

Self guided bushwalks

Crosslands Trail

The Crosslands Trail is a fascinating walk that begins at Crosslands Reserve and runs along the Berowra Creek foreshore. The first section is an easy, flat trail accessible to everybody. Designed to be wheelchair and stroller friendly, it winds through the mangroves to a picturesque viewing platform and provides an enjoyable introduction to Berowra Creek's beautiful (and often little known) foreshore bushland. The second section to Calna Creek is more challenging. It has interpretive signage located along the way to point out features of interest to help you interact with this inspiring landscape.

DUE TO AREAS OF LIMITED MOBILE COVERAGE, DOWNLOAD THIS PDF BEFORE YOU BEGIN.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE (for more information see overleaf)

- | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| 1 'Place of Winds' Interpretive Trail | 2 Special Adaptations | 3 Mangrove Food Cycle | 4 Estuaries and viewing platform |
| 5 Original Inhabitants | 6 All creatures great and small | 7 Catch the Threats | 8 The Rock Club |
| 9 Bush Supermarket | 10 Stop! Look! Listen! And Smell! | | |

Important information

Location: The end of Somerville Road, Hornsby Heights. Gates are open 8am-7:30pm during daylight savings time and 8am-5pm the rest of the year.

Walk length: Viewing platform = 1km return; Calna Creek bridge and saltmarsh = 4km return

Difficulty: Viewing platform = Grade 2 (easy/moderate); Calna Creek bridge and saltmarsh = Grade 3 (moderate)

Starting point: Crosslands Reserve (car park at northern end)

Getting there:
Car

Bus - (596 from Hornsby Station to the end of Somerville Road then a 25 minute walk down to the Crosslands Reserve)

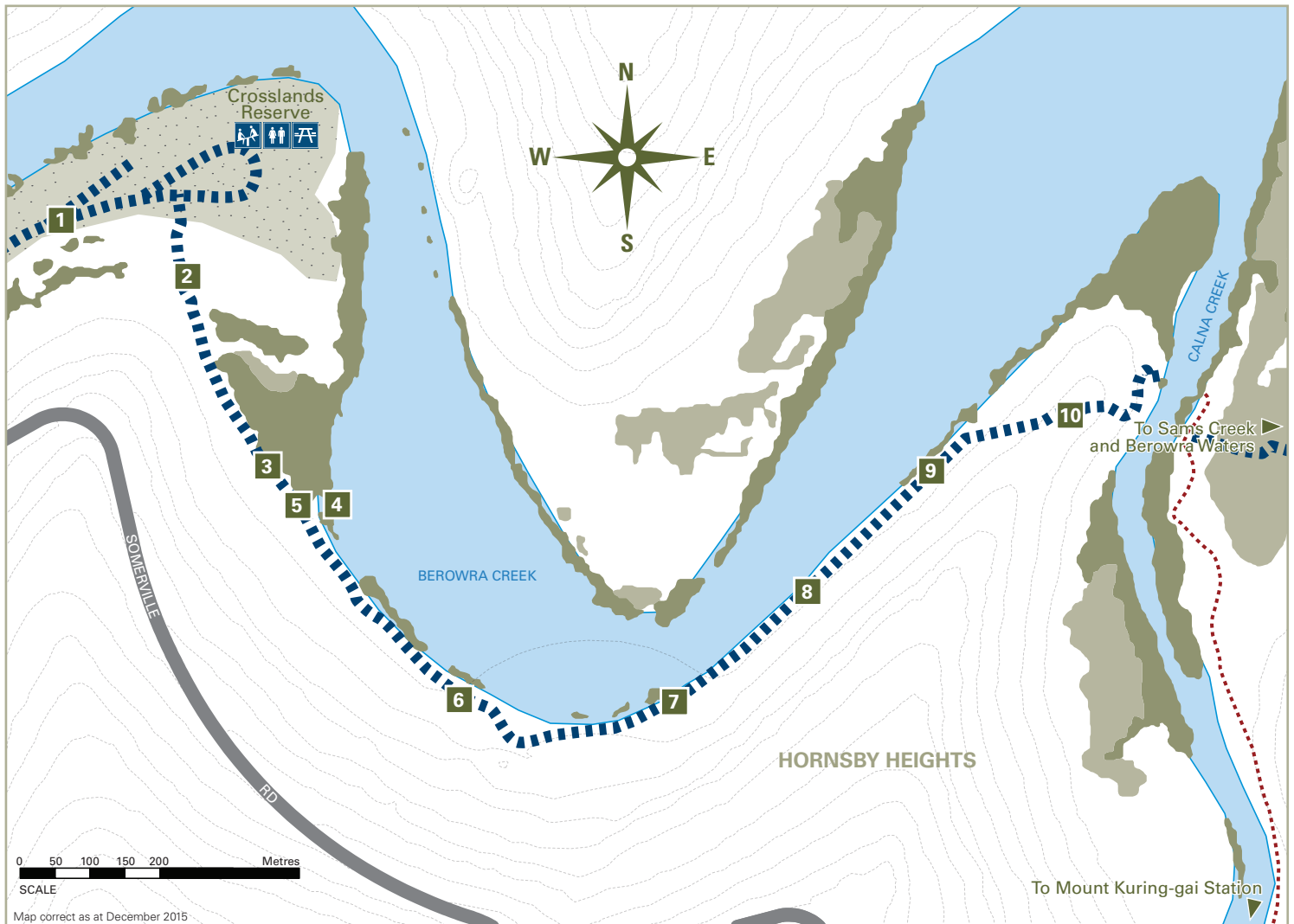
Walking - along the Benowie Walking Track (part of the Great North Walk)

Facilities: Free electric BBQs, picnic tables (large shelters may require booking), play equipment and bicycle track, Great North Walk trackhead, camping areas.

Drinking water: Crosslands Reserve

Nearest public toilet: Crosslands Res. 24hrs

Please note: Dogs are NOT permitted in Crosslands Reserve



LEGEND

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Mangroves | Creeks | Toilet |
| Saltmarsh | Crosslands Trail | Picnic tables |
| Crosslands Reserve | Other trails | Play equipment |
| Roads | Interpretive signage | |

For more information visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks



Crosslands Trail

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This valley once formed part of the seasonal range of clans belonging to the Guringai and Dharug language groups. The surrounding landscape contributed to their food, medicine, shelter and other material and cultural needs. Signs of their way of life abound, and could potentially include occupation sites, rock engravings, middens, scar trees, and artefacts. Please respect any sites or objects you may come across. They hold a profound significance for present day descendants of these communities and are also protected by law.

The first colonial settlers in the area were Burton Crossland and Matthew Charlton in the 1850s, one on each side of the creek. Crossland was employed to oversee Burtons land and eventually his son purchased the land, resulting in the Crosland's owning both sides of the creek. They earned their living cutting timber, growing fruit, fishing and boat-building. In fact, near the beginning of this walk on the left hand side, the remains of a channel lined with stone can still be seen. This was formed by Burton Crossland as part his boat construction activities. In those days, boats were able to sail right up to this area in order to collect timber and deliver lime from the burning of shell middens. Burton Crossland also built the sandstone fireplace for the church on Bar Island at the mouth of Berowra Creek, and the shingles for the roof of St. Judes church at Dural came from this area.

This trail passes through several important ecological communities. The **Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest** is the first community come across and is listed as "endangered" under NSW legislation. It is dominated by the **Swamp Oak** *Casuarina glauca*, a grey-barked tree with fine, needle-like cladodes or leaf-like structures.

The boardwalk section of this walk also passes through **Mangrove Swamp**. This community is characterised by two species: **Grey Mangrove** *Avicennia marina subsp. australasica* and **River Mangrove** *Aegiceras corniculatum*. These plants are able to tolerate the high salt levels in the water by having leaves that excrete excess salt through glands or by storing high levels of salt in their leaves and then discarding the entire leaf. Can you see any of these dead or dying leaves?

For the proficient bushwalker, trails continue on to Sams Creek, Berowra Waters, Berowra Station and Mount Kuring-gai Station.

The vegetation that most of the trail passes through as it runs along the creek belongs to **Rough-barked Apple-Forest Oak Forest**. Due to its rarity, this community is considered significant in the Sydney region. The main tree species are **Forest Oak** *Allocasuarina torulosa* with the same needle-like cladodes as the seen on the **Swamp Oak, Rough-barked Apple** *Angophora floribunda* and **Grey Gum** *Eucalyptus punctate*. The **Grey Gum** is recognisable by its silver-grey bark with slashes of bright orange.

Another rare ecological community listed as "endangered" under NSW legislation is **Coastal Saltmarsh**. It is made up of low-growing plants such as **Sea Rush** *Juncus kraussii* and **Sand Couch** *Sporobolus virginicus* that are able to survive in the harsh, salty conditions of the intertidal zone. A small section of **Coastal Saltmarsh** is situated near the beginning of the walk, however a much larger expanse is found on the far side of Calna Creek, with a boardwalk running through its midst.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about:

- The Crosslands Trail
- other bushwalks in Hornsby Shire
- Council's Free Guided Bushwalking Program
- Council's volunteer Bushcare Program

visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushland or contact 9847 6666.

A guide to help identify the local native trees can be viewed or downloaded from Council's website

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/50511/Native-Tree-Brochure.pdf

For more information about the history of the local area visit: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library or contact 9847 6807.

RISK WARNING

Hornsby Shire Council has taken all care in producing these notes and map. Bushwalking can be hazardous. Trails are unsealed and you may encounter slippery or loose surfaces, creek crossings, fallen timber and sloping ground. Poisonous plants and animals or biting insects may be encountered. Snakes are rare but may be seen in warmer seasons. Please keep to designated trails. Dress for the conditions and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Take plenty of water, food, sunscreen and always take a map.

Before leaving tell someone where you will be going and when you expect to return. Check the local weather forecast. Please do not undertake this walk during Total Fire Ban days. Check the Rural Fire Service website rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans or phone **1800 679 737** if you suspect a Total Fire Ban may be in force.

In case of emergency dial '000', but be aware that not all areas have reliable mobile reception.

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