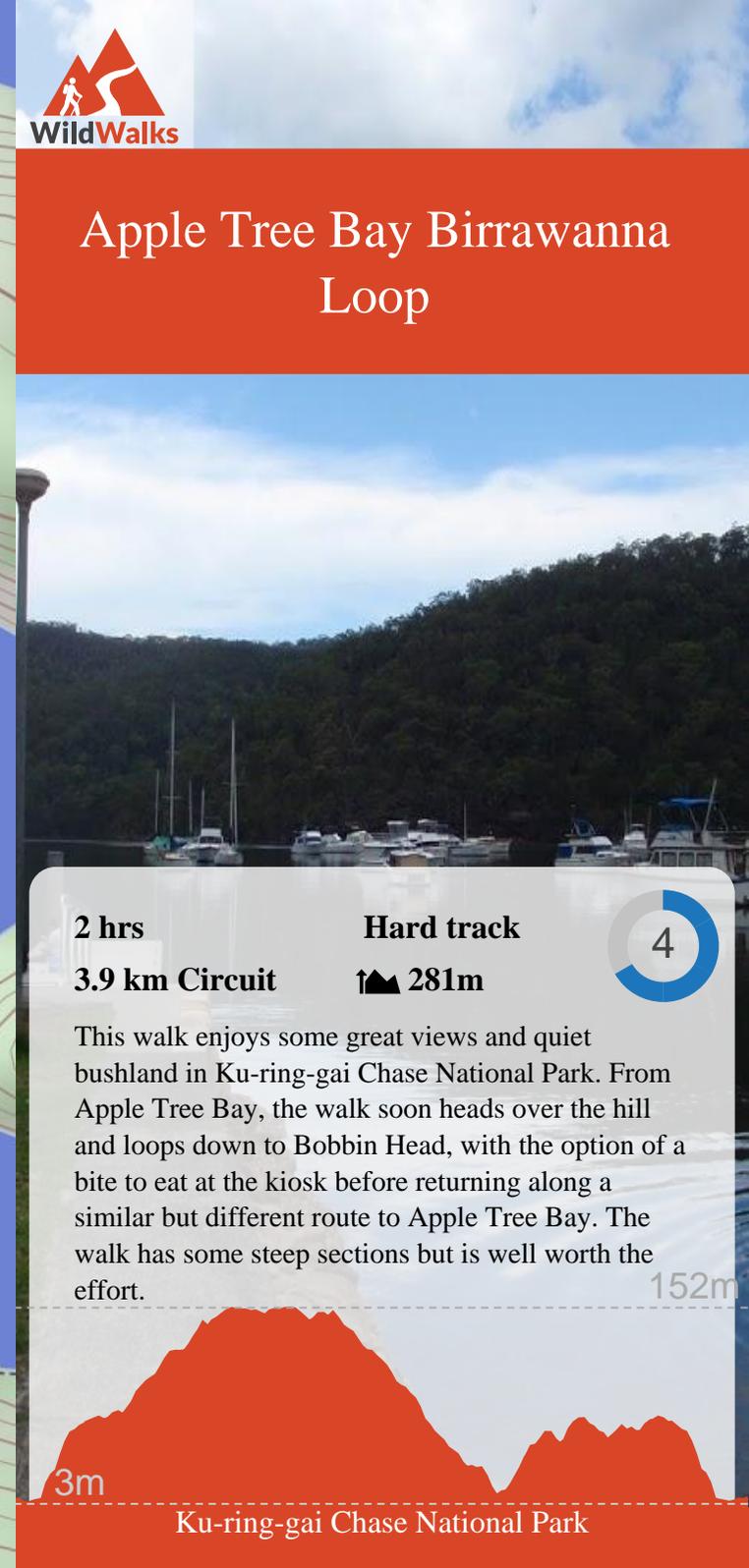
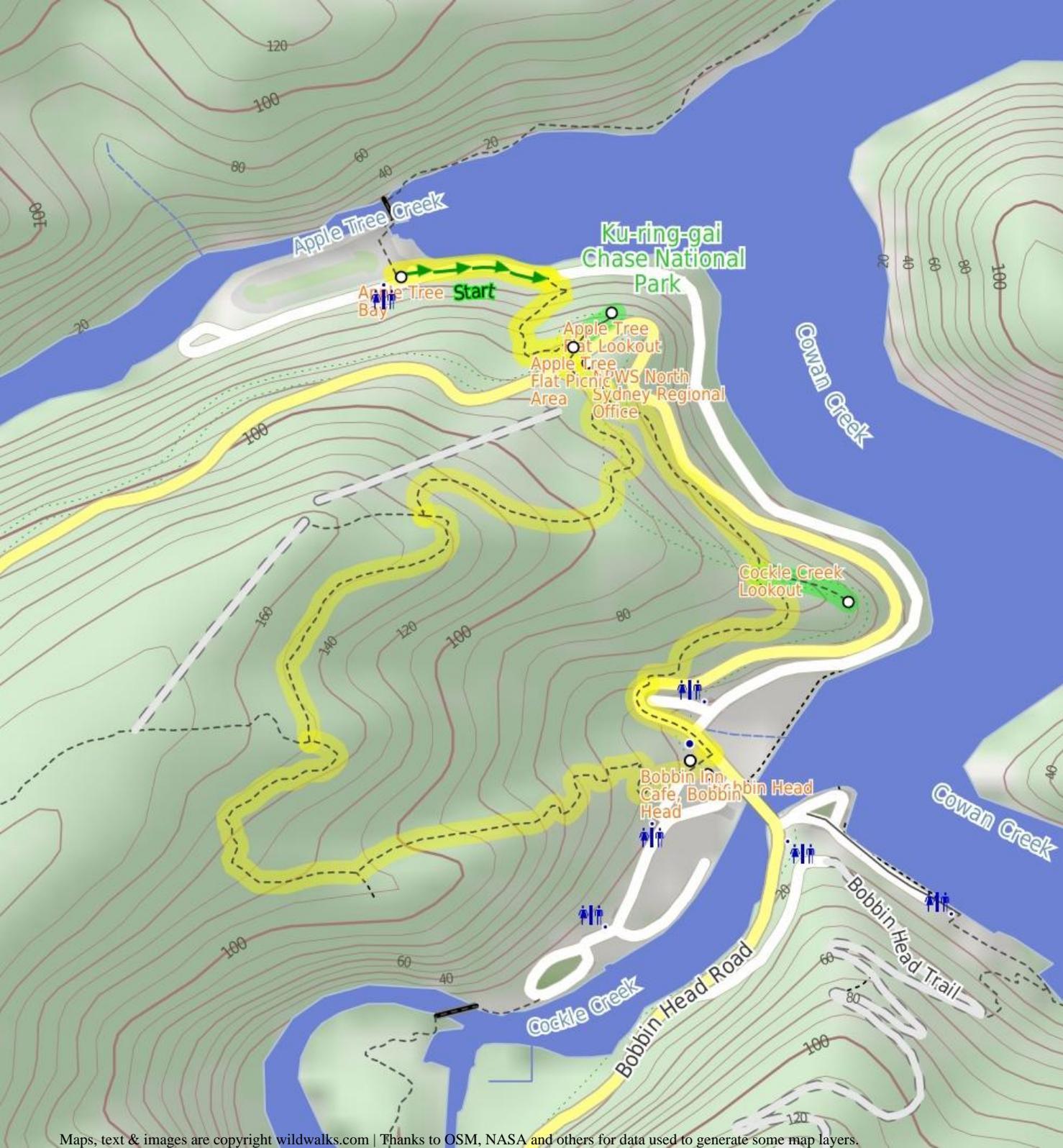


# Apple Tree Bay Birrawanna Loop



**2 hrs**

**3.9 km Circuit**

**Hard track**

**↑ 281m**



This walk enjoys some great views and quiet bushland in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. From Apple Tree Bay, the walk soon heads over the hill and loops down to Bobbin Head, with the option of a bite to eat at the kiosk before returning along a similar but different route to Apple Tree Bay. The walk has some steep sections but is well worth the effort.



Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

## Apple Tree Bay

Apple Tree Bay, in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase national park, has a popular boat ramp for accessing Cowan creek and plenty of parking. The area has kiosk, electric BBQ's, picnic benches, toilets, drinking water, garbage facilities, and shade provided by trees. If you are after a quiet spot, head to the western end (away from the boat ramp, past the BBQ's), just beyond the car park, to a lovely clearing by the water. The area is closed between sunset and sunrise. The kiosk/cafe is open on weekend and services hot and cold drinks, ice creams and some hot food.

## Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area

Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area is opposite the NPWS North Sydney Regional office on Bobbin Head Rd, in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase national park. The small picnic area should not be confused with the more popular Apple Tree Bay Picnic Area and boat ramp further down the hill. The picnic area provides three bench platforms for sitting and dining. There is also a small, open grassy area and some large trees providing shade.

## Apple Tree Flat Lookout

Apple Tree Flat Lookout is a small fenced lookout high up the hill overlooking Apple Tree Bay and Cowan creek. The view is filtered through the tall gum trees. Being perched on a rock platform, the views are great. The lookout is not far from Bobbin Head Rd, near the NPWS North Sydney Regional Office, in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park.

## NPWS North Sydney Regional Office

The NPWS North Sydney Regional Office is a lovely stone building on Bobbin Head Road at one of the trackheads for Birrawanna loop track. There is a car park and an open grassy area. On the opposite side of the road is the Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area with a few picnic tables. Other than this, there are no public facilities.

## Bobbin Inn Cafe

At the centre of Bobbin Head picnic area, in the old 'Bobbin Inn' building, is a cafe offering inside and outdoor dining, and a range of foods and drinks. Food includes fish and chips, wraps, focaccia, sandwiches and snack foods. Tea, coffee and cold drinks are also on offer. Opening hours are 9 - 4pm Mon to Fri (closed Tuesdays) & 9 - 5pm weekends. For more information, phone the cafe on 9457 7170. The NPWS Bobbin Head Information Centre is open 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day) 10 - 4pm (closed 12 - 12:30pm lunch). Ramp access available via on the southwestern corner of the building. Ramp access to the information centre through the cafe.

## 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 enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Metropolitan District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Ku-ring-gai Chase 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.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

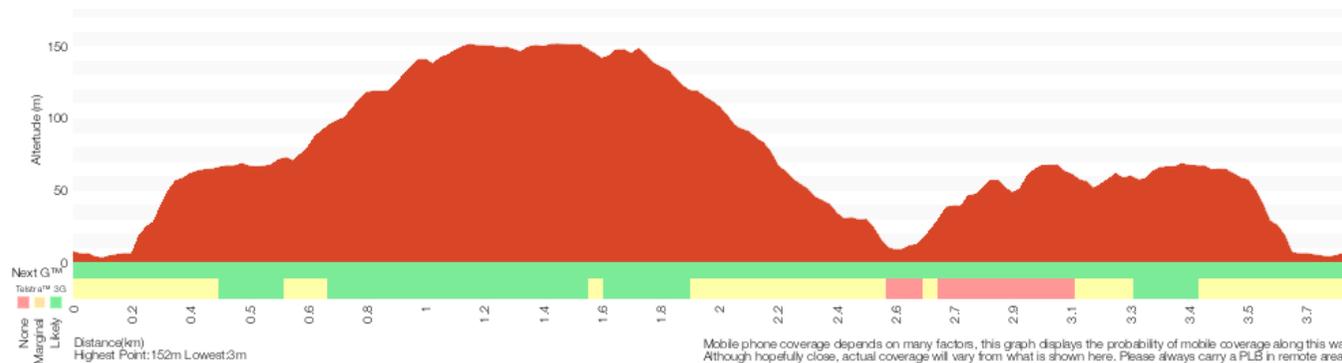
## Topo Maps

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:**91304S HORNSBY

**1:40 000 Map Series:**CMA Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Tourist Map

**1:100 000 Map Series:**9130 SYDNEY



## Grade

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



Grade 4/6  
Hard track

<b>Length</b>	3.9 km Circuit
<b>Time</b>	2 hrs
<b>Quality of track</b>	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)

### 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 walk 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.

**Getting there** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Apple Tree Bay Kiosk (gps: -33.6526, 151.1554). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.it/atbb>

#### 0 | Apple Tree Bay

Apple Tree Bay, in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase national park, has a popular boat ramp for accessing Cowan creek and plenty of parking. The area has kiosk, electric BBQ's, picnic benches, toilets, drinking water, garbage facilities, and shade provided by trees. If you are after a quiet spot, head to the western end (away from the boat ramp, past the BBQ's), just beyond the car park, to a lovely clearing by the water. The area is closed between sunset and sunrise. The kiosk/cafe is open on weekend and services hot and cold drinks, ice creams and some hot food.

#### 0 | Apple Tree Bay Kiosk

(170 m 3 mins) From the Kiosk and 'Welcome to Apple Tree Bay' sign, this walk follows the road out of the car park and gently uphill keeping the water down to your left. After about 150m the road leads past a footpath (to a small gated marina, on your left) to continue up the road for another 30m to find the intersection with the signposted 'Regional Office' track (on your right).

#### 0.17 | Int of Apple Tree Bay Road and Apple Tree Flat bus

(230 m 7 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Regional Office' sign uphill along the rocky track, beside the road. After just over 30m the track leads through a sharp right hand hair pin bend where the track then winds up the side of a gully for about 200m to find a 'HH' AND NPWS arrow post. Here the walk ignores the faint track (on the right) and continues on up the clear track for another 30m to come to a T-intersection, at the signposted 'Apple Tree flat' picnic area

#### 0.4 | Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area

Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area is opposite the NPWS North Sydney Regional office on Bobbin Head Rd, in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase national park. The small picnic area should not be confused with the more popular Apple Tree Bay Picnic Area and boat ramp further down the hill. The picnic area provides three bench platforms for sitting and dining. There is also a small, open grassy area and some large trees providing shade.

#### 0.4 | Optional sidetrip to Apple Tree Flat Lookout

(70 m 2 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads behind the 'Apple Tree Flat' sign to follow the flat gravel path, past the picnic tables. After about 30m this walk heads down a few stone steps then just 30m later the path comes to a to the fenced Lookout and views over Cowan Creek. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

#### 0.4 | Apple Tree Flat Lookout

Apple Tree Flat Lookout is a small fenced lookout high up the hill overlooking Apple Tree Bay and Cowan creek. The view is filtered through

the tall gum trees. Being perched on a rock platform, the views are great. The lookout is not far from Bobbin Head Rd, near the NPWS North Sydney Regional Office, in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park.

#### 0.4 | Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area

(40 m 1 mins) Turn right: From 'Apple Tree Flat' picnic area, this walk follows the clear path towards the road and up a few stone steps. The track leads up to a small clearing to the cross Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Rd, veering a little to the right to enter the car park beside the National Parks Regional Office.

#### 0.44 | NPWS North Sydney Regional Office

The NPWS North Sydney Regional Office is a lovely stone building on Bobbin Head Road at one of the trackheads for Birrawanna loop track. There is a car park and an open grassy area. On the opposite side of the road is the Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area with a few picnic tables. Other than this, there are no public facilities.

#### 0.44 | National Parks Regional Office

(2.1 km 54 mins) Veer left: From the driveway entrance to the NPWS Regional Office, this walk heads across the car park, keeping the office building to your left. This walk then leads gently downhill across the grassy clearing behind the office building following the 'Birrawanna Track' sign a short distance to a clear Y-intersection, marked with a 'Birrawanna Loop Track' sign and map.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Kalkari' arrow along the track which climbs up the ridge. The track winds steeply up the long, rocky hill until it climbs up through a cleft in a rock, then flattens out. A short distance later, the track again starts to climb up the ridge, winding up a long set of wooden steps. The track then flattens again and comes to an intersection and a sign pointing back towards 'Regional Office'.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bobbin Head' arrow along the track, winding down and along the side of the hill, keeping the valley to the left. After a while, the track comes to an intersection with the Birrawanna track, and a sign pointing back towards 'Regional Office'.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bobbin Head' sign east and gently down through the tall wooded forest. After about 400m this track passes between two piles of disused sandstone blocks then about 30m later leads past an intersection with an informal track in a casuarina forest (on your right). The main track continues straight, gently downhill for 80m where this walk almost completely flattens out for about 100m. The track then begins to wind down a series of timber and stone steps for about 300m to find a flat sandstone rock platform beside a large angophora with filtered views over Cowan Creek. From here the rocky track bends right and heads downhill for another 30m to pass through a tunnel formed under a sandstone overhang, then about 30m further downhill this walk follows a metal handrail down some steps. Here the track then zig-zags downhill for about 60m before heading down some sandstone stairs, where the track comes to the edge of the Bobbin Head clearing, marked with a 'Welcome to the Birrawanna Track' sign. This walk now veers left and follows the brick paved footpath, to come to the now visible 'Bobbin Inn' cafe, just before Ku-ring-gai Chase Rd.

#### 2.56 | Bobbin Inn Cafe

At the centre of Bobbin Head picnic area, in the old 'Bobbin Inn' building, is a cafe offering inside and outdoor dining, and a range of foods and drinks. Food includes fish and chips, wraps, focaccia, sandwiches and snack foods. Tea, coffee and cold drinks are also on offer. Opening hours are 9 - 4pm Mon to Fri (closed Tuesdays) & 9 - 5pm weekends. For more information, phone the cafe on 9457 7170. The NPWS Bobbin Head Information Centre is open 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day) 10 - 4pm (closed 12 - 12:30pm lunch). Ramp access available via on the southwestern corner of the building. Ramp

access to the information centre through the cafe.

#### 2.56 | Bobbin Inn Cafe

At the centre of Bobbin Head picnic area, in the old 'Bobbin Inn' building, is a cafe offering inside and outdoor dining, and a range of foods and drinks. Food includes fish and chips, wraps, focaccia, sandwiches and snack foods. Tea, coffee and cold drinks are also on offer. Opening hours are 9 - 4pm Mon to Fri (closed Tuesdays) & 9 - 5pm weekends. For more information, phone the cafe on 9457 7170. The NPWS Bobbin Head Information Centre is open 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day) 10 - 4pm (closed 12 - 12:30pm lunch). Ramp access available via on the southwestern corner of the building. Ramp access to the information centre through the cafe.

#### 2.56 | Bobbin Head

Bobbin Head is a historic recreation area which is still popular today, suiting the needs of many people. At the center of the Bobbin Head area is the old "Bobbin Inn", built in the 1930s - it is now the park information center and cafe. The area is popular with picnickers, boaters, walkers, canoeists, family groups and people who like to fish. Bobbin Head is roughly divided into three sections (north, south and east). Southern Bobbin Head is a popular picnic area for families and large groups. The area is surrounded by a car park and dotted with picnic tables, electric BBQs, shelters and a large playground. There are toilets nearby, and 'The Station' is a sheltered accessible area with BBQ and tables that can be booked NPWS. The northern Bobbin Head (Orchard Park) area is a more formal picnic area. There is a large picnic shelter, surrounded by 14 smaller octagonal shelters, each of these divided into 4 walled-off compartments, ideal for small groups. The eastern side of Bobbin head is dominated by the Empire Marina and public wharf. The marina is home to a nice restaurant and public toilets.

#### 2.56 | Bobbin Inn Cafe

(450 m 11 mins) Turn left: From the 'Bobbin Inn' cafe, this walk heads to the front of the building to the 'Information Centre' main entrance. From here this walk follows the 'Birrawanna Loop Track' alongside the road a few meters to find a metal 'Welcome to the Cockle Creek Lookout Track' sign and map. Now the walk follows the track behind the safety barrier (keeping the road to your right) for about 70m to cross a small culverted creek and pass a few old a couple of picnic tables in a shaded and mossy gully. This walk continues for another 30m behind the safety barrier to come to the bottom of the signposted 'Birrawanna Track' steps.

Veer left: From beside Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Road, this walk heads down a few steps to cross a small flat concrete bridge, to then follow the 'Birrawanna Track' sign up the timber steps. This walk leads quite steeply up the track as it zig-zags up a series of timber and rock steps for just over 300m to find the top of small rocky ridge. Here the walk leads down a series of timber steps for about 50m to cross a moist gully that is home to a disused telegraph pole. Now this walk follows the clear rocky track leads uphill for just shy of 200m to come to a faint intersection at the top of the ridge (where the lookout track is on your right).

#### 3.01 | Optional sidetrip to Cockle Creek Lookout

(110 m 3 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the rocky track, east along the top of the ridgeline towards the rocky outcrop. After about 50m this walk passes through a gap between two large rock outcrops, then around another rock to wind gently down the hill for just shy of 50m to come to an unfenced rock ledge overlooking Cockle Creek. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

#### 3.01 | Cockle Creek Lookout

Cockle Creek Lookout is an informal lookout with no facilities, on the Birrawanna track in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park. The lookout provides

Glimpses of Cockle and Cowan Creeks. The area is surrounded by some beautiful gum trees and rock boulders, making it a nice place to sit and reflect on the surroundings.

### 3.01 | Int of Birrawana and Cockle Creek Lookout tracks

*(690 m 18 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north gently down hill for a few meters to follow an NPWS arrow post along the clear track. After just shy of 100m this track bends left to then gently undulate along the side of the hill (with the road down to your right) for about 300m. Here the track mostly flattens out and contours around the side of the hill for about 150m to then lead up a very gently hill to a signposted three way intersection. The intersection is beside a small clearing behind the regional office (on your right) and is marked with a 'Cockle Creek Lookout' and 'Bobbin Head' sign pointing back along the track.

**Veer right:** From the intersection, the walk head gently uphill across the grassy clearing, veering left a little to head across the car park and come the the driveway entrance of the sandstone National Parks Regional Office building.

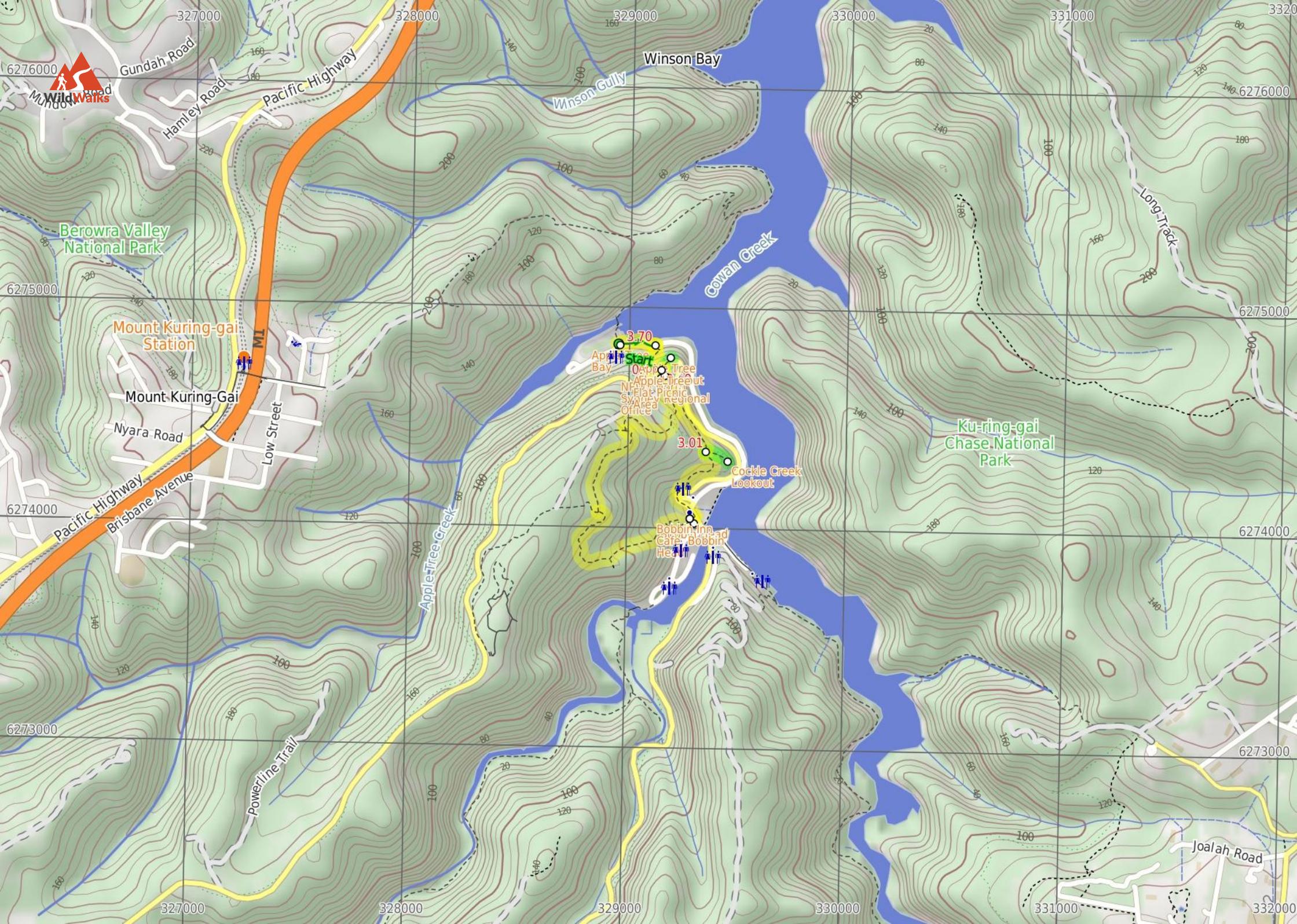
**Veer right:** From the the NPWS Regional office, this walk heads out of the car park and crosses Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Road, veering right to find a small clearing on the other side. From the clearing, the walk heads down some stone steps to almost immediately come to an intercession marked with an 'Apple Tree Flat' sign just beside the picnic area.

**Turn left :** From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Apple Tree Bay' sign downhill along the clear track. The track soon bends left then after 30m veers right at a faint intersection to follow the 'HH' AND NPWS arrow post further downhill. The track the winds down the side of a gully for about 200m to pass through a sharp left hand hair pin bend. Here the walk continues downhill for just over 30m to an intersection with the sealed Apple Tree Bay road where a 'Regional Office' sign points back up the hill.

### 3.7 | Int of Apple Tree Bay Road and Harbour to Hawkesbu

*(170 m 3 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection at the bottom of the signposted 'Regional Office' track, this walk follows the sealed road gently downhill keeping the water and main valley to your right. After about 30m the road leads past a footpath (to a small gated marina, on your right) to continue down the road for 150m to the Apple Tree Bay car park. Just across from the entrance this walk comes to a Kiosk and 'Welcome to Apple Tree Bay' sign.





Berowra Valley National Park

Mount Kuring-gai Station

Winson Bay

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

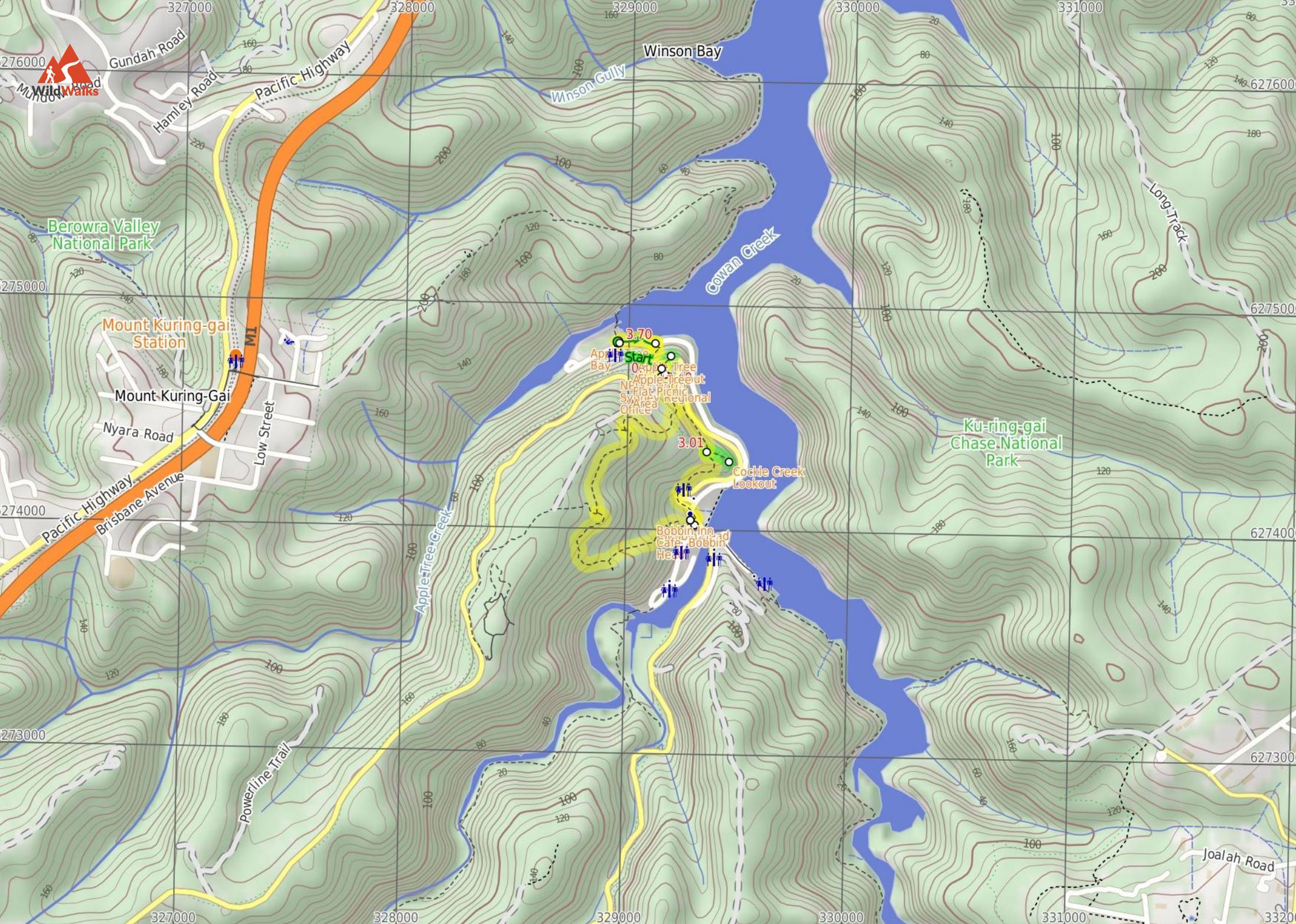
Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area Regional Office

Cockle Creek Lookout

Bobbin Inn and Care, Bobbin Head

Powerline Trail

Joalah Road



## Summary navigation sheet for the Apple Tree Bay Birrawanna Loop



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Apple Tree Bay Kiosk -33.6526,151.1554 (GR Hornsby, 290748)	3 -4	170 m 3 mins	From the Kiosk and 'Welcome to Apple Tree Bay' sign, this walk follows the road out of the car park and gently uphill keeping the water down to your left.
0.17	Int of Apple Tree Bay Road and Apple Tree Flat bushtrack. -33.6527,151.1572 (GR Hornsby, 291748)	60 -1	230 m 7 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Regional Office' sign uphill along the rocky track, beside the road.
0.40	Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area -33.6537,151.1575 (GR Hornsby, 292747)	0 -12	70 m 2 mins	Optional sidetrip to Apple Tree Flat Lookout. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads behind the 'Apple Tree Flat' sign to follow the flat gravel path, past the picnic tables.
0.40	Apple Tree Flat Picnic Area -33.6537,151.1575 (GR Hornsby, 292747)	3 0	40 m 1 mins	Turn right: From 'Apple Tree Flat' picnic area, this walk follows the clear path towards the road and up a few stone steps.
0.44	National Parks Regional Office -33.654,151.1575 (GR Hornsby, 291747)	116 -173	2.1 km 54 mins	Veer left: From the driveway entrance to the NPWS Regional Office, this walk heads across the car park, keeping the office building to your left.
2.56	Bobbin Inn Cafe -33.6597,151.1591 (GR Hornsby, 293741)	68 -10	450 m 11 mins	Turn left: From the 'Bobbin Inn' cafe, this walk heads to the front of the building to the 'Information Centre' main entrance.
3.01	Int of Birrawana and Cockle Creek Lookout tracks -33.6571,151.1597 (GR Hornsby, 294743)	1 -15	110 m 3 mins	Optional sidetrip to Cockle Creek Lookout. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the rocky track, east along the top of the ridgeline towards the rocky outcrop.
3.01	Int of Birrawana and Cockle Creek Lookout tracks -33.6571,151.1597 (GR Hornsby, 294743)	27 -90	690 m 18 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north gently down hill for a few meters to follow an NPWS arrow post along the clear track.
3.70	Int of Apple Tree Bay Road and Harbour to Hawkesbury Track -33.6527,151.1572 (GR Hornsby, 291748)	4 -3	170 m 3 mins	Turn left: From the intersection at the bottom of the signposted 'Regional Office' track, this walk follows the sealed road gently downhill keeping the water and main valley to your right.