

# Self guided bushwalks

## Callicoma Walk

### Important information

**Location:** Cherrybrook  
**Walk length:** 5.1km. Allow 3hrs  
**Difficulty:** Grade 3 (moderate)

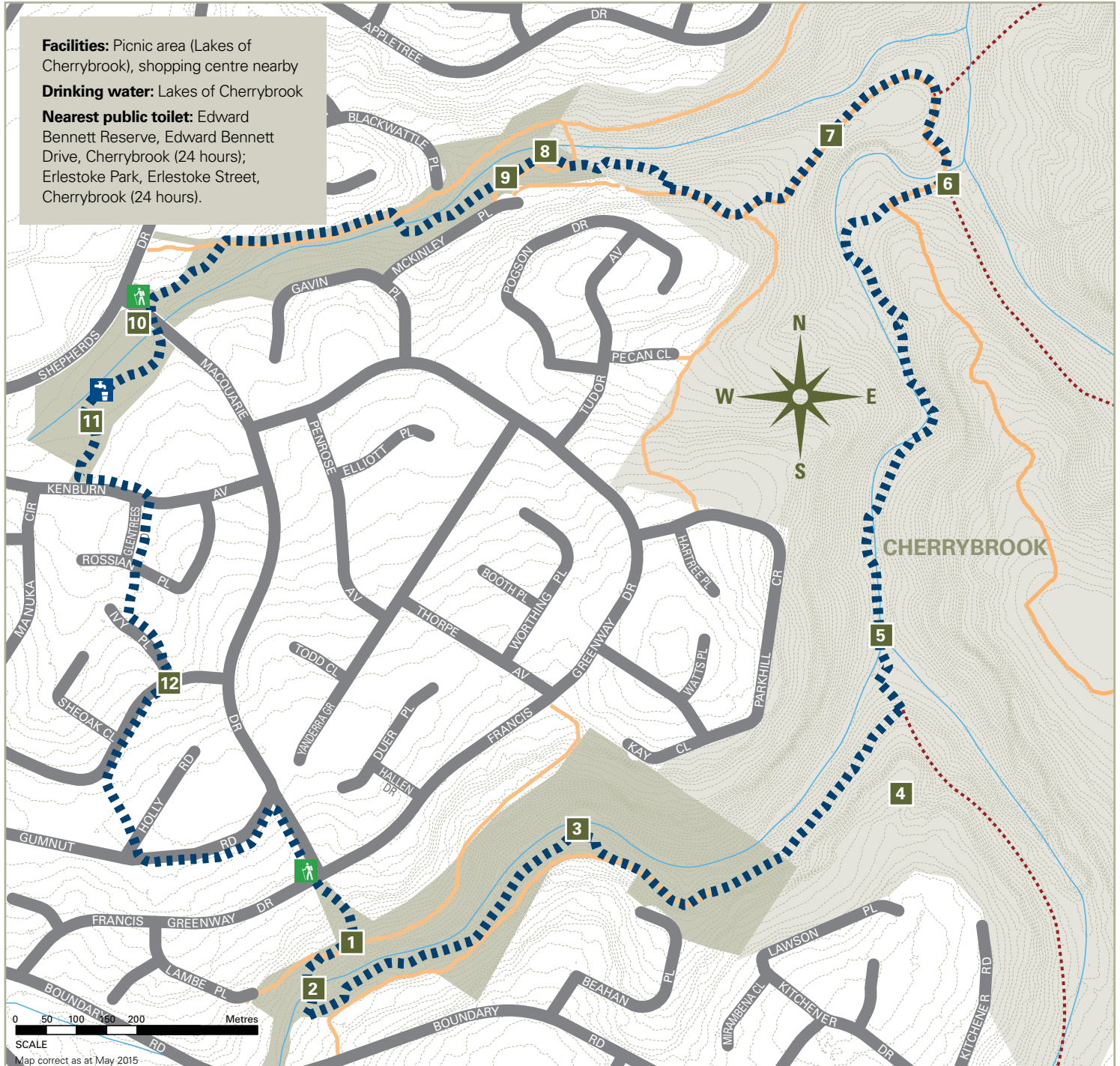
**Starting points:**  
 Corner of Francis Greenway and Macquarie Drive  
 and Macquarie Drive

Corner of Shepherds and Macquarie Drive  
 (The Lakes of Cherrybrook)

**Getting there:**  
 Car <https://goo.gl/maps/c5r1U>  
 Bus (M60) from Pennant Hills Railway Station

The Callicoma Walk is a spectacular trail that wanders through bushland, parkland and quiet residential streets. Experience a range of environments including lush forest, sandstone woodland, and relaxing lakeside picnic areas.

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



LEGEND			
	Contour interval 2m		Callicoma walk
	Bushland		Other tracks
	Roads		Fire trail
	Creeks		Points of interest
			Drinking water
			Access points

For more information visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks)



# Points of interest

# Callicoma Walk

This walk takes you in an anti-clockwise direction starting at the corner of Francis Greenway and Macquarie Drives.

The walk is named after **Black Wattle** (*Callicoma serratifolia*). This tall shrub or small tree is found growing close to creeks and gullies along the walk. It can be identified by its coarsely toothed leaves which are dark green on top and white below and its yellowish ball-like flowers in spring. Callicomas were one of the plants used by early colonists to construct fences and dwellings. In a process known as 'wattling', their flexible twigs and branches were tightly woven between poles or stakes.

Ten short, green, timber posts with numbers one to ten mark points of interest along the walk in a clockwise direction. These do not relate to this guide, however their descriptions can be found in the book **A Guide to Berowra Valley Regional Park** and the associated website.

## 1 Blackbutt Gully Forest

Some of the trees here are giants: **Blackbutt** (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) with its rough grey lower trunk (remaining black long after fires) and smooth white or cream upper trunk and branches; and **Sydney Red Gum** (*Angophora costata*) with smooth pink or orange bark and distinctive contorted limbs. Old trees such as these contain hollows which provide vital nesting sites for many native birds, mammals and insects.

## 2 Nyripping creek crossing

The track crosses Nyripping Creek on raised concrete stepping cylinders just upstream from a pretty cascade. Notice how the vegetation changes from being relatively dry and open on the slopes to more closed and moist along the creek. There is a good view downstream of the shady temperate rainforest.

## 3 Coachwood Grotto

A small side track leads down to a peaceful spot on a bend in Nyripping Creek. The area is totally surrounded by **Coachwoods** (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*). Notice their characteristic smooth trunk, thin horizontal rings and white lichen blotches. The highly prized timber of this tree is light, easily worked and has a 'caramel' odour. As the name suggests, it was used in colonial times for coach building, Mosquito Fighter Bomber frames and 303 rifle stocks during the Second World War.

## 4 Sandstone overhangs

This spectacular area with its high vantage point and sculpted sandstone overhangs features Hawkesbury Sandstone, and underlies much of the Sydney region. Feel the sand and quartz grains laid down around 200 million years ago, when Sydney was a vast floodplain and dinosaurs roamed the earth. When sandstone weathers, it produces a shallow, sandy, infertile soil that is unable to retain much moisture. To survive these difficult conditions some plants have tough, thin leaves and small or woody fruit. Look for the flower spike of the **Grass Tree** (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.), the grape-like fruit of the **Geebung** (*Persoonia* spp.) and the woody 'cone' of the **Banksia** (*Banksia* spp.).

## 5 The confluence

This point marks the junction of Nyripping and Berowra Creeks. Though we are deep in the bush you may still see the impacts of the urban areas upstream. Rainwater hitting the roads, rooves, and other hard surfaces has no opportunity to soak into the ground. Instead, it is funnelled into gutters and drains along with rubbish and pollutants and sent into the bushland creeks.

Nyripping is reputed to be a non-local Aboriginal word meaning "to clean" or "to wash".

## 6 The Jungo

The Jungo is a colloquial version of 'junction'. Where Berowra Creek meets Zig Zag Creek, our trail joins the Great North Walk. There is some suggestion the area was once used as a campsite by Aborigines. Up until 1940s local kids swam in the creeks until they began contracting infections from the water. This may have been due to the poultry farms and flour mills that were located upstream in West Pennant Hills, and the slaughter yard that was located up Zig Zag Creek in Thornleigh.

## 7 Sandstone ridge

As you climb the ridge, keep an eye out for the **Narrow-leaved Apple** (*Angophora bakeri*). Related to the giant Sydney Red Gum seen earlier, this species is a much smaller tree (up to 10m) with grey fibrous bark on trunk and branches and fine drooping leaves. Though they may look similar to Eucalypts, Angophoras belong to a different group.

## 8 Sediment Basin

This sediment basin was constructed by Hornsby Shire Council in 2007. Devices such as these are an attempt to mitigate the effects of stormwater on the bushland. The aim is for the water exiting the device to be cleaner than that entering.

## 9 Rehabilitation area

This area was previously a construction site for the installation of sewer lines in the area. Since being obtained by Hornsby Shire Council in 2004, the weedy area was capped with 500 tonnes of sterile crushed sandstone. In 2010, 1400 local natives were planted. One section near McKinley Place was instead spread with top soil from a nearby development site. The native seeds in the top soil have since germinated, resulting in a much more diverse natural array of species in than in the planted zone.

## 10 The Lakes of Cherrybrook

Back when Cherrybrook was part of the rural district, this chain of ponds was created through the damming of the creek for the benefit of farmers. Today it forms an attractive picnic and recreation area, home to native and introduced ducks, **Little Pied Cormorants** (*Microcarbo melanoleucos*), **Swamphens** (*Porphyrio* spp.) and **Kingfishers**.

## 11 Blue Gum High Forest

The Lakes are surrounded by remnant Blue Gum High Forest, an extremely rare ecological community with less than 5% of its original distribution left in existence. It is characterised by the majestic **Sydney Blue Gum** (*Eucalyptus saligna*), though also contains **Red Mahogany** (*Eucalyptus resinifera*), and **Turpentine** (*Syncarpia glomulifera*). Over 50 species of indigenous plants have been identified in this small patch alone.

**RISK WARNING:** Hornsby Shire Council has taken all care in producing these notes and map. Bushwalking can be hazardous. Bushwalks are unsealed tracks. 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](http://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.**