



Following the historic Lady Carrington Drive, this walk takes you to Calala, a quiet clearing on the Hacking River. Travelling along the old road, this walk passes a few shaded brooks as it winds alongside the Hacking River. There is the chance for a side trip to Palona Cave and waterfall. Calala is a clearing with some large trees providing shade, a picnic table and access to a beach on the bank of the shallow Hacking River.

Royal National Park

Length: 8.9 km
Time: 3 hrs 30 mins
Climb: 302 m
Style: Return
Rating: Track: Moderate
Where: 7.4 km S of Heathcote
Transport: car



Visit www.wildwalks.com for more info



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: -34.1488,151.0303



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Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Sir Bertam Stevens Drive to Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Walumarra Bushtrack 0.7km 10 mins

(From S) From the car park on Sir Bertram Stevens Drive (500m north of the intersection with McKell Ave), this walk follows the Lady Carrington Drive trail through the National Park gate and down the long gentle hill. The track heads through the forest until coming to the signposted intersection with the 'Walumarra Track'.



Int of Lady Carrington Drive and Walumarra Bushtrack to Bola Picnic Area 0.1km 1 mins

(From 0.65 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the dirt road to the north, through the forest for a short distance before bending to the right and coming down to the signposted intersection with 'The Forest Path' at the Bola Creek picnic area.



Bola Picnic Area

Bola Picnic Area, in the Royal National Park, is at the intersection of Lady Carrington Drive and Forest Island Track. The picnic clearing is in a gorgeous rainforest setting, with tall trees and ferns surrounding the area. There is no car access to the picnic area. One picnic table and bench seat are provided, with no other facilities.



Bola Picnic Area to Int Palona Cave Trk and Lady Carrington Drive 1km 20 mins

(From 0.73 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Audley 9km' arrow down the short gentle slope and across Bola Creek, following the dirt road as it bends around to the left and continues up and along beside the creek. The road heads through the forest for a long while before coming to the hidden, signposted intersection with the faint 'Limestone Cave' bush track (the timber sign is not obvious, it is behind a large tree on the left, just before the signposted 'Palona Brook').



Int Palona Cave Trk and Lady Carrington Drive to Palona Cave and Waterfall 0.8km 15 mins **Optional Side Trip:**

(From 1.77 km) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Limestone Cave 1.6km' arrow along the track, heading up the hill and away from the road. The walk continues up a long hill, winding through dense forest for a short while before flattening out and continuing along the side of the hill. The walk winds through the bush and passes several rock overhangs and outcrops either side of the track, as the walk make its way along to the Palona Caves at the end of the track.



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

Palona Cave

Palona Cave is off Lady Carrington Drive, north of Bola Picnic Area, in the Royal National Park. Palona Cave is a large limestone overhang with a few cave decorations such as columns and stalactites. Being open to the environment, the cave has some green moss and is not reminiscent of other pristine white limestone caves. The cave is a unique feature for the area and is well worth allowing time to explore.



Palona Brook Falls

The waterfalls on Palona Brook are just beyond Palona Cave. The brook is ephemeral (not permanently running), but when it is running, the waterfalls are a cool place to explore on warm days. The waterfall is made of up two main cascades, with a short landing in between. The water falls into a reasonably small rocky pool.



Int Palona Cave Trk and Lady Carrington Drive to Palona Brook Picnic Area 0.1km 2 mins

(From 1.77 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads downhill along the management trail as it bends to the right. The trail soon crosses the signposted 'Palona Brook' and comes to a picnic area on the right-hand side.



Palona Brook Picnic Area

Palona Brook Picnic Area is found on the north side of Palona Brook along the old Lady Carrington Drive. The picnic area is home to a couple of wooden picnic tables and is next to the steep gully and culvert that Palona Brook flows through. A great spot to rest when visiting the nearby sandstone cove or walking the old road.



Palona Brook Picnic Area to Calala 2.5km 50 mins

(From 1.88 km) Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk follows the old road, away from Palona Brook, keeping the Hacking River to the left. After about 1km, the trail leads to a plaque reminding of the tragic loss of Alan Rendell, who died whilst fighting bushfires in 1988. After another 400m of winding trail, the walk comes to the signposted 'Burunda Brook'. A further 1.2km along the trail, the walk comes to a clearing and picnic area on the left, signposted 'Calala'.



Calala

The signposted 'Calala' clearing lies between the old Lady Carrington Drive and the Hacking River. The large clearing has a picnic table and plenty of shade from the surrounding trees. There is access to a small sandy beach on the Hacking River, making this a lovely spot to rest on a warm day.

This is a 'Return' style walk - retrace your steps back to the beginning when you are ready.



A list of paper topographical maps that cover this walk

[Offord](#) 1:25 000 Map Series

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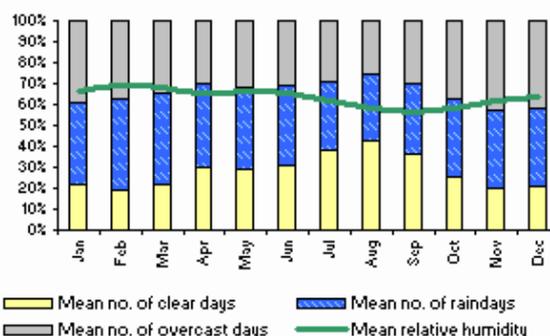
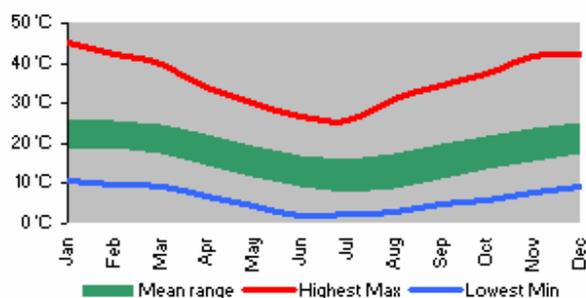
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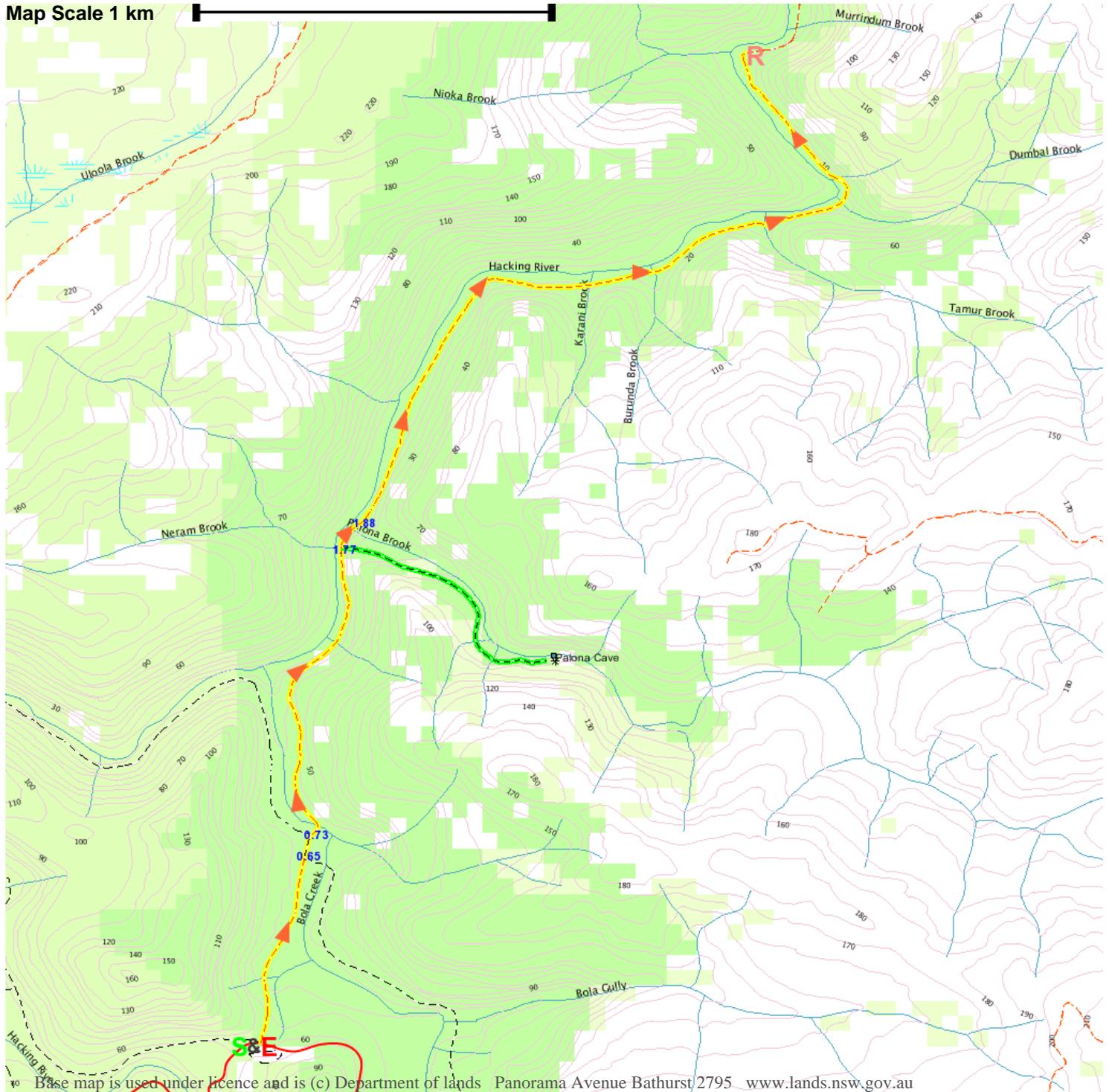
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Map Scale 1 km



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