

Old Great North Road

The historic Great North Road was built using convict labour between 1826 and 1836 (this section south of Wollombi was completed in 1832). The road formed a link between Sydney and the Hunter Valley, including Newcastle. There are visible remnants of the original work in bridges, retaining walls and other structures along the way. The 'Convict Trail Project' has member groups involved in the conservation of historical remnants along the road. The Convict Trail Project and the NPWS have erected information signs at various points to illustrate the history. The Convict Trail Project has an excellent website for further reading. More info.

Hangmans Rock

Hangmans Rock is beside the historic Old Great North Road, near Wisemans Ferry, NSW. This beautiful sandstone cave/overhang has some steps and a bench seat cut into it and is part of the history of the convict built OGNR. It is uncertain what purpose the spot served, but stories that convicts were hanged through the hole in the roof of the cave appear unlikely to be true, despite giving a name to the atmospheric spot. More info.

Devines Hill

Devines Hill is a historically significant area on the Old Great North Road, near present day Wisemans Ferry, NSW. There are substantial remnants visible here, including cuttings, retaining walls and quarry sites. There were 3 main road lines built at different times to climb the hills just north of Wisemans Ferry, starting with Finchs Line to the east, followed by the Devines Hill ascent and then Shepherds Gully, to the west. Information signs in the area provide some interesting historical background and the 'Convict Trail Project' has an excellent website for further reading. More info.

Wat Buddha Dhamma

The Wat Buddha Dhamma is a Monastery about 600m south of Ten Mile Hollow Campsite, on the Old Great North Road. The Monks provides a water tank and toilet for people passing by. The monks welcome guests and requests that visitors dress modestly (no shorts or revealing clothing), and that visitors are encouraged to share in the life with the monks. 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 ejoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast (**BOM Hunter District**)
- 2) Fire Dangers (Greater Sydney Region)
- 3) Park Alerts (Dharug National Park, Yengo 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:

 ${f T}$ Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.

Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.

Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).

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:91313N MANGROVE, 90312S LOWER PORTLAND, 90312N ST ALBANS

1:100 000 Map Series:9131 GOSFORD, 9031 ST ALBANS

Grade

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

4	Grade 4/6 Hard track		
Length	27.3 km One way		
Time	2 Days		
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)		
Signs	Minimal directional signs (4/6)		
Experience Required	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)		
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)		
Infrastructure	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 Int of Wisemans Ferry Rd and OGNR (gps: -33.3752, 150.9849) by car or bus. Bus: Wisemans Ferry Dialacar provides a taxi style mini-bus service based in Wisemans Ferry. The cost is typically about \$1 per km (ex Wisemans Ferry). They will pick-up and drop-off from Sydney or the Central Coast and will happily drop walkers off or pick them up from tracks in the area. The cost for a pick-up from Gosford and drop off near Wisemans Ferry would be approximately \$150 (please call for up-to-date pricing) and the minivan can carry up to 13 passengers. Phone: 0448 122 374 Car: There is free parking available.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Dubbo Gully Rd car park (gps: -33.293, 151.1512). Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information inlcuding; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at http://wild.tl/gnradg

0 | Old Great North Road

The historic Great North Road was built using convict labour between 1826 and 1836 (this section south of Wollombi was completed in 1832). The road formed a link between Sydney and the Hunter Valley, including Newcastle. There are visible remnants of the original work in bridges, retaining walls and other structures along the way. The 'Convict Trail Project' has member groups involved in the conservation of historical remnants along the road. The Convict Trail Project and the NPWS have erected information signs at various points to illustrate the history. The Convict Trail Project has an excellent website for further reading. More info.

0 | Int of Wisemans Ferry Rd and OGNR

(1.1 km 31 mins) From the car park and intersection on Wisemans Ferry Rd (about 500m west of the car ferry), the walk passes around a gate, passes an information sign, and follows the 'Old Great North Road' up the hill. This section of the walk winds up the hill, passing numerous cuttings and retaining walls built with convict labour. There are several information signs on the way, making the walk more interesting. The walk then arrives at the signposted "Hangman's Rock".

1.09 | Hangmans Rock

Hangmans Rock is beside the historic Old Great North Road, near Wisemans Ferry, NSW. This beautiful sandstone cave/overhang has some steps and a bench seat cut into it and is part of the history of the convict built OGNR. It is uncertain what purpose the spot served, but stories that convicts were hanged through the hole in the roof of the cave appear unlikely to be true, despite giving a name to the atmospheric spot. More info.

1.09 | Hangmans Rock

(720 m 18 mins) Continue straight: From Hangman's Rock, the walk follows the management trail gently up the hill. The trail bends back and forth as it gently climbs. Another information sign indicates the probable site of a stockade to hold the "more troublesome convicts". A little further along, the walk passes around a gate and reaches the intersection with "Shepherd's Gully Road". There is another information sign at this intersection.

1.81 | Devines Hill

Devines Hill is a historically significant area on the Old Great North Road, near present day Wisemans Ferry, NSW. There are substantial remnants visible here, including cuttings, retaining walls and quarry sites. There were 3 main road lines built at different times to climb the hills just north of Wisemans Ferry, starting with Finchs Line to the east, followed by the Devines Hill ascent and then Shepherds Gully, to the west. Information signs in the area provide some interesting historical background and the 'Convict Trail Project' has an excellent website for further reading. More info.

1.81 | Int of OGNR and Shepherds Gully Rd

(400 m 9 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Finchs Line 500m' arrow along the management trail, soon passing a culvert information display. The trail continues further up the gentle hill to reach the signposted intersection with the 'Finchs Line'.

2.2 | Int of OGNR and Finchs Line

(5.5 km 1 hr 57 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the Old Great North Road east, gently uphill in the opposite direction to the 'Devines Hill' sign, keeping the valley to the left. The trail soon narrows a bit and meanders along the top of the ridge, bending left to head north east. The trail continues to wind along the top of the ridge until about 180m passed a rock platform (above and to the left of the old road) the trail comes to a three way intersection with the 3 Mile Trail (on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the old Great North Road east, initially keeping the valley to the right as the trail narrows significantly. The trail bends around a spur then widens and narrows a few times before crossing a flat rock platform 600m from 3 Mile trail. About 300m past the rock platform the trail bears right (ignoring the faint trail to the left, marked with a square boulder) and winds around the side of the hill for just shy of 400m to come to the other end of the same faint trail (overgrown on the left). Here the rocky trail heads up the hill to come to soon come to a large clearing. On the other side of the clearing the trail narrows again and cross a few particularly narrow saddles to then head down another short and fairly steep rocky section of trail just after a right hand bend. Here the trail narrows again and is fairly flat for about 400m will valley views to the left. The trail then bends right and heads down hill coming to a distinct left hand hair-pin bend part way down the hill.

7.71 | Hair-pin bend

(4.1 km 1 hr 31 mins) Turn left: From the bend, this walk heads downhill along the Old Great North Road initially keeping the valley to the right. As the trail rounds the gully it starts to climb and heads alongside a wire fence marking a short re-vegetation detour that crosses over the ridge. Now with the valley on the left the trail works its way along the side of the hill as it widens and narrows a few times, as well as passing a couple of short rocky section. About 1km from the end of the detour, the trail comes up to a pairpin bend (up to the right, with some nice valley views to the left). Here the walk follows the old road around the sharp bend and up the hill. Now with the valley on the right, the narrow trail winds through the tall trees along the ridge and soon after crossing a wide saddle to the other side of the ridge the trail comes to a 'Dharug National Park No Camping or Fires' sign, From this sign the trail continues up along the ridge for about 1km passing a few rocky sections, (and a faint trail to the right) to come to clearly signposted intersection with 'Western Commission trail' on the right. There is also 'Welcome to The Old Great North Road' information sign.

11.77 | Int of WCT and OGNR

(1.1 km 21 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Old Great North Rd' arrow east, downhill along the clear trail. The trail meanders for a while, passing some lovely rock formations and some old road guttering. The walk then comes to an intersection with a clear but

unsignposted management trail (on the left).

12.85 | Eastern end of Eight Mile Trail

(780 m 16 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the OGNR as it head downhill, bending to the right (keeping the valley on the right). Soon, there are some nice views to the left and the trail heads uphill. Near the top of the hill, this walk ignores the '144-147' trail (on the right) and heads across the sandstone cutting. As the trail bends around the gully, there are some cuttings in the rock on the right. Where the trail bends sharply right, there is an intersection with the gated Wat track (on the left).

13.63 | Southern end of the Wat Trail

(1.3 km 25 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the OGNR trail downhill, following the '142.3' sign (keeping the valley on the left). The trail levels out as it passes a 'Severe Bends' sign, facing the other way. About 200m past this sign, the walk comes to a 'Drinking Water' tank and the 'Wat Buddha Dhamma' Monastery.

14.94 | Wat Buddha Dhamma

The Wat Buddha Dhamma is a Monastery about 600m south of Ten Mile Hollow Campsite, on the Old Great North Road. The Monks provides a water tank and toilet for people passing by. The monks welcome guests and requests that visitors dress modestly (no shorts or revealing clothing), and that visitors are encouraged to share in the life with the monks. More info.

14.94 | Wat Buddha Dhamma

(620 m 11 mins) Continue straight: From the 'Drinking Water' tank, this walk heads north east along the OGNR, initially keeping the monastery to the left. Soon the trail passes a couple of other driveways for the monastery and heads past a small pine plantation (on the left). Before long, the trail leads to a 'Y' intersection with the 'Simpson Track' at the 'Ten Mile Hollow' campground.

15.55 | Ten Mile Hollow

This large, open campsite is found next to the Old Great North Road, at the top of the Simpson Track. The campsite is great for people walking or cycling in the area. There is fairly new hybrid toilet, a few fire circles and plenty of places to pitch some tents. There is a water tank next to the toiletif this is empty, there is sometimes water in Ten Mile Hollow creek a short distance north along the OGNR (otherwise the Wat Buddha Dhamma, about 600m south along the OGNR, provide a water tank for visitors). Treat water before drinking. The area was formally a stockade (a camp) for the convicts who built the road in c.1830. Later the area was named 'Snodgrass Valley' and plans to build a town were developed, neither the name nor the town proved popular (even at 2 pounds an acre). Solomon Wiseman (of Wisemans Ferry fame) was given 100 acres to build an inn, however it is not clear if the inn was ever built. More info.

15.55 | End of day 1

This is the planned overnight stay for the end of day 1, happy camping.

15.55 | Ten Mile Hollow

(1.2 km 22 mins) Veer left: From Ten Mile Hollow, this walk follows the 'Clares Bridge' sign along the OGNR, as it soon bends to the left. The trail narrows and comes to an old bridge (with a timber base). The walk crosses the bridge (and Ten Mile Hollow Creek) and heads around the gate. The walk follows the overgrown management trail through the bush for a while, coming to a white wooden barricade. Heading around the barricade, the walk comes to a clearing and signpost just before Clare's Bridge.

16.76 | Clares Bridge

Clare's Bridge, on the Old Great North Road, is about 1km north of Ten Mile Hollow camping area. This, and a number of other bridges, were built during the construction of the old road. Clare's Bridge is the most visually spectacular of the bridges. The second oldest bridge on mainland Australia (The oldest being Thomas James Bridge), it is built of sandstone blocks and has a wonderful, sweeping retaining wall. The sweeping design gives full view of the craftsmanship to those passing by. Much work has been done by NPWS and Gosford Council to restore the bridge. There is no deck on the bridge, however it is still an impressive structure and a fascinating piece of history. More info.

16.76 | Clares Bridge

(790 m 21 mins) Continue straight: From the 'Clare's Bridge' information sign, this walk follows the track down to cross the gully, keeping Clare's Bridge to the right. On the other side of the gully, the track rises to meet the management trail again. The walk continues along the OGNR up the hill, away from the old bridge. The track winds around the hill and comes to an intersection with the Wat track (on the left, signposted with '125,126 142-168').

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the OGNR up the gentle hill, keeping the valley to the right. Soon, the trail leads to a large clearing and four-way intersection, with a sign pointing back to 'Clare's Bridge'.

17.56 | Int of the OGNR and Donny's track

(3.9 km 1 hr 27 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Donny's Track' sign along the only trail that heads steeply downhill. The trail soon bends right and starts to flatten out, then after a leftbend, the trail straightens out for about 700m. Soon after passing an overgrown trail (on the right), the main trail bends left and crosses a wide gully and often-dry creek. The trail then bends right and starts to wind up the hill, passing a few cuttings. About 300m after passing under the power lines, the trail comes to an intersection with the signposted '138 137' track (on the left) and a view to the power lines. Here, the main trail bends right and continues uphill more gently. Soon, the trail crosses a saddle and starts to head down the other side of the ridge. The trail then heads down through a sharp left then right bends, then comes to another right-hand bend and an unfenced rock platform with views into the valley, Donny's view.

21.44 | Donny's View

Donny's View is an informally named vantage point partway up Donny's Track. The unfenced rock slabs provide a view over Chaselings Run valley and swamp, down to the old Ten Mile Hollow Road. Found on the bendy section of the management trail, this view provides a good excuse to stop and take a break. To the north is a view of the high tension power lines that span this section of the park

21.44 | Donny's View

(1.5 km 43 mins) Continue straight: From Donny's view, this walk follows the old road down the hill, keeping the filtered views of 'Chaselings Run' to the

left. The trail passes the base of some high-cut cliffs (on the right) and some rusty guard rails and soon comes to a locked gate. The walk passes around the locked gate and the 'Dharug National Park' sign, then follows a rusty guard rail to a right-hand bend. The trail then winds down the hill and, soon after passing between two old fence posts, the trail bends sharply left and passes to two more old gate posts. The trail then gently winds down the hill and comes to an intersection with the old Ten Mile Hollow Road and a sign pointing back up 'Donny's Track'.

22.98 | Optional sidetrip to Fairview Homestead

(930 m 18 mins) Turn sharp right: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail down the hill. The walk soon passes around a gate and continues a little further, passing around a swampy area to the left and immediately arriving at an intersection near a gate. The trail behind the gate leads to an old abandoned house and shed, which could provide some shelter. Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk passes around the gate and follows the management trail steeply up the hill. The trail soon arrives at an old, abandoned house. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

22.98 | Fairview

Fairview (550 Ten Mile Hollow Rd, Mangrove Creek) is a property with a homestead, built in 1922 by Alfred Andrews. The homestead and adjoining slab hut are now fenced to protect them, however the large corrugated iron shed on the south side is still open. The homestead was once a popular rest area for people traveling the North Road, via the Simpson track. The home was privately owned until 1973 when Gosford City Council acquired the land to protect the catchment area. The home was rented until 2002, when the tenants moved due to the threat of bushfires. The building is now in poor condition and the 'Friends of Fairview' are exploring ways to save the building and restore the history of the valley. Save Fairview More info.

22.98 | Int of Ten Mile Hollow Rd and Donnys track

(740 m 15 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail up the hill. After a short distance, the walk passes a large grassy clearing to the right and a swampy area to the left. The trail meanders along the valley for some time before arriving at a historic cemetery, on the right.

23.72 | Upper Mangrove Cemetery

The Upper Mangrove Cemetery is on the western bank of Mangrove Creek, near the junction with Newmans Creek. The cemetery was part of St Thomas' Church of England, however the church building was destroyed in the 2002 bushfires. Exploring the cemetery gives a glimpse into the history of the valley. You will find the stone remembering Alfred and Amanda Andrews who built 'Fairview' in 1922 and read of the loss of Leslie Starkey's parents in 1913. On the other side of the road, up the hill, is the remains of of the old St Thomas' Church building. More info.

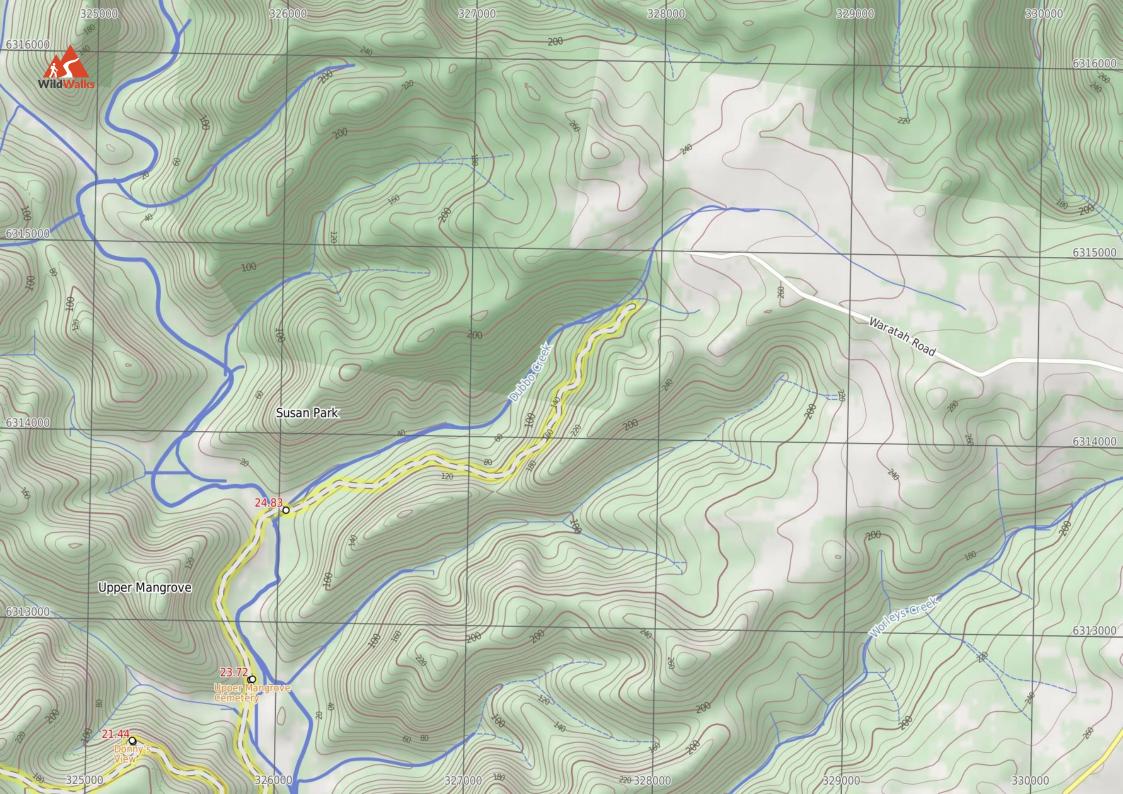
23.72 | Upper Mangrove cemetery

(1.1 km 22 mins) Continue straight: From the cemetery, the walk follows the management trail (Ten Mile Hollow Rd) up the hill, leaving the cemetery on the right, and soon passes under some high voltage power lines. The walk then meanders along the road for some time, passing some old orange trees on the right and an old '134' sign on the left. Some distance later, the walk crosses an old timber bridge and arrives at the signposted intersection with the 'Upper Mangrove Creek Rd' (with a shorter bridge to the left).

24.83 | Int of Dubbo Gully Rd and Upper Mangrove Creek Rd

(2.5 km 1 hr 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail up the hill (now Dubbo Gully Rd). The trail

winds up the hill for a long while through some beautiful scenery, including some great rock formations and overhangs. The walk then passes around a gate and continues a little further up the hill to reach a small car park on the left (on Dubbo Gully Rd, a short distance off Waratah Rd, about 4km west of Mangrove Mountain).









Summary navigation sheet for the Great North Road and Dubbo Gully

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			for the Great North Road and Dubbo Gully
km	From	Up/Dv	n Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail) WildWalks
0.00	Int of Wisemans Ferry Rd and OGNR -33.3752,150.9849 (GR Lower Portland, 125053)	127 -49	1.1 km 31 mins	From the car park and intersection on Wisemans Ferry Rd (about 500m west of the car ferry), the walk passes around a gate, passes an information sign, and follows the 'Old Great North Road' up the hill.
1.09	Hangmans Rock -33.3677,150.9867 (GR St Albans, 127061)	69 -12	720 m 18 mins	Continue straight: From Hangman's Rock, the walk follows the management trail gently up the hill.
1.81	Int of OGNR and Shepherds Gully Rd -33.3646,150.9873 (GR St Albans, 127065)	25 -4	400 m 9 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Finchs Line 500m' arrow along the management trail, soon passing a culvert information display.
2.20	Int of OGNR and Finchs Line -33.3643,150.9914 (GR St Albans, 131065)	237 -212	5.5 km 1 hr 57 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the Old Great North Road east, gently uphill in the opposite direction to the 'Devines Hill' sign, keeping the valley to the left.
7.71	Hair-pin bend -33.3516,151.0311 (GR Mangrove, 168080)	215 -168	4.1 km 1 hr 31 mins	Turn left: From the bend, this walk heads downhill along the Old Great North Road initially keeping the valley to the right.
11.77	Int of WCT and OGNR -33.3419,151.0637 (GR Mangrove, 198091)	27 -35	1.1 km 21 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Old Great North Rd' arrow east, downhill along the clear trail.
12.85	Eastern end of Eight Mile Trail -33.3339,151.0663 (GR Mangrove, 200100)	25 -41	780 m 16 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the OGNR as it head downhill, bending to the right (keeping the valley on the right).
13.63	Southern end of the Wat Trail -33.3336,151.0736 (GR Mangrove, 207101)	17 -84	1.3 km 25 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the OGNR trail downhill, following the '142.3' sign (keeping the valley on the left).
14.94	Wat Buddha Dhamma -33.3309,151.0844 (GR Mangrove, 217104)	2 -23	620 m 11 mins	Continue straight: From the 'Drinking Water' tank, this walk heads north east along the OGNR, initially keeping the monastery to the left.
15.55	End of day 1 -33.3274,151.0893 (GR Mangrove, 222108)	0	0 m	This is the planned overnight stay for the end of day 1, happy camping.
15.55	Ten Mile Hollow -33.3274,151.0893 (GR Mangrove, 222108)	33 -6	1.2 km 22 mins	Veer left: From Ten Mile Hollow, this walk follows the 'Clares Bridge' sign along the OGNR, as it soon bends to the left.
16.76	Clares Bridge -33.3189,151.0842 (GR Mangrove, 217117)	75 -27	790 m 21 mins	Continue straight: From the 'Clare's Bridge' information sign, this walk follows the track down to cross the gully, keeping Clare's Bridge to the right.
17.56	Int of the OGNR and Donny's track -33.3157,151.0904 (GR Mangrove, 222121)	136 -217	3.9 km 1 hr 27 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Donny's Track' sign along the only trail that heads steeply downhill.
21.44	Donny's View -33.3138,151.1228 (GR Mangrove, 253124)	53 -170	1.5 km 43 mins	Continue straight: From Donny's view, this walk follows the old road down the hill, keeping the filtered views of 'Chaselings Run' to the left.
22.98	Int of Ten Mile Hollow Rd and Donnys track -33.317,151.1299 (GR Mangrove, 259120)	29 -24	930 m 18 mins	Optional sidetrip to Fairview Homestead. Turn sharp right: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail down the hill.
22.98	Int of Ten Mile Hollow Rd and Donnys track -33.317,151.1299 (GR Mangrove, 259120)	21 -27	740 m 15 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail up the hill.
23.72	Upper Mangrove cemetery -33.3108,151.1295 (GR Mangrove, 259127)	33 -36	1.1 km 22 mins	Continue straight: From the cemetery, the walk follows the management trail (Ten Mile Hollow Rd) up the hill, leaving the cemetery on the right, and soon passes under some high voltage power lines.
24.83	Int of Dubbo Gully Rd and Upper Mangrove Creek Rd -33.3027,151.1315 (GR Mangrove, 260136)	277 -104	2.5 km 1 hr 2 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the management trail up the hill (now Dubbo Gully Rd).