



This walk is a good longer option walking experience at Blackbutt Reserve. This walk visits the two larger picnic areas of Richley Reserve and Carnley Reserve, as well as the Lily pond and Rain Forest picnic areas. A highlight to this walk is the thoroughly recommended side trip to the Wildlife Exhibits at Carnley Reserve. This enjoyable walk is highly recommended.

Length: 6.5 km
Time: 2 hrs 30 mins
Climb: 245 m
Style: Circuit
Rating: Track: Moderate
Where: 2.4 km W of Adamstown
Transport: bus car



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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 and end of this walk: -32.9324,151.7



Wildwalks

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Happy Reading. Matt :)



Blackbutt Reserve

Blackbutt Reserve, near Newcastle, occupies over 182 hectares of land and provides visitors with the chance to enjoy nature trails, wildlife exhibits, children's playgrounds and recreational facilities. The reserve is the perfect place for a relaxing family picnic or to explore on a bushwalk. Native wildlife, such as the Powerful Owl and the Grey-headed flying fox can be seen within the park. There is an information cottage at Carnley Avenue, which is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. The reserve has car parking at Carnley Avenue, Richley Reserve, Lookout Road and Mahonoy Drive. For more information, phone 02 4904 3344.



Richley Reserve

The Richley Reserve, within Blackbutt Reserve, has a park office, large pond areas with swans (beware the swans as they defend their territory), sheltered picnic tables, water taps, toilets, open grassed areas, a children's playground, electric barbecues and a car park. The Richley Reserve car park has disability friendly parking and is open from 7am to 5pm or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. For further information phone 02 4904 3344.



Richley Reserve (Car Park) to Richley Reserve (Ponds end) 0.1km 3 mins

(From S) From the Richley Reserve Car Park (Freybergy St, New Lambton), this walk follows the 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign and sealed trail gently uphill, while keeping the sheltered picnic table and large pond on your left. This walk continues through forest, with a pond on your left, for about 140m until coming to a four-way intersection, with a timber post with chain attached (on the right) and another large pond (on your left and ahead).



Richley Reserve (Ponds end) to Int of Forest Way AND Tall Trees Walks 0.3km 5 mins

(From 0.14 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently uphill, while initially keeping the timber post with chain attached on your right and keeping the large pond directly behind. This walk continues through attractive forest (ignoring side tracks) for about 300m, until coming to a level T-intersection, with a 'Richley Carpark' sign directly ahead.



Int of Forest Way & Tall Trees Walks to Lily Pond Picnic Area 0.7km 10 mins

(From 0.48 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, while initially keeping the 'Tall Trees Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign on your left. This walk continues through forest for about 180m, to find an open picnic area (on the right). Then this walk continues straight ahead for about 210m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Forest Way Walk' sign (on the left) and a toilet (on the right ahead).



Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Forest Way Walk' sign and trail gently downhill, while initially keeping the toilets on your right and the sign on your left. This walk continues for about 45m to find a picnic table (on the right). Then this walk continues through forest for about 260m, until coming to Lily Pond Picnic Area.

Lily Pond Picnic Area

The Lily Pond picnic area in Blackbutt Reserve feels like a small, watery oasis surrounded by eucalyptus forest. There is an attractive tropical water lily pond with a healthy cover of Nymphaea, which is particularly beautiful when flowering. Also at this picnic area are bench seats, picnic tables, small grassed areas and an elevated timber barbecue.



Lily Pond Picnic Area to End of Ridgeway Road (New Hampton Heights) 0.6km 10 mins

(From 1.16 km) Continue straight: From the Lily Pond Picnic Area, this walk follows the trail gently uphill, while initially keeping the 'Lily Pond Picnic Area' sign on your left. This walk continues for about 170m, to find a three-way intersection with a faint track (on the left) and a 'Forest Way Walk' sign (on the right). Then this walk continues straight ahead through forest for about 30m to cross a bridge over a dry rocky creek. This walk then continues for about 280m, with houses visible on the left, until coming to a T-intersection with a level trail and two green metal posts directly ahead.

Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently uphill, while initially keeping the two green metal posts on your right. This walk continues through forest for about 60m, until passing around a locked metal gate and coming to the end of Ridgeway Road (amongst houses).



End of Ridgeway Road to Int of Lookout Road & Forest Way 0.8km 10 mins

(From 1.72 km) Continue straight: From the end of Ridgeway Rd (in New Lampton Heights), this walk follows Ridgeway Rd gently uphill, while leaving the locked gate and 'Blackbutt Reserve - Ridgeway Rd Entrance' sign directly behind. This walk continues for about 250m, beside houses, to find a four-way intersection, with Croudace Rd. Then this walk continues straight ahead for about 400m, until coming to a level section of road as Ridgeway Road bends sharply right (there is a water tower in a park on the left). This walk turns left and follows the footpath (while keeping the water tank on your left) next to Lookout Rd for about 100m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a wide track and 'Blackbutt Reserve - Ridgeway Rd Entrance' sign on the left.



Int of Lookout Road AND Forest Way to Int of Tall Trees AND Forest Way Walks 0.2km 5 mins

(From 2.48 km) Veer left: From the intersection (Lookout Rd, New Lambton Heights), this walk follows the track gently downhill, while passing the 'Blackbutt Reserve - Forest Way Entrance' sign (on your left) and keeping Lookout Road on your right. After about 20m, the walk passes around a locked metal gate. Then this walk continues through forest for about 240m, with houses visible on the right, until coming to a three-way intersection with a trail and 'Forest Way Walk' sign on the right.



Tall Trees & Forest Way Walks to Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks 0.6km 10 mins

(From 2.73 km) Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign and sealed trail gently downhill, while keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues, undulating through thick forest for about 290m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Tall Trees Walk to Richley Carpark' sign directly ahead.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Tall Trees Walk to Carnley Ave Carpark' sign gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your right. This walk continues, undulating through forest for about 400m until coming to a level three-way intersection, with a 'Tall Trees Walk to Richley Carpark' sign (on the left) and a sealed trail (on the right).



Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks to Int of Main Ridge & Blueberry Ash Walks 0.2km 3 mins

(From 3.37 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, while walking directly away from the 'Main Ridge Walk to Carnley Carpark' sign and keeping the valley on the left. This walk continues through dense forest for about 170m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'To Tall Trees Walk' sign (on the right) and a gently downhill trail (on the left).



Int of Main Ridge and Blueberry Ash Walks to Int of Rain Forest Walk and Lookout Road 0.4km 5 mins

(From 3.52 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk to Lookout Rd Car Park' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your left. This walk continues, undulating for about 400m through attractive forest until coming to a three-way intersection with a road and brick buildings (on the left) and yellow metal posts and a 'Main Ridge Walk (Loop)' sign (on the right).



Int of Lookout Road & Main Ridge Trail to Int of Lookout Trail AND Rain Forest Walk 0.3km 5 mins

(From 3.94 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk passes through the yellow metal posts and crosses the car park gently uphill, while initially passing the 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign on the right. This walk continues for about 25m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a trail and 'Sensory Trail (return)' sign on the left.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Sensory Trail (return)' sign and trail gently downhill. This walk continues through forest for about 140m, to pass a 'Rain Forest Area/Picnic Park' sign (on the right). Then this walk continues for about 170m, passing the 'Senses Track 150m' sign (on the left), until crossing a bridge with a timber fence and coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Lookout Rd 420m' sign ahead.



Int of Lookout Trail & Rain Forest Walk to Int of Rain Forest Walk & Lookout Trail 0.1km 3 mins

(From 4.27 km) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently uphill, while initially leaving the bridge on the left and passing the 'Lookout Rd 420m' sign on the right. This walk continues through rainforest for about 130m, passing a 'Rainforest Restoration Project' sign (on the right), until coming to a three-way intersection, with a gently uphill trail on the right and a gently downhill trail on the left.





Rod Earp Rainforest Picnic Area

This secluded, dense rainforest within Blackbutt Reserve has bench seats and a picnic table. The forest in this area hosts a large population of grey-headed flying foxes. These large bats migrate for food and then return to roost during the day. Watch out for the bat guano the ground. This picnic area feels a world away from downtown Newcastle.



Int of Rain Forest Walk & Link Track to Main Ridge & Rain Forest Walks 0.5km 10 mins

(From 4.39 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the gravel trail gently downhill, while initially keeping the gently downhill trail behind you on your left and keeping the valley on your left. This walk continues (passing a 'Rainforest Picnic Area' sign on your right) through dense rainforest for about 400m, until coming to a three-way intersection, with a sealed road and 'Rainforest Walk' sign (on the right). Then this walk turns left onto the gently downhill sealed road and after about 30m, crosses a bridge at the Rainforest picnic area. This walk then follows the road gently uphill, passing a closed toilet block (on the right) for about 110m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a sealed road (on the left) and a 'Wildlife Exhibit' sign (on the right).



Main Ridge & Rain Forest Walks to Int of Main Ridge Trail & Lookout Road 0.3km 5 mins

(From 4.92 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Wildlife Exhibit' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the valley on the right. This walk continues, undulating for about 260m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Lookout Road Carpark' sign and gently uphill sealed road on the left.



Int of Main Ridge Trail & Lookout Road to Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail 0.1km 3 mins

(From 5.17 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Wildlife Exhibitions 120m' sign and sealed road gently downhill, while keeping the 'Lookout Road Carpark' sign directly behind you. This walk continues through forest for about 140m, until coming to a four-way intersection with the Wildlife Exhibits boardwalk (on the left), a car park ahead and a disabled car park (on the right).



Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail to Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail 0.4km 5 mins **Alternative ROUTE:**

(From 5.3 km) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Animals' sign and timber boardwalk gently uphill, while initially keeping the car park on the right. This walk continues, undulating for about 300m on an elevated boardwalk through large and small animal enclosures, with a fascinating selection of native animals and birds. Then this walk continues on a sealed footpath for about 70m, until passing through a high timber fenced gate and coming to a three-way intersection, with a sealed trail (on the left towards the pond) and a trail directly ahead.



Turn left to rejoin the main walk, following the notes from 5.4km 'Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail'.

Blackbutt Wildlife Exhibits

This boardwalk in the Blackbutt Reserve offers wildlife exhibits on an elevated timber boardwalk which is wheelchair accessible. Some of the wildlife that you are likely to encounter are kangaroos, koalas, wombats, Lace monitors, Wonga Pigeons, Red-winged Parrots, Black-winged Stilt, Buff-banded Rail, Herons, Eastern long-necked Turtle, Kingfishers, Turquoise Parrot, Banded Plover, Peaceful Dove, Cockatoos, Lorikeets, True Parrots, Major Mitchell Cockatoo, Bush Stone Curlew, Long-tailed Finch and Barking Owls. Entry is free and the exhibit is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm every day (closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and until 1pm ANZAC Day). Personal koala encounters are available at 2pm daily and cost \$3.50/person. For further information, phone: 02 4904 3344. [More info](#)



Int of Boardwalk & Main Ridge Trail to Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail 0.1km 2 mins

(From 5.3 km) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, while initially keeping the 'Animals' sign and elevated timber boardwalk on the left. This walk continues for about 90m, passing an 'Animals' sign and 'Information' sign (on the left) and concrete stairs (on the right), until coming to a three-way intersection, with a large timber fenced gate (on the left).



Carnley Ave Reserve

The Carnley Avenue Reserve, within Blackbutt Reserve, is wheelchair accessible and has toilets, drinking fountains, gas/electric barbeques, sheltered picnic tables, a children's playground, fenced displays of kangaroos and emu, a large black duck pond and an information centre that is housed within a replica pioneering cottage. The information cottage has a range of souvenirs, focusing on quality and affordable products. A fee of \$4 per vehicle can be paid from the automatic machines in the car park. The information centre is open 7am to 5pm, or 7am to 7pm during daylight savings. For further information phone: 02 4904 3344.





Int of Boardwalk & Carnley Trail to Int of Blueberry Ash Walk & Carnley Trail 0.1km 2 mins

(From 5.4 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill and towards the Black Duck Pond, while initially keeping the large timber fenced gate on your left. This walk continues for about 20m until coming to a four-way intersection, with the replica pioneering cottage, Black Duck Pond and a 'Richley Reserve' sign (on the left).

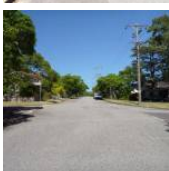


Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed road, while initially keeping the Black Duck Pond on your left and the replica pioneering cottage directly behind you. This walk continues, passing the Black Duck Pond (on the left) and continues gently uphill for about 150m (passing a sheltered picnic area and children's playground on the right) until coming to a three-way intersection with a gravel trail (on the left), a metal ring fence (on the right) and a 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign.



Int of Carnley Trail & Blueberry Ash Walk to Int of Carnley & Tall Trees Trails 0.3km 5 mins

(From 5.55 km) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Main Ridge Walk (loop)' sign on your left and trail gently downhill. This walk continues through forest with a metal ring fence (on the left) for about 170m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a gently downhill trail (on the right) and the end of the metal ring fence.



Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the gently downhill trail and moves directly away from the metal ring fence, while initially keeping the trail and fence on your right. This walk continues, undulating for about 170m until coming to a three-way intersection, with a 'Richley Car Park' sign.



Int of Main Ridge & Tall Trees Walks to Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection) 0.2km 4 mins

(From 5.85 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk passes around a metal post and follows the 'Richley Carpark 400m' sign and sealed footpath gently downhill, while leaving the bench seat directly behind. This walk continues through forest for about 140m, to pass around a metal post and find a large grassy picnic area. Then this walk continues straight ahead over grass and through some trees for about 70m, until coming to a sealed trail (with the valley beyond).



Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection) to Richley Reserve (Car Park) 0.3km 5 mins **Alternative ROUTE:**

(From 6.04 km) Turn right: From the trail below the large elevated grassed picnic area, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the valley on your left. This walk continues through grassed parkland for about 120m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a sealed trail and a 'Tall Tree Walk (loop)' sign (on the right).



Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sealed trail gently downhill, keeping the 'Tall Tree Walk (loop)' sign directly behind you while walking towards the road and car park. This walk continues for about 45m, passing through a metal gate to find a three-way intersection, with a road on the right and the car park on the left. Then this walk turns left and follows the car park gently uphill for about 150m, until coming to a 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign and sheltered picnic tables ahead.



Continue straight to rejoin the main walk, following the notes from 0km 'Richley Reserve (Car Park)'.

Richley Reserve (Short Cut Intersection) to Richley Reserve (Four Way Intersection) 0.3km 5 mins

(From 6.04 km) Turn left: From the trail below the large elevated grassed picnic area, this walk follows the gently downhill trail west, while keeping the valley on your right. This walk continues for about 120m to find a sheltered picnic area (on the right). Then this walk continues straight ahead and gently uphill for about 160m, becoming gently downhill and passing timber steps (on the left) and a toilet block (on the right), until coming to a four-way intersection, with a playground on the right and a timber footbridge directly ahead.



Richley Reseve (four way intersection) to Richley Reserve (car park) 0.2km 3 mins

(From 6.3 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the footpath gently downhill, while initially keeping the timber footbridge on your left. This walk continues for about 180m, beside a pond (on your left), until coming to a car park with a sheltered picnic table and 'Tall Tree Ridge Walk' sign (on the left).

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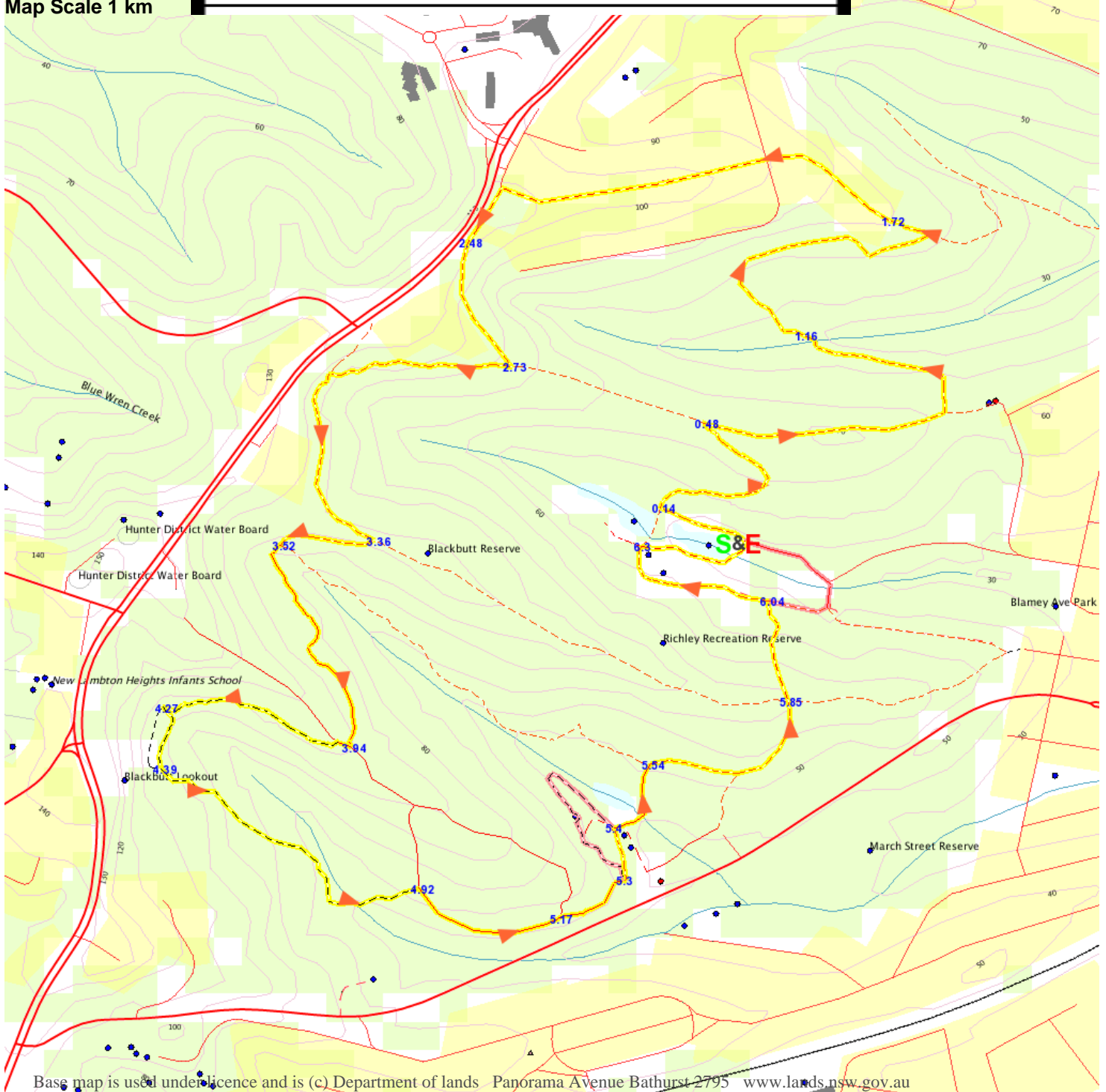
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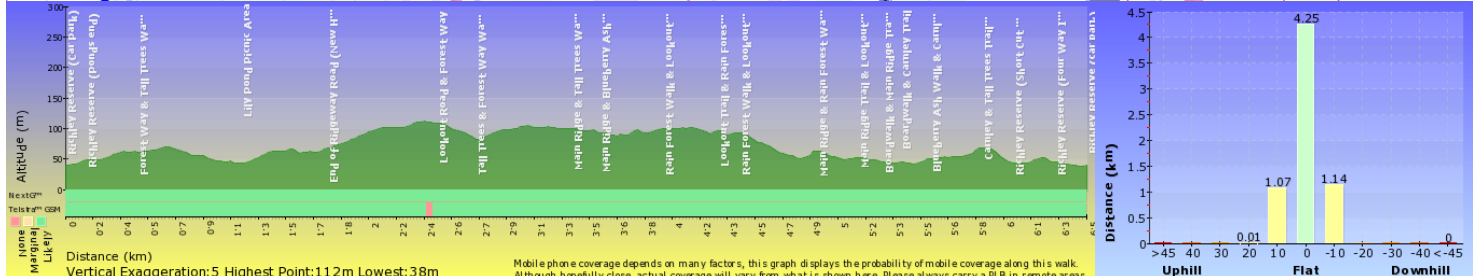
A walk for every body



Map Scale 1 km



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