

Faulconbridge

Faulconbridge, in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, was named after the maiden name of Sir Henry Parkes' mother. Faulconbridge sits on the Great Western Highway and is surrounded by valleys of lush bushland. This picturesque town was a home, and final resting place, for Sir Henry Parkes', heralded as the 'Father of Federation'. Faulconbridge was originally explored by non-indigenous Australians in 1813, by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson who were searching for a route over the Blue Mountains .

Victory Track

The Victory Track is more formally know as the 'Sir Henry Parkes Victory Track' and is called the 'Victoria Track' in many guide books. The track starts near Sir Henry Parkes' grave in Faulconbridge and leads to Sassafrass Gully Creek. Sir Henry Parks (1815-1896) was a politician and journalist, born in England. He is considered to be the 'Father of Federation' for Australia, although he died of natural causes 5 years before Australia's federation. Parkes was the premier of New South Wales five times. The town Parkes was named in his honour. Parkes would sometime write under the pseudonym 'Faulconbridge' (his mothers maiden name) for the Sydney Morning Herald and other papers and Faulconbridge (the township) was named after his mother when Parkes purchased 600 acres in 1877. More info.

Clarinda Falls

Clarinda Falls is a charming waterfall on Sassafras Creek. The water cascades over a near-vertical wall, into a sandy pool below. The falls are signposted from the main track and provide a nice cool detour, especially on warmer days. The falls are named for the first wife of Sir Henry Parkes, 'Father of Australian Federation'.

Victory Track camping area

Victory Track camping area is a fairly large, informal camping place at the junction of Sassafras and Numantia Creeks. The clearing is in a moist section of forest with plenty of shade. Water from the creek should be treated before use.

Victory Track pool

The Victory Track pool is an unofficially-named pond in Sassafras Creek. The pond is deep in parts but not adequate for a swim. It does, however, offer a chance to rest and gaze over the water. There is a small sandy beach, some moss-covered rocks and a lovely grove of Sassafras trees around the pool. This is a nice spot to stop, catch your breath and soak up your surroundings.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an ejoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast (BOM Central Tablelands District)
- 2) Fire Dangers (Greater Sydney Region)
- 3) Park Alerts (Blue Mountains National Park)
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

T Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.

R Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.

Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).

Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:90304S SPRINGWOOD, 90303N PENRITH **1:100 000 Map Series**:9030 PENRITH

Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is dertermined by the highest classification along the whole track.

5	Grade 5/6 Experienced only		
Length	15.2 km One way		
Time	2 Days		
Quality of track	Rough unclear track (5/6)		
Signs	No directional signs (5/6)		
Experience Required	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)		
Weather	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)		
Infrastructure	No facilities provided (5/6)		

* This walk passes through very remote areas and sections have no visible track. At least one person in your group should have training and experience in off track walking and navigation. Even with these notes and a GPS these extra skills and equipment are required.



Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walks overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking. Experainced walkers only: This walk passes through very remote areas and sections have no visible track. At least one person in your group should have training and experience in off track walking and navigation. Even with these notes and a GPS these extra skills and equipment are required.

Getting there You can get to Faulconbridge Station (gps: -33.6966, 150.5349) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Blaxland Station (gps: -33.7438, 150.6099) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information inlcuding; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at http://wild.tl/ftb

0 | Faulconbridge

Faulconbridge, in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, was named after the maiden name of Sir Henry Parkes' mother. Faulconbridge sits on the Great Western Highway and is surrounded by valleys of lush bushland. This picturesque town was a home, and final resting place, for Sir Henry Parkes', heralded as the 'Father of Federation'. Faulconbridge was originally explored by non-indigenous Australians in 1813, by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson who were searching for a route over the Blue Mountains .

0 | Faulconbridge Station

(410 m 8 mins) From the top of Faulconbridge Station, the walk heads off the station overpass to the bushland side of the station (if you come to a car park, you have gone to the wrong side of the station). The walk then keeps the rail line on the left as it follows the footpath down to the road. After a while, the walk comes to an intersection with Sir Henrys Pde, opposite house number 10.

0.41 | Victory Track

The Victory Track is more formally know as the 'Sir Henry Parkes Victory Track' and is called the 'Victoria Track' in many guide books. The track starts near Sir Henry Parkes' grave in Faulconbridge and leads to Sassafrass Gully Creek. Sir Henry Parks (1815-1896) was a politician and journalist, born in England. He is considered to be the 'Father of Federation' for Australia, although he died of natural causes 5 years before Australia's federation. Parkes was the premier of New South Wales five times. The town Parkes was named in his honour. Parkes would sometime write under the pseudonym 'Faulconbridge' (his mothers maiden name) for the Sydney Morning Herald and other papers and Faulconbridge (the township) was named after his mother when Parkes purchased 600 acres in 1877. More info.

0.41 | No. 10 Sir Henrys Pde

(1.3 km 38 mins) Turn right: From 10 Sir Henrys Pde (bushland side), the walk follows the 'Victory Track' sign down into the bush. The walk passes under a few rock overhangs and then crosses a creek. Passing a smaller track (on the left, which leads to the top of the falls), the walk soon comes down to a 'Clarinda Falls' sign.

1.74 | Optional sidetrip to Clarinda Falls

(30 m 1 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, the track follows the 'Clarinda Falls' sign towards the log fallen on the rock. The track tends left around the

hillside, coming to Clarinda Falls. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

1.74 | Clarinda Falls

Clarinda Falls is a charming waterfall on Sassafras Creek. The water cascades over a near-vertical wall, into a sandy pool below. The falls are signposted from the main track and provide a nice cool detour, especially on warmer days. The falls are named for the first wife of Sir Henry Parkes, 'Father of Australian Federation'.

1.74 | Int. Victory Trk and Clarinda Falls

(630 m 18 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Sassafras Gully' sign down the hill. The track keeps the creek on the left as it continues down the gully then crosses a creek junction. The walk meanders down the hillside and soon crosses a larger creek junction, before entering a campground clearing (beneath power lines).

2.37 | Victory Track camping area

Victory Track camping area is a fairly large, informal camping place at the junction of Sassafras and Numantia Creeks. The clearing is in a moist section of forest with plenty of shade. Water from the creek should be treated before use.

2.37 | Victory Trk camping area

(880 m 24 mins) Continue straight: From the campground clearing, the walk follows the creek, keeping it to the left. The track winds up the hill and back down to the creek a few times and soon comes to an intersection with a faint track on the left (which leads to a pool in the creek).

3.24 | Victory Track pool

The Victory Track pool is an unofficially-named pond in Sassafras Creek. The pond is deep in parts but not adequate for a swim. It does, however, offer a chance to rest and gaze over the water. There is a small sandy beach, some moss-covered rocks and a lovely grove of Sassafras trees around the pool. This is a nice spot to stop, catch your breath and soak up your surroundings.

3.24 | Victory Trk pool

(3.4~km~1~hr~11~mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads down the valley, keeping the creek on the left. The walk soon turns left, crosses the creek and continues down the valley, with the creek now on the right. Leading down the valley, the track then crosses a gully to arrive at a blue 'Faulconbridge Station' sign (pointing back the way you came).

Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads down across the creek in the direction of the 'To Wiggins Track' sign. The walk winds along the hillside, keeping the creek on the right, passing a blue track marker which directs the walk to the other side of the creek. The walk now keeps the creek on the left as it winds up to a 'Perch Ponds, Springwood Stn' sign.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the direction of the 'Perch Ponds' sign across the hillside. The walk soon nears the creek on the left, then undulates above it for a short while. The track crosses a steeply banked creek junction, then continues following the main creek (which is on the left). The walk stays near this creek, coming into a campground clearing with large boulders.

Continue straight: From the campground clearing, the walk exits the clearing, keeping the main creek to the right, and immediately crosses a side creek. The walk keeps the main creek on the right as it slowly climbs the hillside. The track then heads downhill, passing under a few rock overhangs and soon entering the campground clearing of 'Perch Ponds'.

6.62 | Perch Ponds Campsite

Perch Ponds is a lovely waterhole, with a clearing suitable to pitch a tent,

located at the junction of Magdala Creek and Glenbrook Creeks. The meeting of the two creek provides a relaxing sound of rushing water and a cool spot to rest on warmer days. The campsite is a flat area above the pool marked with a fire scar. A great shady and quiet area for a camp. There are no facilities and water from the creek needs to be treated.

6.62 | Perch Ponds camping area

(1.2 km 27 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the direction of the 'Martins Lookout' sign across the campground clearing to an arrow bolted to a tree. The walk follows this arrow down the hill and across the creek, and then follows creek, keeping it on the right. The walk leads up the hill away from the creek to a signposted intersection for 'Martins Lookout'.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows direction of the 'Long Track' sign, down the hill. The track winds down near the creek and passes a sandy beach access before soon entering a second clearing.

7.79 | Martins campsite

Martins campsite is an unofficial camping area beside Glenbrook Creek. The camping area is a sandy clearing, opposite cliffs on the other bank. The camping area is situated below Martins Lookout, with Bunyan Lookout up the ridge on the opposite hillside. A quiet and shaded location which can give a great night's sleep.

7.79 | End of day 1

This is the planned overnight stay for the end of day 1, happy camping.

7.79 | Martins camping area

(1.2 km 44 mins) Turn left: From the fireplace, the walk heads along the creek bank, keeping the creek near and on the right. The walk then tends left, up the hill to the intersection and pole without a sign.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Bunyan Lkt' post down the stairs. The walk soon meets the creek and turns left, following the creek for a short distance before crossing at an opening in the shrubs around the creek. From here, the walk follows the cairns (rock stacks) across creek flats before climbing the hill to the base of a small cliff line. At one point beneath the cliff line, the walk ducks through a hole in the rock, then winds up through boulders, following more cairns. The walk continues up the hill, passing through a few more rocky outcrops to reach the informal, unfenced Bunyan Lookout, in a clearing near the cliff line.

8.98 | Bunyan Lookout

Bunyan Lookout is an large, unfenced sandstone platform overlooking the Glenbrook Creek valley. Behind the lookout, there is a small sandy clearing, big enough for a few tents. The lookout spans across Glenbrook Creek and sandstone cliffs of the valley.

8.98 | Bunyan Lookout

(570 m 10 mins) Turn sharp right: From Bunyan Lookout, the walk heads back into the clearing behind the unfenced cliff line and turns left at the cairn (if you head down into the valley, you have gone the wrong way). The walk meanders through the heath for a short time before coming to a red painted stump, on the right of the track.

9.55 | Optional sidetrip to Lost Worlds Lookout

(570 m 11 mins) Turn right: From the red stump intersection, the walk follows the 'Lost Worlds' sign up the small hill. The walk winds through the bush for a short time then crosses a rocky surface. The track then leaves the rocky surface briefly to return to a similar rock surface with a white crucifix on the edge of the cliff. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

9.55 | Lost Worlds Lookout

Lost Worlds Lookout is a cliff edge marked by a cross. The cross commemorates the Rev. Raymer who was a prominent bushwalker in the area, and has been commemorated by a plaque at Martins Lookout across the valley. The lookout views Glenbrook Creek valley below, the surrounding cliffs and down to Penrith in the west.

9.55 | Int. Bunyan Lookout Trk and Lost Worlds Trk

(3.4 km 59 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads in a southerly direction away from the red stump, keeping it behind on the right of the track. The walk winds through the bush, crossing a few sandy areas that lead to a small cairn marking the intersection, on the left of the track.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads south east along track soon leading downhill. The walk meanders through the heath for quite some time. The walk nears a cliff line on the left, which it continues near for a short time before opening out onto a rocky outcrop with a view across to houses on the opposite hill (just before the steep downhill section).

12.94 | St Helena Ridge Lookout

St Helena Ridge Lookout, does not have the clearest view or the most spectacular scenery. However, it is a great place to rest before continuing on your way.

12.94 | St Helena Ridge Lookout

(360 m 18 mins) Continue straight: From St Helena Ridge lookout, the walk

follows a very faint track initially very steeply down off the rock platform, The track initially tends a little to the left to then follow the main ridge line down. The track soon becomes much less steep (and a little clearer) when after about 100m the faint track bends right at another rocky outcrop. Here the walk leads off the side of the ridge to then wind down through the rocky outcrops and continue down through the scrub for about 180m until just before Glenbrook Creek where this walk comes to an un-signposted intersection.

13.3 | Optional sidetrip to St Helena waterfall

(160 m 3 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk heads upstream, keeping the creek on the right. The track undulates along the bank, passing a few large boulders in the creek before coming to a sandy beach at a bend in the creek.

Continue straight: From the beach, the walk heads across the sand bar (covered in reeds) to come within ear-shot of the waterfall, located behind the inlet on the creek. The walk passes through the sandy, shallow section of the creek then walks up the bank and around to the waterfall. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

13.3 | St Helenas waterfall

St Helenas waterfall is a small fall, flowing from a side creek into Glenbrook Creek. It is rather unimpressive unless there has been recent rainfall. The water cascades down a nice rock face, among the sassafras trees and mossy rocks.

13.3 | Int. Waterfall and ridge trk

(1.4 km 34 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads downstream, keeping the creek on the left. After approximately 10m, the walk comes to a bushy creek crossing and winds over the rocks and through the bushes. Following this, the walk keeps the creek on the right whilst winding downstream. The track soon arrives at an intersection, which is a sandy area with rocks and stairs leading up the hill.

Turn left: From the large boulder, this walk heads up the hill and climbs the stone steps steeply, with a number of pink ribbons marking the initial track. The track continues steeply (eroded in places) up the hill and winds its way up to the un-signposted T-intersection.

Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk heads along the mostly flat track along the side of the hill, keeping the valley to your right. Soon the track leads to another intersection at the base of more stone steps, and a rock wall (on the left) that has 'Florabella Pass' engraved in it.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads around the boulder (which is on the left) and soon meets a set of stairs, to the left of a 'Pippas Pass' sign in a tree.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Pippas Pass' sign (that is about 2m up a tree) gently downhill along the track, directly away from the rockface, keeping the main valley to your right. The track winds along the side of the hill for about 100m to then climb up a set of sandstone steps just past a shallow sandstone overhang. From here the track gently undulates along the side of the hill (with a steep valley to your right) for about 300m to lead gently down and cross the usually small creek in the shaded valley. Just after crossing this creek, the track bends left to head gently up through the valley along the base of a few natural sandstone walls for about 200m, where the the track becomes rocky and starts to climb a bit more steeply. The track then leads up through a cleft in the rock then about 60m later comes to a unsignposted three-way intersection (with the track on the left crossing the creek), marked with a smooth bark Angophera.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk crosses the sandstone platform and creek. Here the track winds gently uphill for about 40m to cross a smaller often dry creek where the track continues uphill for another 30m to pass a grafittied sandstone overhang (on your left). The track continues gently uphill and bends right to cross a sandstone rock platform and small creek to almost

immediately come to a faint intersection with a track in the tall heath. Here the walk turns left and heads uphill for for about 50m where the track then leads up some steps to come to the base of a sandstone cliff and smaller overhang. Here the track bends left and and continues along the side of the hill for another 15m to pass a larger and more grafittied sandstone overhang. From here the track continues to wind more steeply uphill for about 80m before turning left and following a wider track (away from the houses) and into the lower car park of Blaxland library just past the 'Bushcare site' information sign. Here this walk turns right to head up to the library and main car park.

14.69 | Blaxland Library Carpark

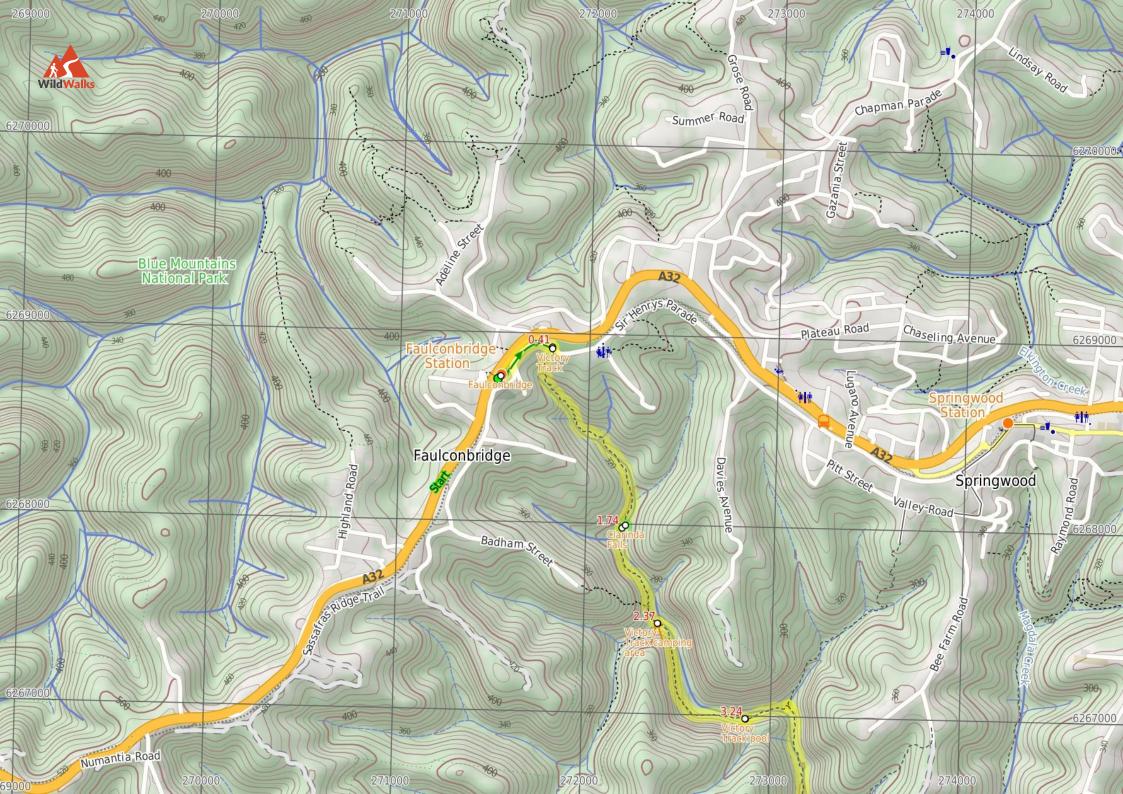
(460 m 9 mins) Turn left: From the Blaxland Library car park, this walk heads up the ramp on the side of the building then follows the back deck behind the library and community centre. On the far side of the building, this walk follows the bitumen footpath footpath uphill to turn left at the 'Blaxland Civic Centre' sign onto the footpath beside Hope St. This walk follows the footpath uphill for about 150m before turning right to cross Hope St at the traffic calming device. Here the walk bends left and crosses a car park entrance, then soon turns right into 'Station St'. Here the walk heads up the footpath to cross another car park entrance then onto the pedestrian lane way that leads between the buildings, under the foot bridge to the main footpath, just before the Great Western Highway, among the Blaxland shops.

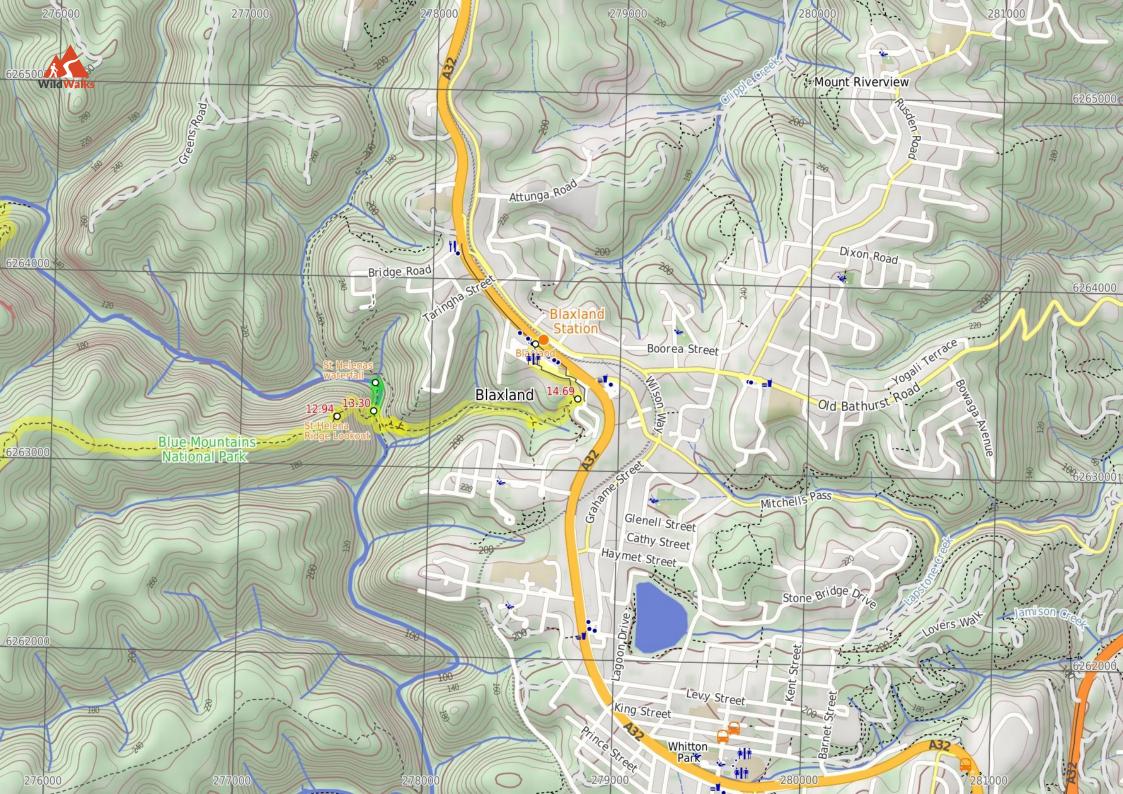
15.15 | Blaxland

Blaxland, found along the Great Western Highway, is one of the larger towns of the Lower Blue Mountains. The town has a number of shops and petrol station all lining the highway which lies between the town and train station. Wascoe was the original name of Blaxland until 1914 when it was renamed after Gregory Blaxland who was one of the explorers who found the route across the mountains for the colony. The Blaxland community hosts a number of events during the month of September. More info.

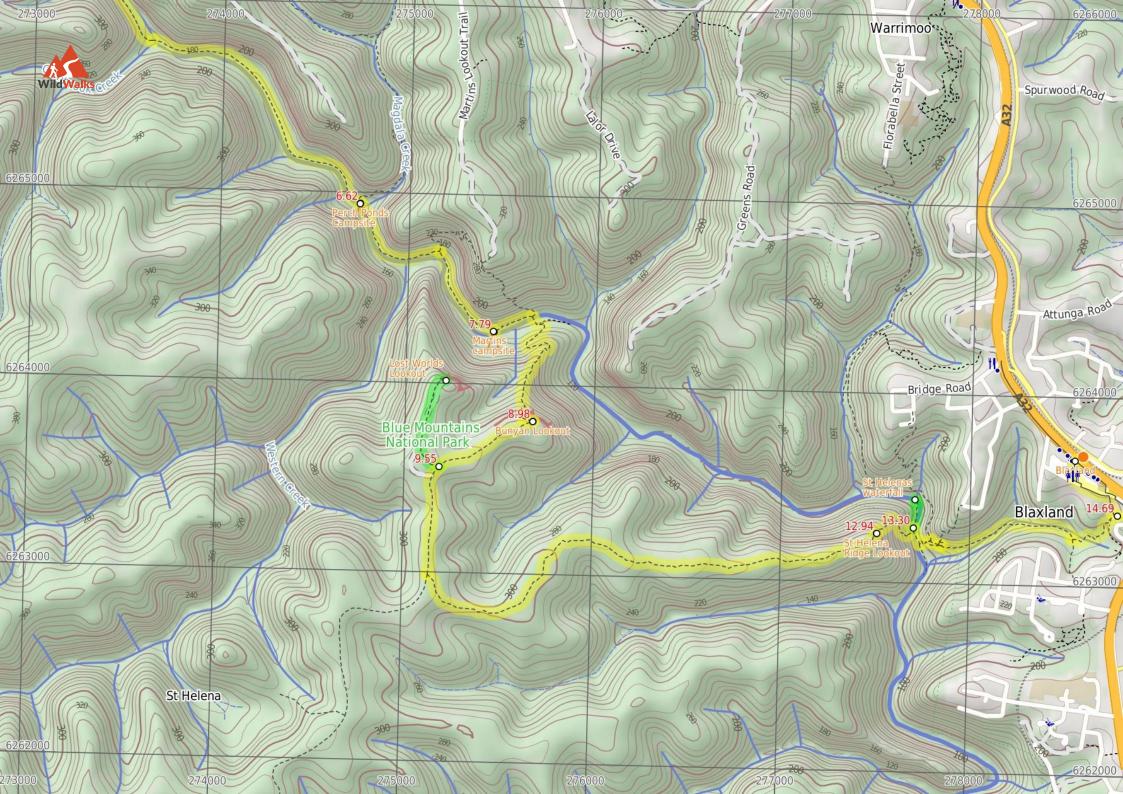
15.15 | Blaxland Shops

(70 m 1 mins) Turn left: From the footpath, the walk uses the stairs or ramp to climb onto the pedestrian bridge. The walk then crosses the bridge over the Great Western Highway and then heads down onto Blaxland Station.









Summary navigation sheet for the Faulconbridge to Blaxland

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km	From	Up/Dw	n Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail) WildWalks			
Start	Faulconbridge Station -33.6966,150.5349 (GR Springwood, 715688)	10 -16	410 m 8 mins	From the top of Faulconbridge Station, the walk heads off the station overpass to the bushland side of the station (if you come to a car park, you have gone to the wrong side of the station).			
0.41	No. 10 Sir Henrys Pde -33.6951,150.538 (GR Springwood, 718689)	15 -173	1.3 km 38 mins	Turn right: From 10 Sir Henrys Pde (bushland side), the walk follows the 'Victory Track' sign down into the bush.			
1.74	Int. Victory Trk and Clarinda Falls -33.7038,150.5419 (GR Springwood, 722680)	1 -4	30 m 1 mins	Optional sidetrip to Clarinda Falls. Turn left: From the intersection, the track follows the 'Clarinda Falls' sign towards the log fallen on the rock.			
1.74	Int. Victory Trk and Clarinda Falls -33.7037,150.5419 (GR Springwood, 722680)	23 -72	630 m 18 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Sassafras Gully' sign down the hill.			
2.37	Victory Trk camping area -33.7083,150.544 (GR Springwood, 724675)	61 -78	880 m 24 mins	Continue straight: From the campground clearing, the walk follows the creek, keeping it to the left.			
3.24	Victory Trk pool -33.7129,150.549 (GR Springwood, 729670)	85 -165	3.4 km 1 hr 11 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads down the valley, keeping the creek on the left.			
6.62	Perch Ponds camping area -33.7317,150.5686 (GR Springwood, 747649)	51 -67	1.2 km 27 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the direction of the 'Martins Lookout' sign across the campground clearing to an arrow bolted to a tree.			
7.79	End of day 1 -33.7378,150.5762 (GR Springwood, 755643)	0 0	0 m	This is the planned overnight stay for the end of day 1, happy camping.			
7.79	Martins camping area -33.7378,150.5762 (GR Springwood, 755643)	235 -39	1.2 km 44 mins	Turn left: From the fireplace, the walk heads along the creek bank, keeping the creek near and on the right.			
8.98	Bunyan Lookout -33.7421,150.5785 (GR Springwood, 757638)	18 -7	570 m 10 mins	Turn sharp right: From Bunyan Lookout, the walk heads back into the clearing behind the unfenced cliff line and turns left at the cairn (if you head down into the valley, you have gone the wrong way).			
9.55	Int. Bunyan Lookout Trk and Lost Worlds Trk -33.7442,150.5731 (GR Springwood, 752636)	20 -13	570 m 11 mins	Optional sidetrip to Lost Worlds Lookout. Turn right: From the red stump intersection, the walk follows the 'Lost Worlds' sign up the small hill.			
9.55	Int. Bunyan Lookout Trk and Lost Worlds Trk -33.7442,150.5731 (GR Springwood, 752636)	13 -132	3.4 km 59 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads in a southerly direction away from the red stump, keeping it behind on the right of the track.			
12.94	St Helena Ridge Lookout -33.7474,150.5981 (GR Springwood, 775633)	4 -122	360 m 18 mins	Continue straight: From St Helena Ridge lookout, the walk follows a very faint track initially very steeply down off the rock platform, The track initially tends a little to the left to then follow the main ridge li			
13.30	Int. Waterfall and ridge trk -33.7472,150.6002 (GR Springwood, 777633)	4 -6	160 m 3 mins	Optional sidetrip to St Helena waterfall. Veer left: From the intersection, the walk heads upstream, keeping the creek on the right.			
13.30	Int. Waterfall and ridge trk -33.7472,150.6002 (GR Springwood, 777633)	150 -28	1.4 km 34 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads downstream, keeping the creek on the left.			
14.69	Blaxland Library Carpark -33.7466,150.6118 (GR Springwood, 788634)	28 -9	460 m 9 mins	Turn left: From the Blaxland Library car park, this walk heads up the ramp on the side of the building then follows the back deck behind the library and community centre.			
15.15	Blaxland Shops -33.744,150.6094 (GR Springwood, 786637)	0	70 m 1 mins	Turn left: From the footpath, the walk uses the stairs or ramp to climb onto the pedestrian bridge.			