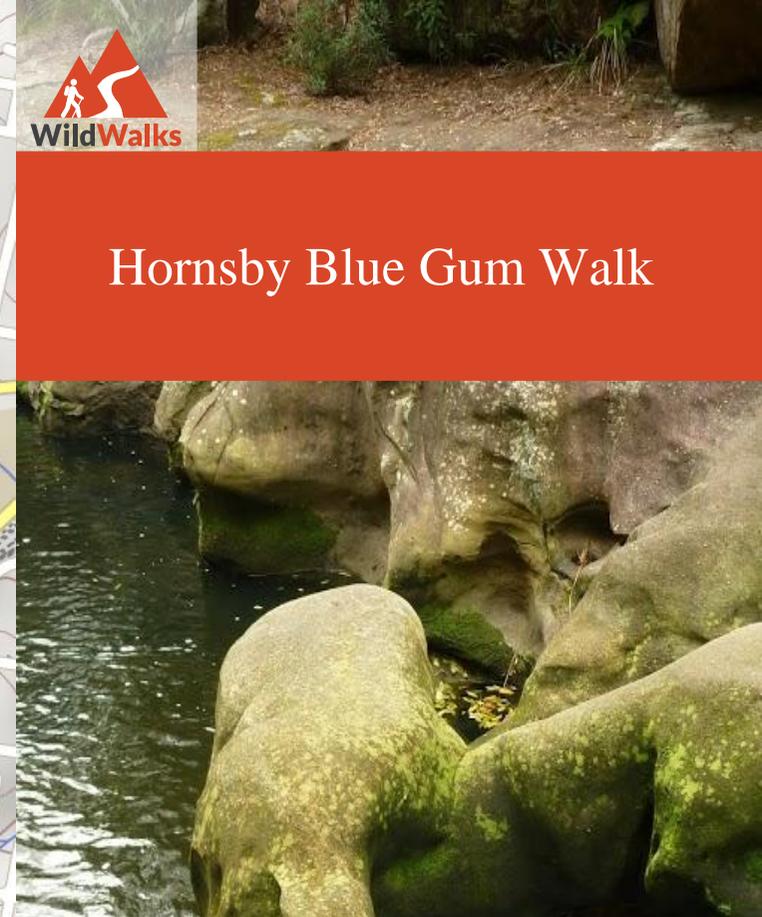
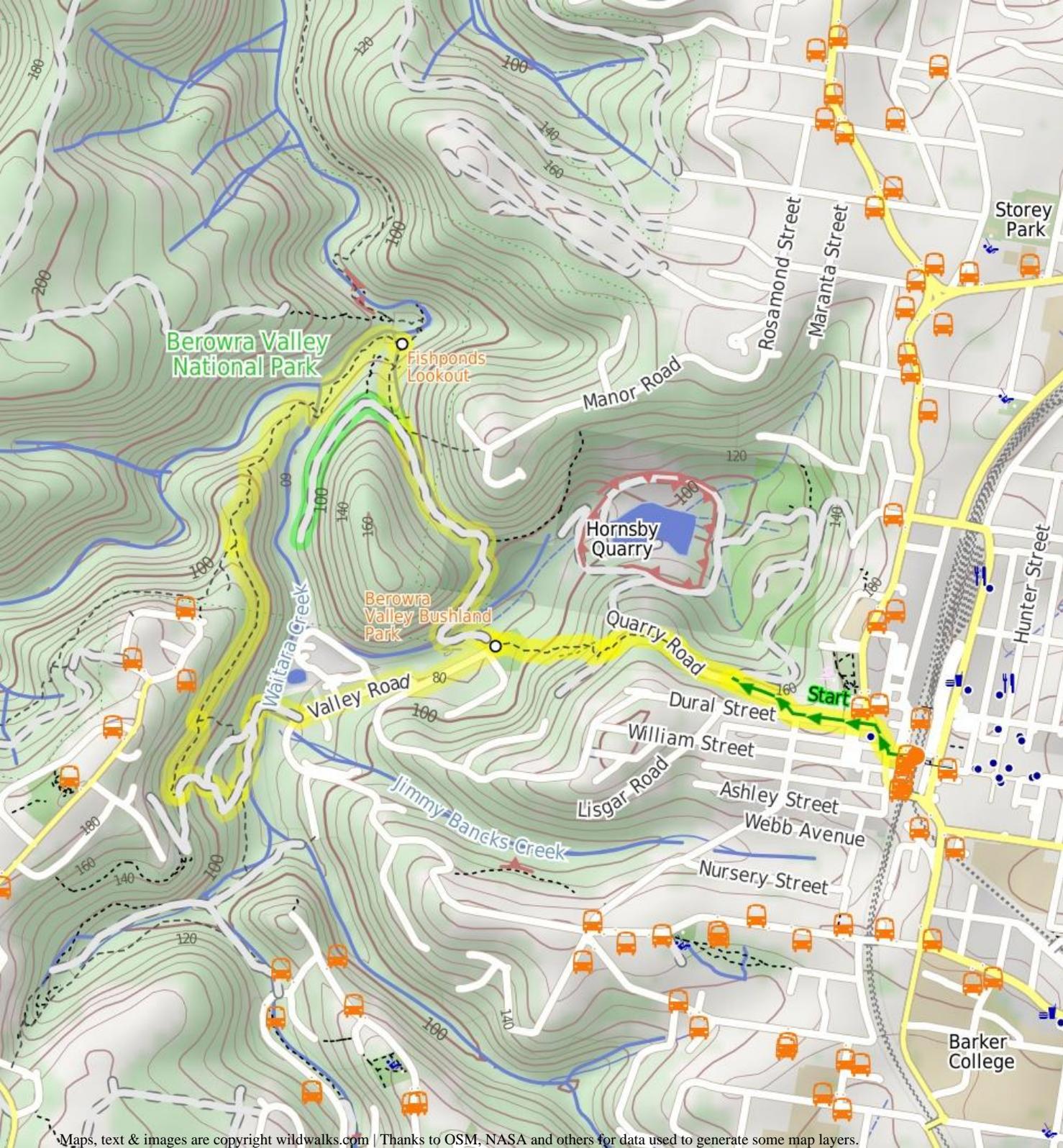


Hornsby Blue Gum Walk



3 hrs

Hard track

6.7 km Circuit

374m

4

This delightful loop is one of the prettiest and most popular walks in the Hornsby area. Going from an environment of ferns and clear bushland to dry sandstone bush near Berowra Creek, this walk has a good complement of environments. The side trip out to Joe's Mountain doesn't have the most fantastic views but is still a nice walk.

49m

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 Lookout

Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.

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

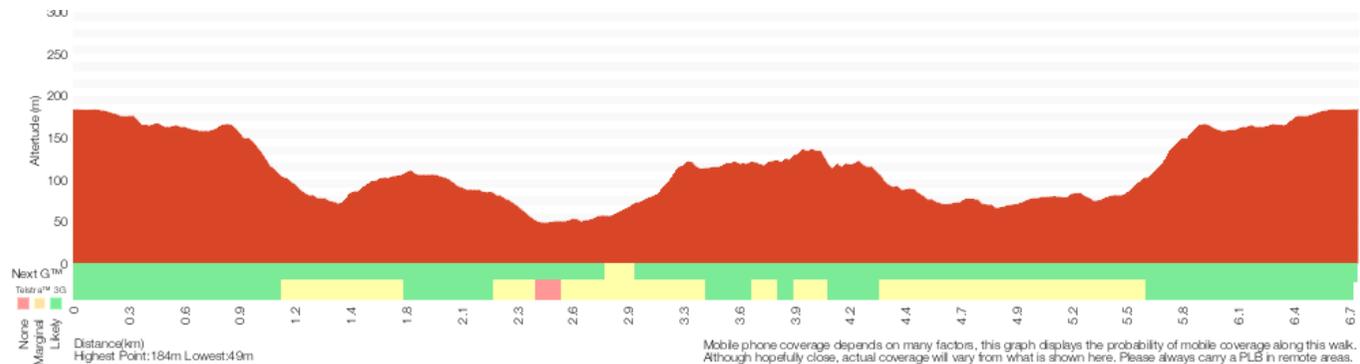
Grade

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**

Length	6.7 km Circuit
Time	3 hrs
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
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 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.

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/hbgw>

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

(890 m 20 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.

2.15 | Optional sidetrip to Joes Mountain Lookout

(600 m 13 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads up along the management trail, leaving the arrow marker behind to the right. Soon, the trail curves around to the left, past a track on the right, and continues for a while to the end of the management trail. There is a somewhat overgrown bush track continuing from here, about 10m further to an informal lookout over the creek, although the creek itself is not very visible. Beware of the unfenced sheer drops. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

2.15 | Int of Blue Gum Walk and Joes Mountain Service Tra

(300 m 7 mins) 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.

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.

2.45 | Fishponds Lookout

Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.

2.45 | Fishponds Lookout

(990 m 21 mins) Turn left: From the lookout, this walk follows the 'Thornleigh Station' arrow (and 'Pennant Hills' arrow) down the timber steps past the 'Blue Gum Walk' sign, and crosses a small creek using the small flat timber bridge. The track leads around the side of the hill for about 100m, then scrambles over some rocks and under a sandstone overhang. The rocky track follows alongside Berowra Creek for another 100m, passing beside some cascades to the end of a notably flat section of track. This walk heads over another rock platform (now with Waitara Creek down and to your right), then soon climbs up through the fork in the tree on left, coming to a large, unfenced rock platform. This leads to a flat area beside some interesting holes in a rock known as 'the spa'. From here, this walk follows the Blue Gum Track arrow post across Waitara Creek, stepping over 'the spa'. This creek may become impassable after heavy rain, the rocks can also be slippery. On the other side, the track leads uphill and bends right, passing a large rock overhang, where the track then leads left, following the arrow posts and climbing up through the crack in the rock. The track leads more gently up through another crack in a rock, then continues fairly gently up along the narrow ridge. After about 200m, the track becomes steeper, climbing up rock steps and over rocks. This area comes alive with Patersonia lilies and pink wax flowers in early spring. The track then mostly flattens out for another 200m, coming to a signposted three-way intersection, where a 'Fishponds' sign points back along the track.

3.43 | Int of the GNW and the Blue Gum Walk (SW)

(820 m 21 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Blue Gum Walk marker along the bush track, leaving 'The Great North Walk' track behind. The track winds through the blue gum forest, keeping the valley down to the left and houses above on the right as it winds along the side of the hill. The walk comes to an intersection with a bush track, just below some overhead power lines.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the bush track south, keeping the valley down to the left. The track winds along the side of the hill until coming down a set of wooden steps to the 'T' intersection at the top of the concrete section of management trail.

4.25 | Int of Blue Gum Walk at bottom of wooden steps

(650 m 15 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the Blue Gum Walk marker down the bumpy concrete management trail, winding steeply down the hill, until reaching the intersection with an old logging trail on the left.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the more defined management trail down the hill, following the Blue Gum Walk marker. The trail meanders down the spur until a sharp left turn, shortly after which the walk comes to an intersection with a bush track (on the right) where there is another Blue Gum Walk marker.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the old management trail heads down the hill and follows Waitara Creek past a small pipeline on the left and a few houses on the right, until coming to an intersection with another management trail from the left - this intersection is marked with a Blue Gum Walk post.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north, down the hill with the creek on the right, to the intersection just before the causeway over Waitara Creek. There are usually ducks and brush turkeys in this area.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail across Waitara Creek and up the hill, passing around the gate before arriving on Valley Road, at the lower corner of Ginger Meggs Park.

4.9 | Ginger Meggs Park

(1.8 km 40 mins) Veer left: From Ginger Meggs Park, this walk follows Valley Road (past Lochness Pl on the right), keeping the children's playground on the left. Note that water is available from the park. The walk passes 'West Hornsby STP' before coming up to the intersection with Rosemead Road and turning left. The walk follows Rosemead Rd down the hill to the end and heads into Berowra Valley Bushland Park.

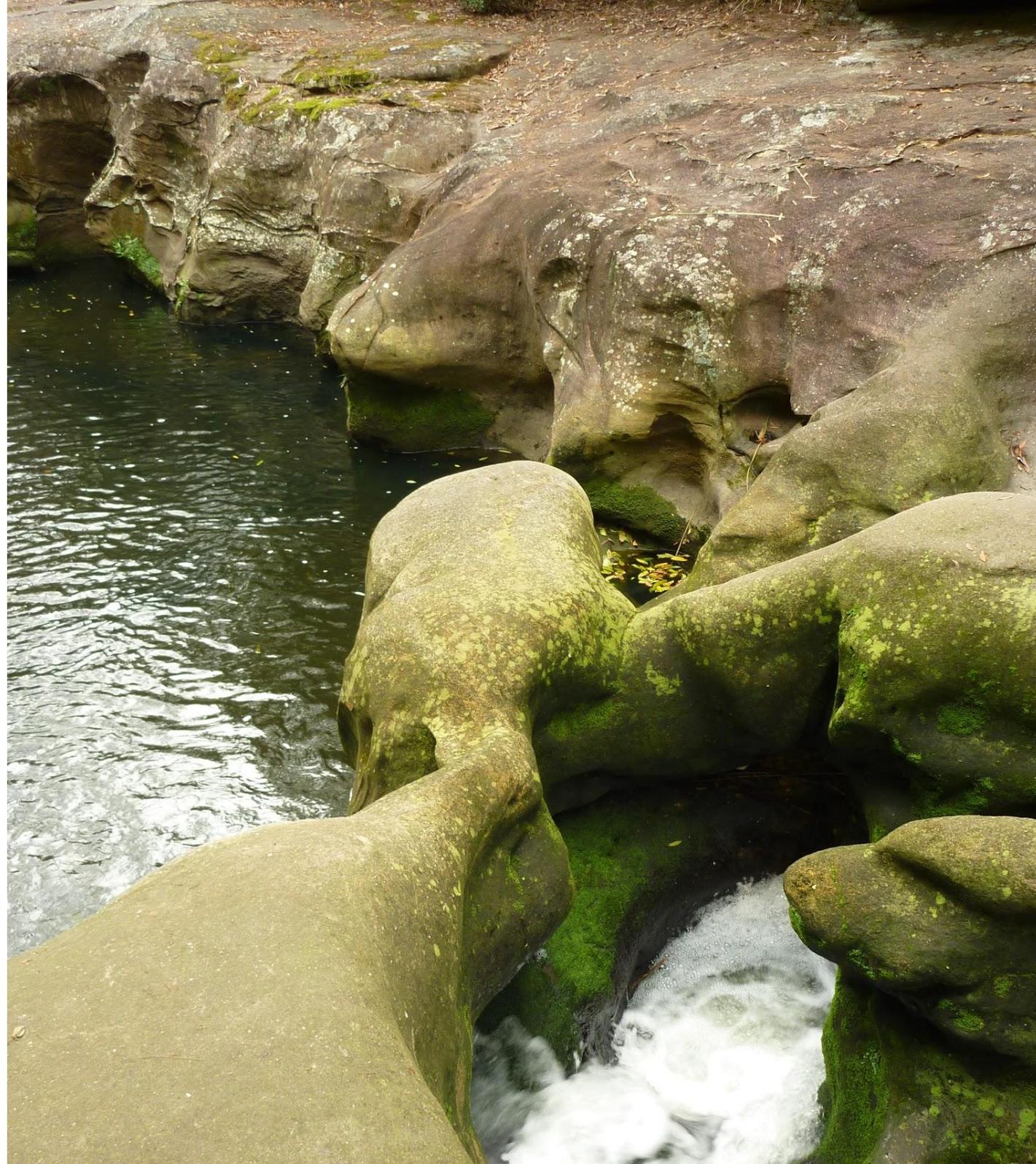
Veer right: From the lower side of 'Berowra Valley Bushland Park', this walk follows the 'Hornsby Station' sign across the park, then follows the GNW arrow up the stone steps, keeping the houses to your right. The walk winds steeply up the steps, leaving the view of the house and finding a welcome flat section of track midway up. The steps then lead more steeply up the side of the valley, along the sheer rock walls for about 100m, and come to an intersection with the Quarry Road management trail, where a 'Great North Walk' sign points back down the the hill.

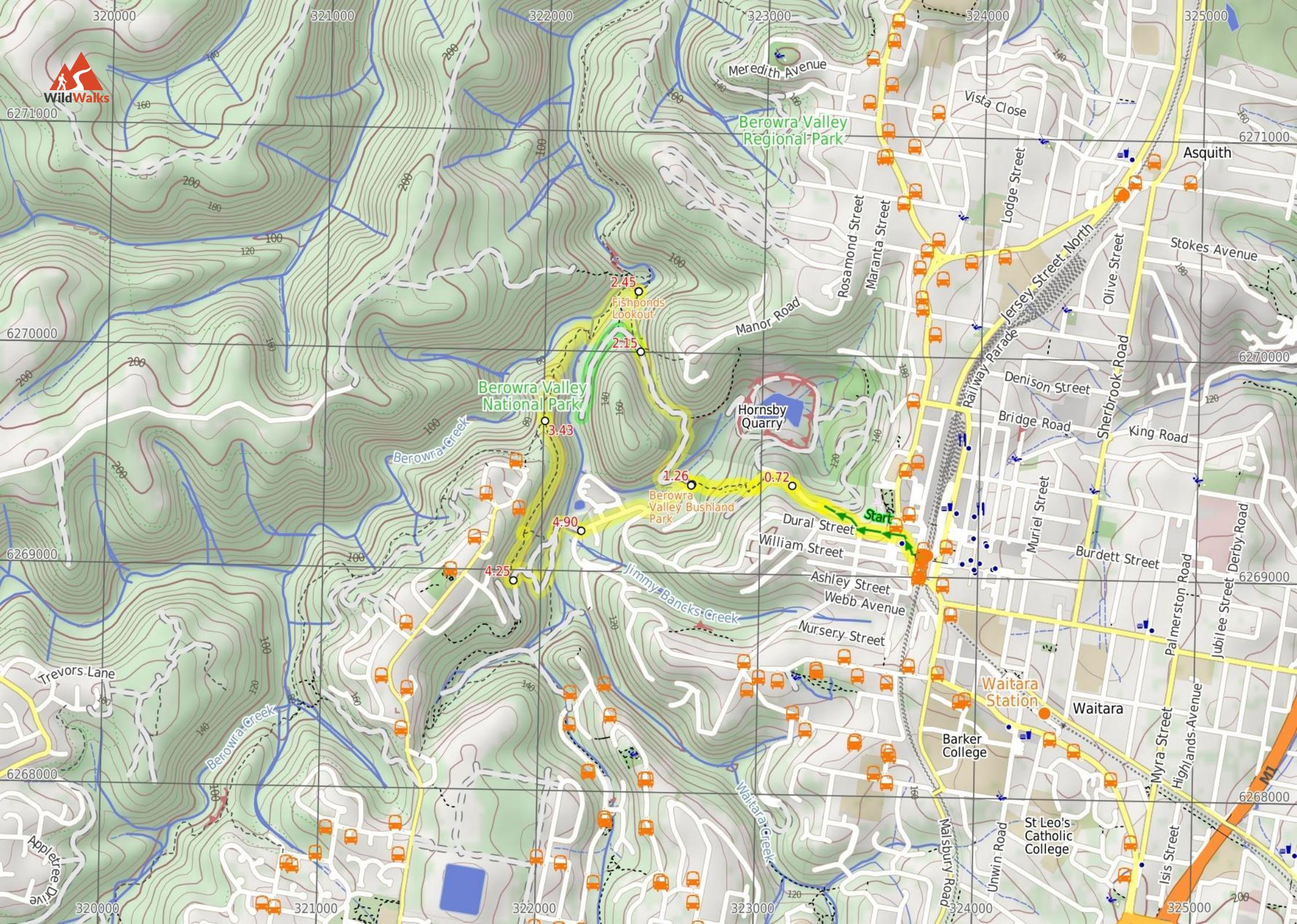
Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post up a couple of timber steps and then follows the track as it winds up over the gentle rise. Once over the rise, the track then leads down to the intersection with Quarry Rd, where a 'Great North Walk' sign points back up the track.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road gently uphill away from the face of the 'Great North Walk' sign until just past a couple of house, this walk comes to an intersection with the gated 'Old Mans Valley' management trail (on your left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Rd up the gentle hill for about 180m, then follows the GNW arrow left onto Dural St. The footpath leads past the unit block, then past a few shops to come to an intersection with the Pacific Hwy. Following the GNW arrow, this walk turns

right across 'Dural St', passes a few more shops, then crosses 'Dural Lane' before turning left across the Pacific Hwy at the traffic lights. Here the walk continues straight across the 'Station St' pedestrian crossing, past the large 'Great North Walk' sign and across the bus lane to the western entrance of Hornsby Station.





Summary navigation sheet for the Hornsby Blue Gum Walk



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 -39	890 m 20 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...
2.15	Int of Blue Gum Walk and Joes Mountain Servicetrail -33.6951,151.0842 (GR Hornsby, 224700)	25 -37	600 m 13 mins	Optional sidetrip to Joes Mountain Lookout. Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads up along the management trail, leaving the arrow marker behind to the right.
2.15	Int of Blue Gum Walk and Joes Mountain Service Trail -33.6951,151.0842 (GR Hornsby, 224700)	0 -39	300 m 7 mins	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.
2.45	Fishponds Lookout -33.6926,151.0841 (GR Hornsby, 224703)	87 -21	990 m 21 mins	Turn left: From the lookout, this walk follows the 'Thornleigh Station' arrow (and 'Pennant Hills' arrow) down the timber steps past the 'Blue Gum Walk' sign, and crosses a small creek using the small flat timber bridge.
3.43	Int of the Great North Walk and the Blue Gum Walk (SW) -33.6979,151.0795 (GR Hornsby, 220697)	58 -58	820 m 21 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Blue Gum Walk marker along the bush track, leaving 'The Great North Walk' track behind.
4.25	Int of Blue Gum Walk at bottom of wooden steps -33.7045,151.0779 (GR Hornsby, 219690)	15 -60	650 m 15 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, the walk follows the Blue Gum Walk marker down the bumpy concrete management trail, winding steeply down the hill, until reaching the intersection with an old logging trail on the left .
4.90	Ginger Meggs Park -33.7024,151.0813 (GR Hornsby, 222692)	149 -35	1.8 km 40 mins	Veer left: From Ginger Meggs Park, this walk follows Valley Road (past Lochness Pl on the right), keeping the children's playground on the left.