



CLOSED

This walk is closed at the northern end as there is no safe access to Malabar Head, updates to come in time.

Exploring the cliff line of northern Botany Bay, this walk has great views, both down at the water (Bare Island and Browns Rock) and up on the cliffs (the golf course). Make sure you allow time to walk around Bare Island and see the sites. Although in disrepair, the Coast Cemetery is also worth a little extra time.

Length: 13 km
Time: 5 hrs
Climb: 397 m
Style: One way
Rating: Track: Hard
Where: 0.6 km S of La Perouse
Transport: bus car



Visit www.wildwalks.com for more info

Botany Bay 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. Please check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating just before leaving for your walk. Walk maybe closed during Total Fire Ban. GPS for start the start of this walk:-33.9886,151.2337 & for the end:-33.9516,151.255



National Parks Association of NSW - Learn more about the NPA www.npansw.org.au

Walk with a club - Enjoy bushwalking and make new friends (community announcement)
 The NPA is more than just a bushwalking club. We are a conservation group that helps protect natural places
 As a member you can join any of our 1000 guided walks each year and enjoy our quarterly Magazine 'Nature NSW'.
 Membership fee is just \$65 per year, concession fee also available. [Learn More...](#)

Southern End of Cann Park to Eastern end of Congwong Beach 0.2km 4 mins

(From S) From the southern end of Cann Park, this walk follows the concrete track down a series of stairs, passing the 'Congwong Beach Walk' sign on your right. This walk continues gently downhill on a sandy track for about 40m, to find the western end of Congwong Beach. Then this walk follows the beach, with the water to your right, for about 140m until coming to a three-way intersection, with the 'Henry Head/Little Congwong Beach' sign.

Eastern end of Congwong Beach to Little Congwong Beach 0.3km 5 mins **Optional Side Trip:**

(From 0.23 km) Turn right: From the eastern end of Congwong Beach, this walk follows a mostly level concrete track, passing a 'Little Congwong Beach Track' sign (on the left) and keeping the water on the right for about 230m (with coastal views on the right). Then this walk follows a sandy track moderately steeply downhill, with occasional timber steps for about 90m, until coming to the western end of Little Congwong Beach.
 (Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn right to continue along this walk.)

Little Congwong Beach

Little Congwong Beach, located at La Perouse, is a sheltered sandy beach that has been described as one of the most beautiful beach oases in Sydney. Little Congwong beach has also been used for over 40 years as an unofficial and secluded nude beach. If you see any offensive behaviour please call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333000 or the Maroubra Police on 02 9349 9299. This beach is very popular on summer weekends and has limited shade in the afternoon. [More info](#)

Eastern end of Congwong Beach to Int of Henry Head Track and Congwong Beach Servicetrail 0.2km 4 mins

(From 0.23 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Henry Head Scenic Walk' sign and wide track gently uphill and away from the beach through coastal bush. The walk continues to follow the timber and concrete track moderately steeply uphill for about 160m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a track on the right.



Int of Henry Head Track and Congwong Beach Servicetrail to Int of Henry Head and Browns Rock Tracks

0.9km 10 mins

(From 0.44 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track slightly uphill, over a dry culverted creek and onto rock slabs. The track continues up a gentle hill through coastal forest for about 130m until coming to a three-way intersection (with a track on the left).

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Henry Head' sign east along a wide track, gently uphill through wooded forest. This walk continues to follow the track for about 170m, until coming to a three-way intersection, with a narrow management trail and large green shed (on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill for about 20m to come to a shallow, dry water course. Then this walk continues to follow the track gently uphill through moist forest for about 120m, coming to a metal ring fence (on the right). The walk follows the track moderately steeply uphill with occasional timber steps for about 260m, until coming to a four-way intersection. This intersection has a track to the left, a 'Henry Head' signed track tending right and a 'Browns Rock' signed track to the right.

Int of Henry Head and Browns Rock Tracks to Browns Rock 0.3km 5 mins **Optional Side Trip:**

(From 1.33 km) Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill, following the 'Browns Rock 280m' sign. About 110m down the track, the walk continues down a moderately steep hill with timber steps for a further 180m, until coming to a square concrete platform on the water and Browns Rock.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn sharp right to continue along this walk.)

Browns Rock

Browns Rock is a popular fishing spot at La Perouse, with an unfenced shelf of rock and concrete from which to cast fishing rods. Unfortunately, this area suffers from littering - Please help by carrying out your own rubbish and a few extra bits where safe (the rangers do a great job, but it is hard to keep up). [More info](#)

Int of Henry Head and Browns Rock Tracks to Int of Henry Head Track and Henry Head Trail 0.5km 5 mins

(From 1.33 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide sandy track gently uphill, past the 'Henry Head 700m' sign (on the left). After about 70m, the walk passes views of Bare Island on the right, then continues to follow the track moderately steeply uphill through low coastal forest for about 140m, until coming to a T-intersection with a management trail.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide level track south, passing the bench seat (on the right). Then this walk continues to follow the track through dense coastal bush for about 70m, until finding a World War One fort (on the right). This walk continues to follow a sandy, moderately steep downhill track for about 130m, where there are views of Bare Island on the right. This walk then continues to follow the track through dense forest for about 100m, until passing between timber posts and coming to a T-intersection, with a management trail.

Int of Henry Head Track and Henry Head Trail to Henry Head 0.2km 5 mins

(From 1.86 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide management trail gently downhill for about 220m (ignoring side tracks), until coming to two timber seats, a white round tower and Henry Head.

Henry Head

The Henry Head Battery is located on the northern side of the entrance to Botany Bay at Henry Head. The battery was constructed on an unfenced headland between 1892 and 1895 and operated until 1910 when it was closed down. The battery and observation posts was re-utilised during World War Two to defend against approaches to Botany Bay. The battery consisted of two disappearing guns, ammunition storage and observation posts. The underground bunker and tunnel complex consisted of vaulted ammunition storage rooms with double walls and ceilings. The doubling-up of walls and ceilings was a preventative measure meant to stop the walls from collapsing in the event of a direct hit. The battery is currently not in use. The white tower on the battery is the Endeavour Tower, not a lighthouse as such, but a red marker light nonetheless. [More info](#)

Henry Head to North end of Cape Banks Bridge 1.3km 30 mins

(From 2.09 km) Turn sharp left: From the white round tower at Henry Head, this walk follows the track east over rock slabs, with the water to the right. After about 130m, the walk then follows a narrow rocky track through coastal heath for about 130m, then descends rock steps to exposed rock platforms (with views back to Henry Head and the south coast). Then this walk continues along the narrow track, gently undulating through coastal forest for about 600m, until coming to Cruwee Cove and Shelly Beach.

Turn left: From Cruwee Cove, this walk follows the beach east, with the water on your right. At the end of the beach, the walk follows initially level rock shelves, then moderately steep uphill rock shelves onto a grassy track, and comes to a golf course after about 90m. Then this walk follows a sealed footpath across the golf course for about 250m, until coming to the 'Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve' sign and Cape Banks bridge.



Cape Banks track to Cape Banks 0.4km 5 mins **Optional Side Trip:**

(From 3.39 km) Veer right: From the 'Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve' sign, this walk follows the track for about 20m to cross a metal foot bridge. Then this walk continues to follow the rocky track (passing a golf tee-off green on the right) for about 240m to the exposed Cape Banks headland.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then veer right to continue along this walk.)



Cape Banks

Cape Banks on the northern side of the entrance to Botany Bay, offers possibly the best view in Botany Bay National Park. From the unfenced cliff top, you can watch the power of the ocean as waves crash into the sandstone rock face below, or watch boats of all shapes and sizes, sail peacefully across the sheltered waters of the bay. If you are lucky, you can enjoy the spectacle of migrating Humpback and Southern Right whales reasonably close to shore, spouting and sometimes breaching as they make their way northward and southward in pods of three or four. The shipwreck of the SS Minmi can be seen at low tide, lying on rocks on the western side of Cape Banks. There are concrete foundations of buildings remaining on Cape Banks, from when World War Two servicemen were stationed there. [More info](#)



Int of Cape Banks track & Cape Banks Management Trail to World War Two Bunker 0.5km 5 mins

(From 3.39 km) Turn left: From the 'Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve' sign, this walk follows the grassy track gently uphill and away from the bridge, for about 15m to find the southern end of the Coastal Cemetery management trail. Then this walk follows the trail gently uphill, with the water on the right, for about 400m until coming to a three-way intersection with a trail (on the right).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide management trail steeply uphill, away from the water. This walk continues to follow the level trail for about 35m to a T-intersection, where the walk turns right and follows a trail (with a metal ring fence on the left) for about 20m to a World War Two Bunker (on the right).



World War Two Bunker

This World War Two bunker is at the southern end of Pistol Rd and across from the Westpac Helicopter Shed. This bunker consists of sheltered concrete ammunition storage rooms below and a circular gun base above, with surrounding coastal views.



World War Two Bunker to Int of Pistol Club Rd AND Coastal Cemetery Management Trail 0.4km 5 mins

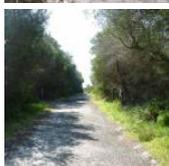
(From 3.89 km) Turn left: From the World War Two bunker, this walk follows the trail towards the 'Westpac Helicopter' sign and shed. Then this walk follows the trail for about 100m, keeping the metal ring fence on the left and the concrete toilet block on the right, until coming to a locked gate and the southern end of Pistol Club Rd.

Continue straight: From the southern end of Pistol Club Rd, this walk follows the road gently uphill away from the 'Westpac Helicopter' sign and shed, passing a sealed car park (on the left). This walk continues to follow the road, with views (on the right) of the coastal cemetery after about 200m. This walk then continues to follow the road gently downhill for about 140m, until coming to a three-way intersection, with an unsealed car park and 'Coastal Cemetery' sign (on the right).



Int of Pistol Club Rd AND Coastal Cemetery Trail to Coast Hospital Cemetery 0.1km 2 mins

(From 4.31 km) Turn right: From the intersection(which is found about 1km past the 'helicopter sign' off Henry Head Rd), this walk follow the management trail around the locked gate, passing a 'Coastal Cemetery' sign (on the right). Then this walk continues to follow the level trail for about 150m, until coming to a large four-way intersection and the Coastal Cemetery (on the right).



Coast Hospital Cemetery

The Coast Hospital Cemetery on the northern side of Botany Bay, was first established in the early 1880s and now houses as many as 2000 graves. It serviced the Coast (Prince Henry) Hospital, originally a smallpox hospital, as people who died of smallpox were required to be buried at the hospital grounds. The hospital was built far enough from the city to provide quarantine, and for this reason, the hospital in time became an infectious diseases hospital, also treating patients with influenza, bubonic plague, typhoid fever and leprosy. Unfortunately, the cemetery has now fallen into disrepair and many of the grave sites are in poor condition .





Coast Hospital Cemetery to Cromwell Park 4.3km 1 Hrs 20 mins

(From 4.46 km) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads north along the management trail, directly away from the cemetery. The trail passes alongside St Michaels Golf Course, with the ocean to the right, and without fanfare, crosses into The Coast Golf Course, even crossing the fairway of the 5th hole. (Note: The golf clubs has given permission for non-members to be on the course, however this is on the condition that it is at one's own risk.) This walk goes down to Little Bay Beach, crossing to the northern end and heading up the stairs.

The walk continues to the right (north), following the paths to navigate towards the coast through The Coast Golf Course, crossing some fairways with care. The walk then continues along the coast, skirting around the side of Randwick Golf Course, to come to the club house at the northern end of the course. This walk continues north on the footpath along Bay Pde, passing the boat launching area, and turning right into Cromwell Reserve. The walk continues, past the children's playground and the beach, along the footpath, until coming to the car park on Fishermans Rd..

Cromwell Park to South Maroubra SLSC 4.3km 1 Hrs 25 mins

(From 8.77 km) Turn right: From Cromwell Park car park, near the start of Fishermans Rd, this walk follows the footpath east along the road, keeping the water to the right. After approximately 200m, the walk comes to a small car park on the right, crossing to the far corner, near the water, where there is a small track leading onto the grass. (Alternately, the walk can head along the rockshelf at sea level, and after approximately 200m, take the track back up to the clifftop.)

The narrow bush track leads up along the cliffline, around the edge of Malabar headland (Note: there are many side tracks exploring Malabar Headland, with numerous World War II defence structures, and more than 280 endemic plant species as well as over 200 bird species). Following the headland inland, this track comes to an intersection with a wide sandy management trail. This walk heads to the right (keeping the ocean to the right) and soon comes to another intersection, taking the lower management trail.

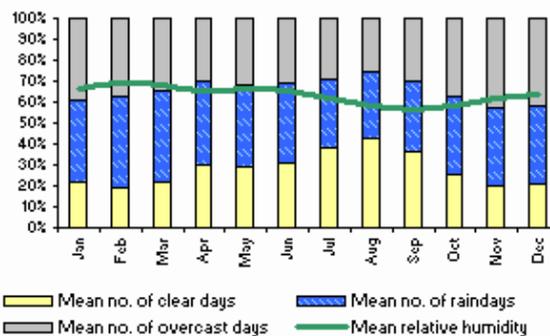
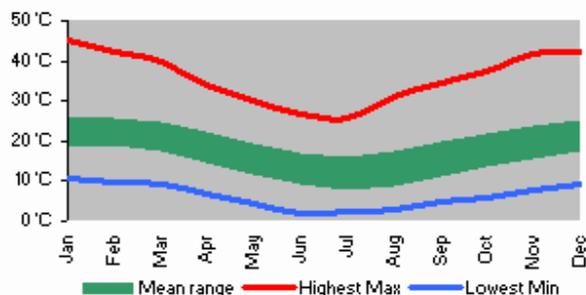
This walk continues along the coast in this manner until the management trail fades away at the Anzac Rifle Range, which is shared with Sydney Model Aero Club. Passing some intersections, the service trail starts again at the northern end of the fields, and after approximately 80m, bends around to the left (not an intersection). The walk then follows the trail for approximately 200m before turning right sharply, heading downhill between the houses and the bushland. From the houses, this walk continues through a gap in the fencing, into Arthur Byrne Reserve. The walk crosses to the footpath, and heads down the hill to South Maroubra SLSC car park.

A list of paper topographical maps that cover this walk

- [Botany Bay](#) 1:25 000 Map Series
- [Bondi](#) 1:25 000 Map Series
- [Port Hacking](#) 1:25 000 Map Series
- Sydney 1:100 000 Map Series
- Port Hacking 1:100 000 Map Series

Nearby outdoor and camping stores

- Kingsford Camping & Disposals** 309 Anzac Pde Kingsford (02) 9663 3535
- Outdoor Equipment** 60 Spring St Bondi Junction (02) 9389 8122
- Caravan Accessories Pty Ltd** 33 Rocky Point Rd Kogarah (02) 9588 3400
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wild walks Bare Island to Maroubra via Henry Head

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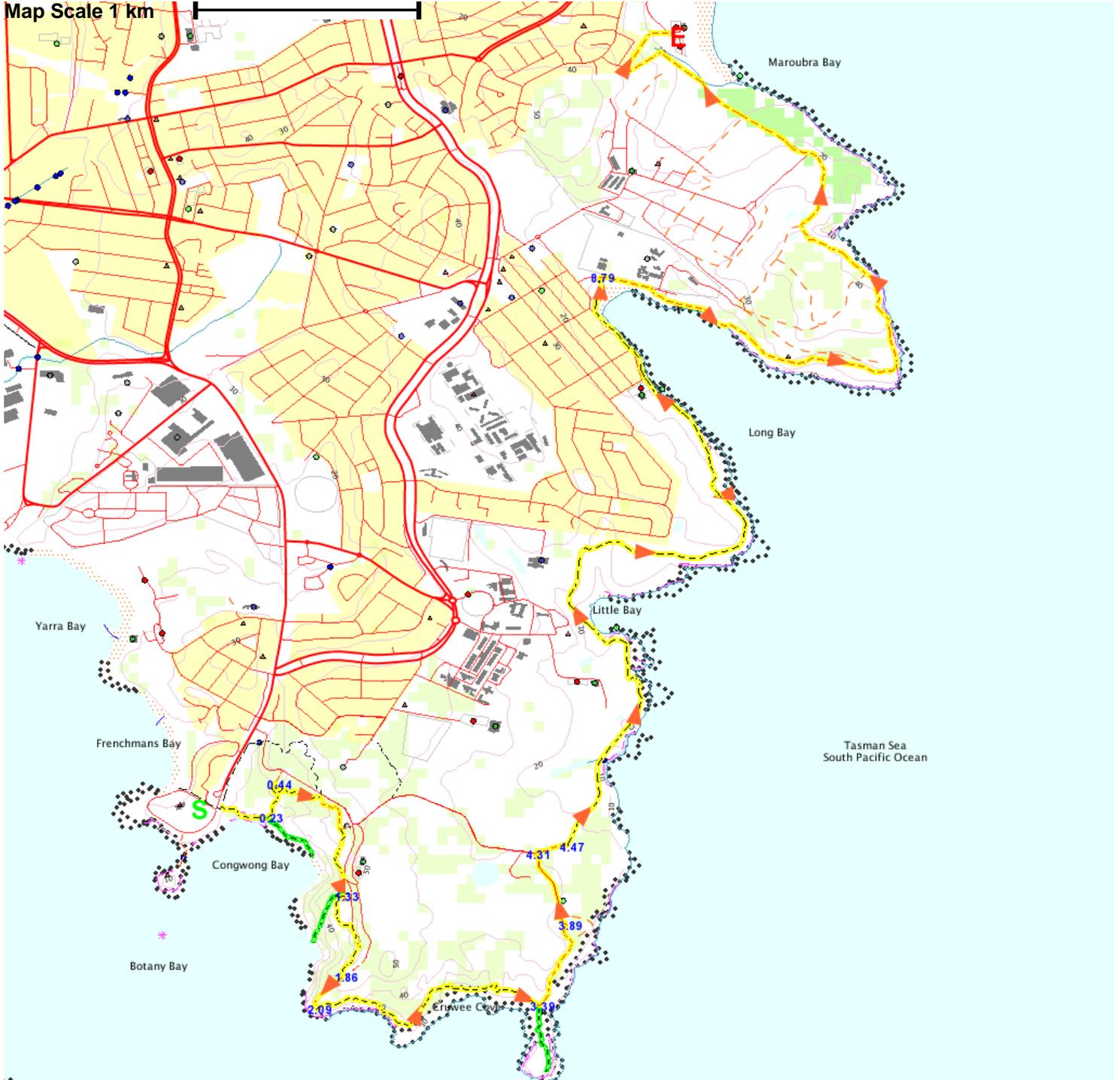
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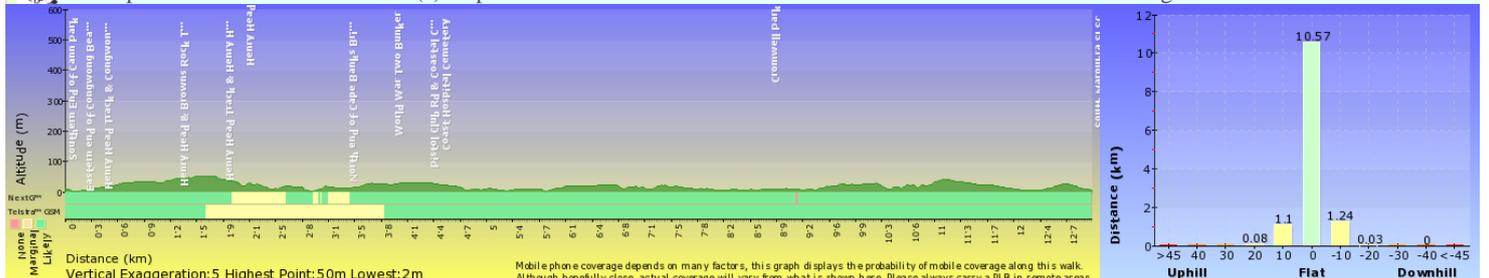
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Map Scale 1 km



Base map is used under licence and is (c) Department of lands Panorama Avenue Bathurst 2795 www.lands.nsw.gov.au

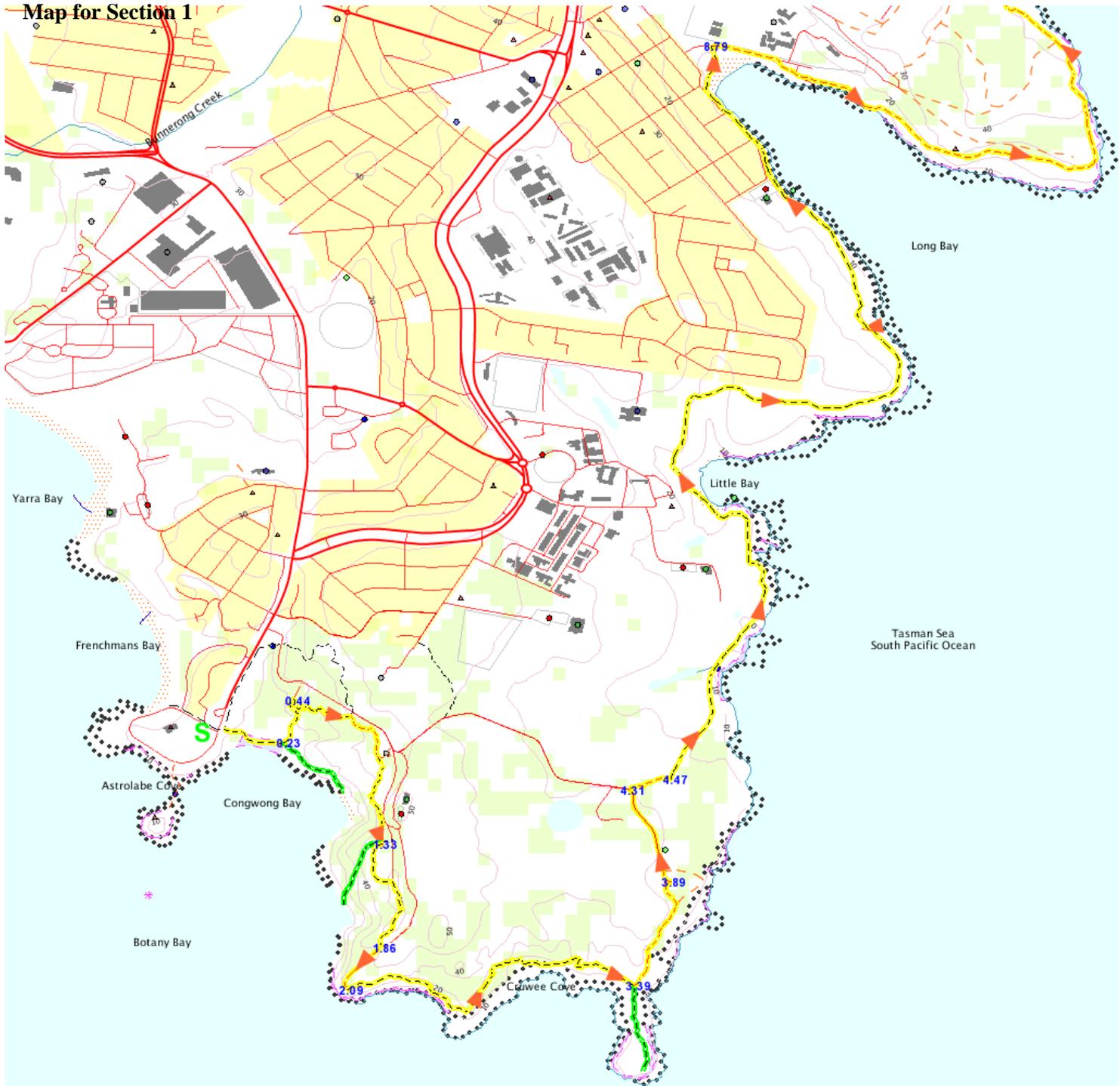




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Bare Island to Maroubra via Henry Head

Map for Section 1



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Map Scale 1 km



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Bare Island to Maroubra via Henry Head

Map for Section 2



Map Scale 1 km



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