This long day walk follows the Lane Cove River and Berowra Creek. The walk mostly follows the iconic Great North Walk, keeping mostly to bushland. With a train station at each end and a chance to fill the tummy at Thornleigh, this is an enjoyable day out.
**Big Ducky Waterhole**
The servicetrail loops around the top of the Big Ducky waterhole and there is a nice rock overhang in which to break. Is also a popular bird watching area. Unfortunately, recently there has been large quantities of rubbish in the area. (If going down to the waterhole please consider carrying out some of the rubbish if every walker carries out a bit it will make a difference)

**Whale Rock**
This is a large boulder that looks eerily like a whale, complete with eye socket. It is a good place to break and climb around the Rock.

**Conscript Pass**
Conscript Pass is a small sandstone pass between the Lane Cove River and Thornleigh, on the Great North Walk. During the 1930s, some stone steps were built through a cleft in the rock as part of a public works program, in response to the depression. The pass has two main engravings. Firstly 'Conscript Pass' is followed with a downwards pointing arrow and a series of initials and numbers. On another wall (that you face when walking up) is engraved 'B Stevens' followed a surprisingly good caricature of the then Premier of NSW, Bertram Stevens. Stevens (later knighted) replaced Jack Lang in 1932 as Premier of NSW, when Lang was dismissed by the Governor (just two months Lang after opening the Sydney Harbour Bridge).

**Thornleigh Oval**
Thornleigh Oval is found at the intersection of Handley and Ferguson Avenues, Thornleigh. There is a large playing field, tap water, public toilets and some shelter in the awning of the club house. The oval has a car park, and a number to signs for the Great North walk and other local tracks.

**Thornleigh zigzag railway**
The Thornleigh zigzag railway originally ran from the main rail line near Thornleigh to an historic quarry, near present day De Saxe Cl, Thornleigh. There are only minor fragments still visible today. The 'Heritage Trail' in Thornleigh has interpretive signs for the railway and the old Thornleigh Quarry. A book is available with some detail on railway and associated quarry: 'Sydney's Forgotten Quarry Railways' by John Oakes, ISBN 0 9757870 3 9

**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 (Berowra Valley National Park, Lane Cove 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 HORNBSY, 91303N PARRAMATTA RIVER
1:100 000 Map Series: 9130 SYDNEY

![Topo Map](image)

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**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

- **Length**: 17.6 km One way
- **Time**: 6 hrs 45 mins
- **Quality of track**: Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
- **Signs**: Directional signs along the way (3/6)
- **Experience Required**: Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
- **Weather**: Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
- **Infrastructure**: Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)

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Mobile phone coverage depends on many factors, this graph displays the probability of mobile coverage along this walk. Although hopefully correct, actual coverage will vary from what is shown here. Please always carry a PLB in remote areas.
The walk exits Epping Station on the Oxford St side. Continue straight: From the western (north bound) side of the station this walk follows the pavement all the way to Whale Rock.

You can get back from Hornsby Train Station (gps: -33.7035, 151.098) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available. You can get back from Hornsby Train Station (gps: -33.7035, 151.098) by car, train or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information including: travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at http://wild.tlefnts

0 | Epping Station
(940 m 18 mins) The walk exits Epping Station on the Oxford St side. The walk then crosses Cambridge St and continues down Oxford St. The walk follows the footpath past the shops down Oxford St passing Chester St, Surrey St. Just after Surry St the walk turns left onto Derby St to the end. Nearing the end of Derby St the walk tends left around the yellow gate and onto the concrete driveway which veers left off the road. The walk continues towards the tunnel to come to an intersection just before the tunnel entrance.

0.94 | Int of Derby street service trail
(1.5 km 25 mins) Veer right: From the intersection this walk follows the Great North Walk arrow up the couple of steps then down along the footpath through the tunnel under the M2 (keeping the creek and wider management trail to your left). Out of the tunnel this walk follows as it winds up and around the fenced sewage vent and then continues through the dense bushland in the gully passing sign marking the entrance to Lane Cove National Park. A little while later the track leads to a signposted intersection where the service trail which narrows into a bus/trash and follows Devlin creek through the gully all the way along until it widens out into a rocky service trail again and comes to the intersection of the Cheltenham service trail.

2.43 | Int of Epping Trk and Malton Rd Trail
(190 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows the Lane Cove River service trail for a while before it loops around the top of Big Ducky Waterhole.

2.61 | Big Ducky Waterhole
(480 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the top of Big Ducky Waterhole the service track loops around the top of the Big Ducky waterhole and there is a nice rock overhang in which to break. It is also a popular bird watching area. Unfortunately, recently there has been large quantities of rubbish in the area. (going down to the waterhole please consider carrying out some of the rubbish if every walker carries out a bit it will make a difference)

2.61 | Big Ducky Waterhole
(480 m 5 mins) Continue straight: From the top of Big Ducky Waterhole the service trail continues through the valley keeping Devlins Creek below on the left of the track all the way to Whale Rock.

3.09 | Whale Rock
(3.3 km 1 hr 3 mins) Continue straight: From Whale Rock the track follows the Penant Hills Park arrow along the service trail as it winds through the valley, crossing several small concrete creek crossings until it comes to the signposted intersection of the Pennant Hills ovals service trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection the track follows the Thornleigh via Great North Walk arrow down the short but steep hill and across the river at the causeway. On the other side of the river the track comes up to the intersection of the Great North Walk service trail.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Thornleigh Station sign past the 'Lane Cove Valley' map/sign, initially keeping the other trail and river to your left. The track follows the valley floor, keeping the river just to your left, for a bit over 500m, to then cross the Lane Cove River at a rocky ford. This crossing may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain. On the other side of the river, this walk continues along the trail for about 400m (with the river now close by on your right) to come to an intersection with a faint track (on your left, that leads up towards Pennant Hills Park).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail, keeping the river just to your right. After about 60m, the trail bends right and crosses the Lane Cove River at a rocky ford, then continues along the valley floor among the fern trees (and concrete pipe access points) for about 900m to cross the Lane Cove River again at another rocky ford. (These crossings may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain). The trail then continues along the valley floor (with the river now on your left) for just over 150m to come to an intersection at the bottom of the sealed Morona Ave trail (on your right), marked with a 'Lane Cove Valley' map/sign and a GNW arrow post.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post along the valley floor, away from the two trails, keeping the river just to your left. The track soon narrows, leading past a water depth indicator, and becomes rocky above (about 150m). The track continues across the continental shelf (damaged at time of writing). The track bends sharply right and zigzags up the rocky hill for another 30m, before bending sharply left to find the 'Conscript Pass' and 'B Stevens' engravings (at the third metal hand rail).

6.39 | Conscript Pass
Conscript Pass is a small sandstone pass between the Lane Cove River and Thornleigh, on the Great North Walk. During the 1930s, some stone steps were built a cleft in the rock as part of a public works program, in response to the depression. The pass has main engraved 'Conscript Pass' is followed with a downwards pointing arrow and a series of initials and numbers. On another wall (that you face when walking up) is engraved 'B Stevens' followed a surprisingly good caricature of the then Prime Minister, NSW, Burtram Stevens. In 1932, Premier Jack Lang in 1932 as Premier of NSW, when Lang was dismissed by the Governor (just two months Lang after opening the Sydney Harbour Bridge).

6.39 | Conscript Pass
(100 m 3 mins) Continue straight: From 'Conscript Pass', this walk heads up the stone steps through the cleft in the rock to follow the track and more stone steps uphill for about 100m, coming to a T-intersection with Lorna Pass track, marked with a GNW arrow post.

6.49 | Int of the GNW and Lorna Pass tracks
(580 m 14 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Thornleigh Station' sign uphill along the rocky track, keeping the valley to your left. The track leads up a series of timber steps for about 230m, becoming steep as they go, to come to a clear T-intersection signposted with a large 'The Great North Walk' sign, and a stone 'Lorna Pass' arrow pointing back down the track.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post and 'Thornleigh Station' sign uphill along the rocky track, passing over 150m, the track bends left (ignoring a faint track on your right) and heads uphill for another 40m to come to the back (south-east corner) of Thornleigh Oval, marked with a 'Lane Cove National Park' signpost.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post along the fence line around the oval, keeping the oval to your left. After about 100m, this walk passes in front of the clubhouse (there are toilets and a water tap on your right) to pass a 'Great North Walk' sign and come to the corner of 'Handley' and 'Ferguson' Avenues in front of the 'Thornleigh Oval' sign.

7.07 | Thornleigh Oval
The Oval is found at the intersection of Handley and Ferguson Avenues, Thornleigh. There is a large playing field, tap water, public toilets and some shelter in the awning of the club house. The oval has a car park, and a number of gates for the Great North walk and other local tracks.

7.07 | Int of Handley and Ferguson Avenues
(980 m 14 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thornleigh Station' sign across the road to follow the footpath beside 'Handley Ave'. After about 130m, this walk crosses Clifford St then after about 250m, crosses 'Orchard St' to follow 'Station St' almost directly ahead. About 190m along 'Station St', this walk continues straight across 'Wood St' (you can get to Parkway Plaza if you turn right here) and continues for just over 200m to find a footbridge beside Pennant Hills Rd. Here the walk heads up the ramp and crosses over the busy road then down the ramp (or steps) to find the intersection with Railway Parade.

7.88 | Zacs Great Food
(0 m ) This restaurant can be found on Pennant Hills road just a stones throw from the station. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a continental menu ranging from about $20. for a meal. The opening hours are from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm from Tuesdays to Saturdays, and closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information on bookings call (02) 9484 6799.

7.88 | Subway
(0 m ) This branch of the popular sandwich chain Subway, who make a variety of subs and sandwiches as you order them. For more details contact the store on (02) 9481 4200 or visit at Shop 2, 291 Pennant Hills Rd, Thornleigh, NSW 2120. More info.

7.88 | Int of Railway Parade and Pennant Hills Road over
(110 m 2 mins) Veer left: From the base of the steps, this walk follows the GNW arrow across Railway Pde, heading towards the train line. At the fence, this walk veers left and leads along the pedestrian alley for about 60m before turning right and climbing up the railway bridge steps, coming to the 'Thornleigh Train Station'.

7.99 | Thornleigh Train Station
(990 m 18 mins) Continue straight: From the western (north bound) side of Thornleigh Station, this walk follows the 'Jungo Rest Area' sign along the footpath towards the car park and The Esplanade towards the train line. Then, continue straight along the footpath down along Eddy Rd. Following a couple of GNW arrows down Eddy Rd as it then bends left, turning into Tilos Rd later this walk then bends right into Morgan St. Continuing down till just before the end of this street, this walk comes to an intersection marked with a GNW arrow and the 'Elouera Bushland Natural Park.'
Turn right: From the end of Morgan Street, the walk follows the 'Jungo' sign down a hill along the wide concrete trail, and soon crosses a mossy gully on a large flat rock. The track then continues in a similar manner for another 700m, before crossing a side creek on a timber bridge. The track then continues gently uphill, becoming dirt as it starts to flatten out. This walk then comes to a signposted intersection of the 'Great North Walk' and the Stringybark Ridge management trail (signposted 'Cherrybrook Lakes' trail).

10.88 | Int of GNW and Stringybark Ridge trail (1 km 27 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign down the narrow track, keeping the gully to your right. The track then continues in a similar manner for another 250m, before crossing a side creek on a flat timber bridge. The track then continues gently uphill, becoming dirt as it starts to flatten out. This walk then comes to a signposted intersection of the 'Great North Walk' and the Stringybark Ridge management trail (signposted 'Cherrybrook Lakes' trail).

8.98 | Morgan Rd (230 m 4 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign down the narrow track, keeping the gully to your right. The track then continues in a similar manner for another 250m, before crossing a side creek on a flat timber bridge. The track then continues gently uphill, becoming dirt as it starts to flatten out. This walk then comes to a signposted intersection of the 'Great North Walk' and the Stringybark Ridge management trail (signposted 'Cherrybrook Lakes' trail).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>km</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Up/Dwn</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start</td>
<td>Epping Station</td>
<td>-33.7725,151.0824 (GR Parramatta River, 224614)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>940 m 18 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>Int of Derby street service trail</td>
<td>-33.7646,151.0834 (GR Parramatta River, 225623)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.5 km 25 mins</td>
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<td>2.43</td>
<td>Int of Epping Trk and Malton Rd Trail</td>
<td>-33.7534,151.0865 (GR Parramatta River, 228635)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>190 m 3 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>Big Ducky Waterhole</td>
<td>-33.7539,151.0883 (GR Parramatta River, 229635)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>480 m 8 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>Whale Rock</td>
<td>-33.7522,151.0922 (GR Parramatta River, 233637)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>3.3 km 1 hr 3 mins</td>
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<td>3.69</td>
<td>Conscript Pass</td>
<td>-33.7378,151.0896 (GR Hornsby, 230653)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100 m 3 mins</td>
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<td>4.69</td>
<td>Int of the GNW and Lorna Pass tracks</td>
<td>-33.7382,151.0885 (GR Hornsby, 229652)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>580 m 14 mins</td>
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<td>7.07</td>
<td>Int of Handley and Ferguson Avenues</td>
<td>-33.7354,151.086 (GR Hornsby, 227655)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>810 m 14 mins</td>
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<td>7.88</td>
<td>Int of Railway Parade and Pennant Hills Road overpass steps</td>
<td>-33.7317,151.079 (GR Hornsby, 220659)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>110 m 2 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.99</td>
<td>Thornleigh Train Station</td>
<td>-33.7319,151.0781 (GR Hornsby, 220659)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>990 m 18 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.98</td>
<td>Morgan Rd</td>
<td>-33.7283,151.0711 (GR Hornsby, 213663)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>230 m 4 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.21</td>
<td>Int of Bike Trail and Morgan Rd tracks</td>
<td>-33.7281,151.0697 (GR Hornsby, 212663)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>140 m 2 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.35</td>
<td>Zig Zag Creek Bridge intersection</td>
<td>-33.727,151.0689 (GR Hornsby, 211664)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.4 km 25 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.78</td>
<td>Jungo campsite</td>
<td>-33.7195,151.0578 (GR Hornsby, 206673)</td>
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<td>100 m 2 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.88</td>
<td>Int of GNW and Stringybark Ridge trail</td>
<td>-33.7186,151.0576 (GR Hornsby, 206073)</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>1 km 27 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.93</td>
<td>Elouera Lookout</td>
<td>-33.7136,151.0637 (GR Hornsby, 206679)</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>2.8 km 1 hr 12 mins</td>
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<td>14.77</td>
<td>Int of the Great North Walk and the Blue Gum Walk (SW)</td>
<td>-33.6979,151.0795 (GR Hornsby, 220697)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>710 m 17 mins</td>
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<td>15.48</td>
<td>Clearing</td>
<td>-33.703,151.0794 (GR Hornsby, 220691)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>240 m 5 mins</td>
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</table>

**Summary navigation sheet for the Epping to Hornsby Station**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>km</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Up/Dwn</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.72</td>
<td>Ginger Meggs Park</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>580 m</td>
<td>From Ginger Meggs Park, this walk follows Valley Road (past Lochness Pl on the right), keeping the children's playground on the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-33.7024,151.0813 (GR Hornsby, 222692)</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>12 mins</td>
<td>Veer left: From Ginger Meggs Park, this walk follows Valley Road (past Lochness Pl on the right), keeping the children's playground on the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.29</td>
<td>Berowra Valley Bushland Park</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>540 m</td>
<td>From the lower side of 'Berowra Valley Bushland Park', this walk follows the 'Hornsby Station' sign across the park, then follows the GNW arrow up the stone steps, keeping the houses to your right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-33.7005,151.0868 (GR Hornsby, 227694)</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td>14 mins</td>
<td>Veer right: From the lower side of 'Berowra Valley Bushland Park', this walk follows the 'Hornsby Station' sign across the park, then follows the GNW arrow up the stone steps, keeping the houses to your right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.84</td>
<td>Int of Quarry Road and Great North Walk</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>720 m</td>
<td>From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road gently uphill away from the face of the 'Great North Walk' sign until just past a couple of house, this walk comes to an intersection with the gated '...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-33.7006,151.0917 (GR Hornsby, 231694)</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>14 mins</td>
<td>Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road gently uphill away from the face of the 'Great North Walk' sign until just past a couple of house, this walk comes to an intersection with the gated '...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>