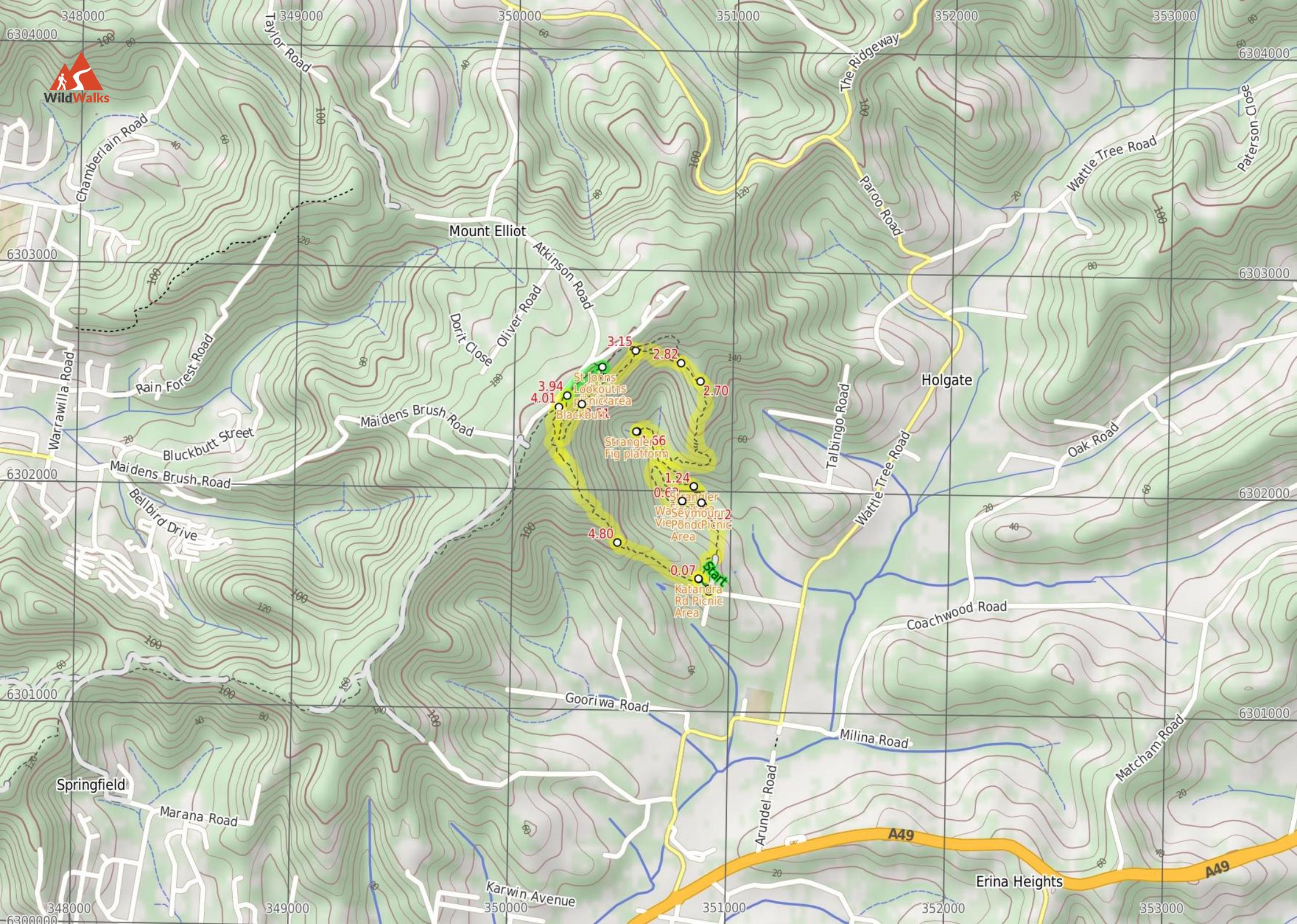
Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the walking track and arrow gently downhill, keeping the horse track through the bush to the right. The track head down along the ridge and passes the number '6' post (Aboriginal markings in the stone). Soon the ridge narrows to a rocky outcrop, where the track heads down the stairs to a large five-way intersection and a locked gate, behind the ranger's residence.

### **4.8 | Behind the Rangers Residence**

*(520 m 15 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows an arrow past the post with the purple strip down a few steps, initially keeping the locked gate to the left. After heading down more steps, the track passes a steep trail on the right (that leads to Murina Close). This walk continues gently down the hill, then down a series of steps, then the track starts to flatten out again and round a gully. The track then leads to a picnic area and car park in front of the ranger's house.

Turn right: From the picnic area, this walk heads through the car park and follows the driveway down the hill, soon coming to a gate just above the junction of Katandra Rd and Croton Ave.





Mount Elliot

Holgate

Springfield

Erina Heights

Karwin Avenue

A49

A49

## Summary navigation sheet for the Katandra Reserve Explorer



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Katandra Rd Gate -33.415,151.3965 (GR Gosford, 509016)	5 0	70 m 2 mins	From the gate (at the junction of Katandra Rd and Croton Ave), this walk follows the sealed driveway up the hill, soon coming to the car park and information board.
0.07	Katandra Rd picnic area -33.4146,151.396 (GR Gosford, 509016)	2 -43	450 m 11 mins	Turn right: From the picnic area, this walk follows the 'Seymour Pond' and 'Waterman Walk' signs north-east along the clear track.
0.52	Seymour Pond Picnic area -33.4116,151.3962 (GR Gosford, 509019)	1 -1	110 m 2 mins	Veer left: From the picnic tables, this walk heads past the 'Seymour Pond' sign (following the right-hand 'Waterman walk' arrow) and follows the track, keeping the pond close by on the right.
0.62	Waterman View -33.4114,151.3952 (GR Gosford, 508020)	20 -20	550 m 11 mins	Turn left: From the pond viewing point, this walk follows the timber track, keeping filtered views of the water to the right.
1.18	Int of Waterman and Toomey walks -33.411,151.396 (GR Gosford, 508020)	5 -1	60 m 1 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Toomey Walk' sign along the boardwalk, away from the pond.
1.24	Strangler Fig Tube -33.4108,151.3957 (GR Gosford, 508020)	35 -8	420 m 9 mins	Continue straight: From the Number '4' post, this walk heads to the top of the stairs and turns left around the Strangler Fig.
1.66	Strangler Fig platform -33.4085,151.393 (GR Gosford, 506023)	121 -29	1 km 25 mins	Turn right: From the Strangler Fig Tree platform, this walk heads up the stairs and bends right to follow the track, which gently winds through the valley.
2.70	End of Ridgeway Rd trail -33.4065,151.3961 (GR Gosford, 509025)	3 -16	130 m 4 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the right-hand arrow on the 'Toomey Walk' sign north-west along the clear track.
2.82	Lower Int of Toomey walk and Katandra Horse track -33.4057,151.3951 (GR Gosford, 508026)	78 -27	330 m 11 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the lower arrow through the timber posts and along the narrower track.
3.15	Int of Toomey and Guringai Walks -33.4052,151.3929 (GR Gosford, 506026)	22 -30	360 m 10 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Guringai Walk' sign south, down the hill and stairs, keeping the valley on the left.
3.51	Post 8 -33.4074,151.3902 (GR Gosford, 503024)	47 -18	420 m 10 mins	Continue straight: From post '8', this walk heads up the stairs, keeping the valley to the left.
3.94	Southern end of Guringai walk -33.4071,151.3895 (GR Gosford, 502024)	4 -17	250 m 4 mins	Optional sidetrip to St Johns Lookout. Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads through the clearing towards the picnic area, soon coming to the car park and information sign.
3.94	Southern end of Guringai walk -33.4071,151.3895 (GR Gosford, 502024)	0 -5	70 m 2 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads through the clearing towards the 'Mount Mouat Walk' and 'Graves Walk' signs.
4.01	Int of Graves and Mouat Walks -33.4075,151.3891 (GR Gosford, 502024)	3 -93	790 m 22 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Graves Walk' sign between the timbers posts and down along the track.
4.80	Behind the Rangers Residence -33.4131,151.392 (GR Gosford, 505018)	8 -59	520 m 15 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows an arrow past the post with the purple strip down a few steps, initially keeping the locked gate to the left.