

Starting at North Ryde train station this walk explores a stretch of the Lane Cove River, visiting the historic Fairylands Pleasure Grounds along the way. The walk starts by wandering through the Riverside Corporate Park and soon comes alongside the Lane Cove River to join the Great North Walk. Here we follow the GNW through Fairylands before exploring a few streets in Chatswood West. After the weir, this walk leaves the main spine of the Great North Walk to explore the lovely River Side Track, through many picnic areas and up to the Lane Cove Tourist Park. Here the you wander along the roads back to the train station.

Length: 6.9 km
Time: 2 hrs 30 mins
Climb: 193 m
Style: Circuit
Rating: Track: Hard
Where: 1.6 km E of North Ryde
Transport: train bus car



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Lane Cove National Park

Side trips and Alternate routes mentioned in these notes are not included in the tracks overall rating, distance or time estimate. The notes only describe the side trips and Alternate routes in one direction. Allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing these notes but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by using these notes or maps. Please take care and share your experience through the website. GPS for start and end of this walk: -33.7944,151.138



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North Ryde Train Station to The Village 0.9km 15 mins

(From S) From the top of 'North Ryde' train station, this walk follows the footpath downhill beside Delhi Rd, past the bus stop. The footpath soon leads across a driveway with traffic lights then, about 200m from the train station, passes 'Delhi Convenience Store' (open 7am-7pm M-F & 10am-4pm weekends Ph: 02 9889 8822). Soon after this shop, the walk crosses Julius Ave (at the traffic lights) to come to the intersection in front of the 'Riverside Corporate Park West Entrance'.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follow the footpath beside 'Julius Ave' heading into the signposted 'Riverside Corporate Park West Entrance'. After about 150m, this walk veers left at the roundabout to continue along Julius Ave for another 400m, passing a few CSIRO and commercial buildings to come to the entrance of 'The Village' shopping complex (on your left).

The Village

This pleasant shopping village is found at the intersection of Newbigin Cl and Julius Ave within the Riverside Corporate Park. The shopping complex is home to a couple of cafes, a chiropractor, copy centre and a few other shops. As this is in a corporate area, the shops are only open weekdays. Trebbiano Cafe PH: (02) 9889 2405.

The Village to Wetland intersection 0.5km 5 mins

(From 0.87 km) Veer right: From the entrance of 'The Village' shopping complex, this walk follows Julius Ave north, initially keeping the 'The Village' on your left to almost immediately cross Newbigin Cl. About 65m further along the footpath beside Julius Ave, this walk come to an intersection, opposite 'Richardson Place'.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk crosses Julius Ave and follows the footpath beside Richardson Pl downhill. After about 70m, this walk turns right down the sealed driveway following the 'The Binary Centre' sign further downhill. After another 150m (just before the footpath ends), this walk crosses the road to come to an intersection with a faint track (in the bush on your left), just past the back corner of the 'Honeywell' building (partway around the right-hand bend, marked with a driveway dip in the gutter).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the footpath downhill beside the road for about 35m to pass the steps in front of the 'Binary Centre', where the walk continues a little further down the road (or steps) to come to the main car park entrance of the Binary Centre, just near the end of the road.

Continue straight: From the intersection in at the start of the Binary/Goodman car park, this walk heads down through the middle of the turning circle at the end of the main road to follow the gravel/dirt trail, keeping the building to your left. About 80m from the end of the road, along this trail, this walk passes one track then comes to an intersection with a signposted track on (on your left) marked with a 'Scenic Trail' arrow post.



Wetland intersection to Int. Scenic Trail and Great North Walk 0.3km 5 mins

(From 1.33 km) Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads along the narrower track, following the arrow post while keeping the buildings to your left. The track passes the 'How Does This Detention Basin Work?' information sign. The track then follows the black fence along the edge of the detention basin, passing the '0.6km Scenic trail' sign, then about 70m after this sign (after crossing flat timber bridge, this walk comes to an intersection behind the Binary Building where there are some concrete steps (on your left).



Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the track behind the Binary Building, keeping the building up to your left. After about 100m (just past the end of the building), this walk comes to an intersection at the bottom of some timber stairs (on your left), marked with a 'What can you See?' information sign.



Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill directly away from the Binary Building. The track soon leads under the high-tension power lines to merge with another track and come to an intersection marked with a GNW arrow post and a NPWS 'No dogs permitted' sign.



Int. Corporate Park Scenic Trail and Great North Walk to Fairyland 0.4km 10 mins

(From 1.61 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads away from the buildings and the high tension power line tower, following the GNW arrow post downhill and almost immediately crosses a small flat timber bridge. The rocky track leads up a short hill then the track starts to lead down for about 70m, where the track bends sharply right. Then the walk leads down a series of timber steps into the lush forest and a 'Site of Fairyland Pleasure Grounds' information sign.



Here the walk heads along the timber boardwalk, then follows the track past the 'Take Yourself Back to Fairyland' photo sign, and then onto an intersection beside a large palm tree. There is a 'Fairyland Pleasure Grounds' sign and short track on the right that leads to a seat beside Lane Cove River.



Fairyland

Once formally known as 'Fairyland Pleasure Grounds', and casually as 'The Rest', this site was similar to several others in Sydney. The land was purchased by Robert Swan in 1896 and encompassed about 17 acres in total. Part of the land was cleared for a market garden, growing strawberries and melons. By the early 1900s, the market garden had closed and the area had become a popular picnic and play ground, for people arriving mostly by boat. This was a very popular spot to visit for a special day out. Today, the buildings have (mostly) gone and the cleared area has grown back, but it still can offer a relaxing picnic and lunch spot by the river.



Fairyland to Int of Quebec Rd and Fairyland Track 0.5km 5 mins

(From 2.03 km) Continue straight: From the intersection at the centre of Fairylands, this walk follows the clear track whilst keeping the Lane Cove River through the trees to your right, past the 'Fairyland Pleasure Grounds' sign. The mostly flat track winds gently through the ferns to pass the 'Site of Fairyland Pleasure Grounds' information sign, then continues along the short timber boardwalk and up a series of timber steps. The now mostly-flat track leads along the side of the hill for about 150m, coming to a short track which takes this walk to an unfenced rock platform with river views (on your right).



Continue straight: From the view point, this walk heads along the flat track whilst keeping the river below to your right. After about 100m, the track crosses a short section of timber boardwalk then leads past a series of National Park signs to come to a T-intersection with Quebec Rd (opposite number 101).



Int. of Quebec Rd and Fairyland Track to End of Quebec Ave 0.6km 10 mins

(From 2.52 km) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads uphill following the GNW arrow post along Quebec Rd. At the top of the hill, the road bends right and comes to a signposted intersection, where this walk turn left to follow the GNW arrow post up what looks like a long sealed driveway. The walk follows Quebec Ave for about 300m past a couple of driveways (on your right) then below the fenced Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens (on your left), coming to a turning circle and a locked gate at the end of the road.

End of Quebec Ave to Riverside Cafe 0.4km 5 mins

(From 3.07 km) Continue straight: From the end of Quebec Ave, this walk follows the GNW arrow post around the locked gate and along the fairly flat, rocky track. After about 170m, this track leads to the edge of a large rock platform. From here, the walk tends right, going down through a gap in the rock then leading along the base of a short rock wall. The track then starts to lead more steeply downhill when, just after passing a small bench seat, the track leads down a steep stone staircase and then comes to a signposted T-intersection with River Rd (near Delhi Rd). Here, a 'Sydney Cove' sign points back up the hill.



Continue straight: From the intersection, follows the GNW arrow post across River Ave, down along the minor road (keeping the busy Delhi Rd to your left). At the end of this minor rd this walk finds a footpath in front of 'Riverside Cafe Bar & Grill'.



Riverside Cafe Bar & Grill

The Riverside Cafe is found at the end of service road on the south-west corner of Fullers Bridge. The nicely renovated building looks over the Lane Cove River and is open 7 days, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The food is cafe-style and meals are priced upwards from \$13. Ph: (02) 9412 3773.



Riverside Cafe to Koonjeree Middle Trk 0.1km 1 mins

(From 3.46 km) Turn left: From in front of 'Riverside Cafe Bar AND Grill', this walk follows the GNW arrow post and footpath under Fullers Bridge to an intersection with a set of steps just on the other side.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the concrete footpath, away from the bridge, whilst keeping the river to your right. The path leads along the edge of 'Koonjeree picnic area' until just past the 'Crossing the Lane Cove River' information sign, where this walk comes to an intersection with another footpath (leading through the middle of the picnic area).



Koonjeree Picnic Area

Koonjeree Picnic Area is at the southern end of Lane Cove National Park, just near Fullers Bridge. The picnic area boasts free gas barbecues, flushing toilets, town tap water, picnic tables and shelters, a large open area and car parking. On the bank of the Lane Cove River, this is a pleasant spot to enjoy the park.



Koonjeree Middle Trk to Lane Cove Weir South 0.1km 2 mins

(From 3.58 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post along the concrete footpath, keeping the river just to your right. The path leads around the edge of the clearing and comes to a T-intersection with a road, just beside the weir (on your right).



Lane Cove Weir

The Lane Cove River Weir was built in 1938 during the depression. The motivation for building the lake was to make the area more appealing for visitors' picnics. The weir created environmental issues such as silting and a decline in native fish populations. In much more recent years, a 'fish ladder' has been constructed to allow fish to undertake their natural migration route for breeding. The weir proved an easy way for walkers to cross the Lane Cove River whilst enjoying the views up and downstream.



Lane Cove Weir South to Boat Shed 0.5km 5 mins

(From 3.68 km) Turn left : From the southern end of the weir, this walk follows the sealed road up (away from the weir) for about 10m to turn right following the 'Riverside walking track' sign along the fenced timber boardwalk. After about 50m, this boardwalk leads past the fish ladder to come to a lookout (with stepped seats) and great views over the Lane Cove River. From the lookout, this walk continues along the boardwalk for about 80m (enjoying more river views) to then follow another 'Riverside walking track' sign along the edge of '3 Spoonbill' picnic area for about 130m, and come to '4 Illoura' picnic area (with toilets and water). This walk continues along the track beside the river for another 120m to pass below a large picnic shelter, then just over 100m later, this walk comes to the shop-front side of the sandstone boatshed building.



Lane Cove Boatshed

Lane Cove Boatshed, in Lane Cove National Park, is situated on the bank of the (you guessed it) Lane Cove River. You can hire rowboats, kayaks, pedal boats, bikes and canoes, for different ways to enjoy the river. The shop also sells ice-creams, chips and drinks. The shed is open on weekend from 10am - 5pm. During summer school holidays, the shop is also open from 12-5pm. For more info, call Greg on 0418600695.



Boat Shed to 9 Carters Creek 0.7km 5 mins

(From 4.2 km) Continue straight: From the shop-front side of the boatshed, this walk follows the riverside track upstream, keeping the river just to your right. The track soon narrows and after about 80m, comes to a large clearing, the '7 Moola' picnic area (with toilets and water). The track leads over a small flat timber bridge in the middle of the picnic area to then find a NPWS arrow post on the far side. Here this walk follows the arrow along the track for about 70m to then climb up the metal staircase, where the track continues for another 180m, first up and over a rocky outcrop then along a flat track to find another large clearing. On the far side of this picnic area, just past the '8 Ironbarks' sign, this walk comes to a three-way intersection (with a concrete path on your left).



Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the NPWS arrow post along the narrow management trail, keeping the river to your right. After about 60m, this walk heads around a locked gate, then heads up over the grass to find a picnic area. Here the walk heads over the timber bridge, past the '9 Carters Creek' sign and into the picnic area. The walk veers left across the picnic area to come back to the car park, just below the toilet block on the far side of the picnic area.



9 Carters Creek

Carters Creek Picnic Area is the ninth formal picnic space along this stretch of the Lane Cove River. This picnic area is home to a couple of sheltered picnic tables, a gas BBQ a large open grassy area, garbage bins, toilets and a car park. There is some limited access to the river view. A pleasant spot among the tall gums.



9 Carters Creek to 13 Cottonwood Glen 0.4km 5 mins

(From 4.89 km) Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk follows the NPWS arrow post across a small creek and up the footpath, away from the picnic area. From the top of the small hill, the track now leads (keeping the river on your right) for almost 300m, passing through a re-vegetating tall gum forest then a pleasant she-oak stand, to come to a large gravel car park just before Cottonwood Glen picnic area.



13 Cottonwood Glen

Cottonwood Glen picnic area is a large open grassy spot on the bank of the Lane Cove River. There is a grove of trees along the edge of the river, but you can still get clear views across the water from the car park area. There are several picnic tables and a small toilet block just up the hill.



13 Cottonwood Glen to Int. Weir and Scribbly Gums picnic area trks 0.4km 5 mins

(From 5.25 km) Turn left: From car park beside '13 Cottonwood Glen' picnic area, this walk follows the 'Lane Cove Tourist Park' arrow post up the road. This walk soon veers left to head up beside the '12 Blackbutt' picnic area, then up some steps to come to a signposted intersection with Riverside Drive.



Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Tourist Park' sign gently up the track (away from the road) for about 30m to pass a 'Native Fauna' information sign and cross a small metal bridge beside the tall fern trees. Here the walk continues gently up through the forest for another 30m to pass the 'Bush Regeneration' information sign, then the track continues to wind gently uphill for almost 180m, passing the 'Native Flora' information sign and coming to a three-way intersection beside a large gum, where a sign points back down to 'Lane Cove River Weir' sign.

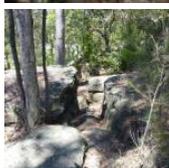


Int. Weir and Scribbly Gums picnic area trks to Lane Cove Tourist Park 0.3km 5 mins

(From 5.63 km) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk heads uphill directly away from the face of the 'Scribbly Gums picnic area' sign and past the large scribbly gum. The track leads under a banksia tree and after about 40m starts to climb a series of stone steps. After climbing these steps for about 60m, this walk heads through a gap in a fence to come to the edge of the Lane Cove Tourist Park.



From here, this walk head directly away from the face of the 'Lane Cove National Park' sign and straight up the internal road. This road soon bends left then leads though the campsite for about 100m before bending right just past the laundry. Here the walk heads up this road for about 50m, past the boom gates, to come to the front of the the 'Lane Cove Tourist Park' office.



Lane Cove River tourist park

This is a well-established caravan park on the edge of Lane Cove National Park, offering a variety of camp sites from tent to powered sites for caravans and even en suite cabins. The campsite is a great point to access many wonderful walks in Lane Cove Valley. There are many facilities including a laundry, toilets, showers (including facilities for people with disabilities and with infants), recreation room, Internet kiosk (with free access to Wildwalks.com), wireless Internet, BBQ's and a pool. There is bike hire available and the reception has basic supplies for sale (bread, milk, snacks, newspapers).



Lane Cove Tourist Park Office to North Ryde Train Station 1km 15 mins

(From 5.92 km) Turn left: From in front of the the Tourist Park office, this walk crosses the driveway then follows the 'Telephones' sign along the brick footpath (keeping the pool yard to your left). About 20m past the sign, this walk veers right at the Y-intersection and continues for another 40m to come to the phone box on Plassey Rd, where a 'Reception 25m' sign points back along the path.



Veer left: From the phone box, this walk follows Plassey Rd south, heading directly away from the face of the 'Reception 25m' sign. After about 250m, this walk passes a 'Welcome to Lane Cove River Tourist Park' sign (on your left), then leads under the high-tension power lines. From here, the walk continues for another 220m then passes the entrance of 'Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium'. Soon after passing this entrance, this walk follows the footpath on the left-hand side of the road for about 130m to then cross 'Delhi Rd' at the traffic lights and come to 'Riverside West Entrance' on 'Julius Ave'.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk crosses Julius Ave and follows the footpath alongside Delhi Rd (on the other side of the road from Macquarie Park Cemetery). After about 60m, this footpath leads past 'Delhi Convenience Store' (open 7am-7pm M-F & 10am-4pm weekends Ph: 02 9889 8822) and continues (crossing a driveway with traffic lights) for about 200m to come to the entrance of 'North Ryde' train station.



A list of paper topographical maps that cover this walk

[Parramatta River](#) 1:25 000 Map Series

Sydney 1:100 000 Map Series

Nearby outdoor and camping stores

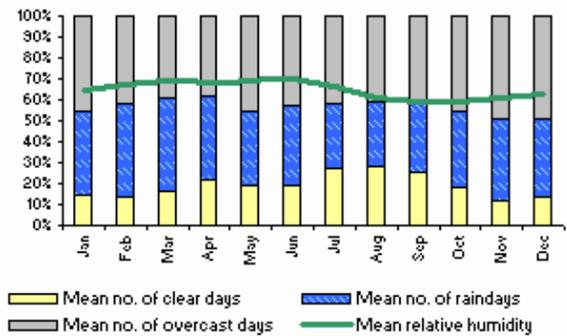
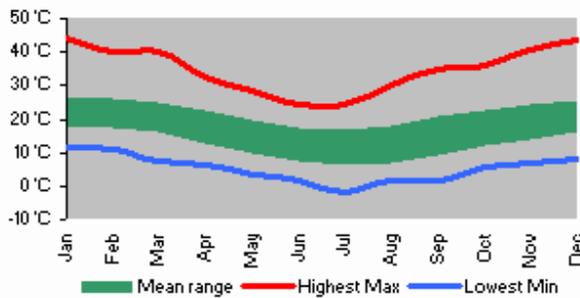
Mountain Equipment 72 Archer St Chatswood (02) 9419 6955

Larry Adler Ski & Outdoor 77 Archer St Chatswood (02) 9412 4777

Mountain Designs Shop 16/ 9 Spring St Chatswood (02) 9415 4566

Kangaroo Tent City & BBQs 165-167 Victoria Avenue Chatswood (02) 9884 9199

One Stop Adventure Shop 1045 Victoria Rd West Ryde (02) 9858 5844





North Ryde Fairyland circuit

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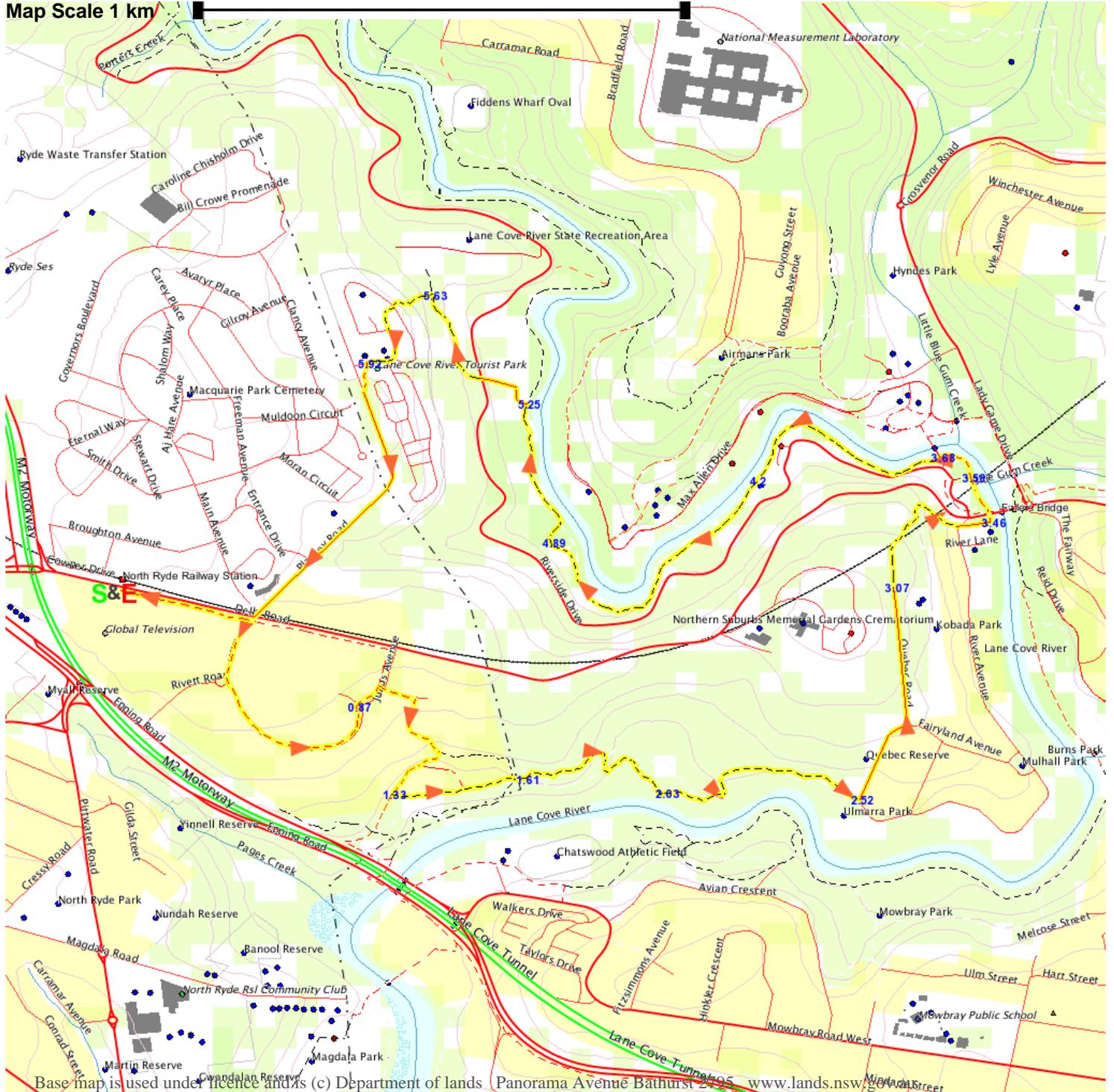
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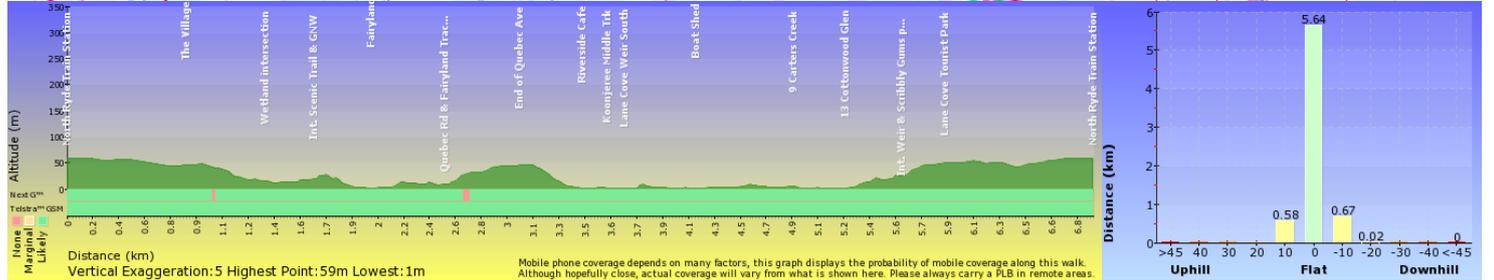
A walk for every body



Map Scale 1 km



Base map is used under licence and is (c) Department of lands, Panorama Avenue Bathurst, 2195, www.lands.nsw.gov.au



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.