

# Little Wobby to Rocky Ponds



8 hrs

Hard track

18.1 km Return

923m



This great walk starts from Brooklyn with a ferry trip to Little Wobby and explores some fantastic panoramic views of the Hawkesbury River and Tank Creek. The alternate route, for more experienced walkers, cuts a fair bit of walking and gets you to the views quicker. The views along the ridge are great and the Tumblecow2 flat rock makes a lovely rest spot. From here, much of the walk is through heath until arriving at the picturesque Rocky Ponds on Tanks Creek. There is a campsite for people wanting more time to explore before walking back.

0m

153m

Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre

## Permit Required

This walk passes over land owned by the Department of Sport and Recreation the 'Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre'. They are very welcoming of bushwalkers and have an easy system in place to get permission to walk on their land. The system is in place mostly to avoid impact on their camps. Just a quick phone call and they will email you a letter (which you carry) – worth the small amount of effort. Phone (02) 4349 0600 and ask for permission. [More info.](#)

## Little Wobby

Little Wobby is a boat-access only township on the eastern bank of the Hawkesbury River, opposite Brooklyn and Dangar Island. The houses stretch for 1.3km along the river and are backed by a long cliffline know as tumblecowII. South of the houses (and much of the point) is home to the Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. North of the headland is Brisbane Water National Park. Little Wobby has a public wharf and phone box, about 350m north of the southernmost house, and a Sport and Recreation Centre wharf about 80m south of this last house. The town was established during WW2 to support artillery batteries, to prevent the Japanese entering Broken Bay.

## Spring Beach

Spring Beach is a 60m wide, south-west facing, yellow sand beach on the Hawkesbury River. The sandy section is about 20m deep and extends another 30m across a grassy section into the steep gully (and small lagoon). There is a large yellow Telstra sign showing that a underwater cable crosses the Hawkesbury River. Behind the beach on the Pacific Trail (the main management trail), is a sandstone dam and an old pit toilet. The beach is a great spot to stop and rest, enjoying the water view into Porto Bay and Cowan Creek.

## Tessellated Pavement

Tessellated Pavement is a sandstone platform formation. Tessellated refers to 'having a checkered or mottled appearance' and in this case, the platform is made up of square and kidney patterns. The tessellations are created through a process of erosion (weathering) and do not extend far beneath the surface. This is an interesting spot to scratch your head and try to work out how these patterns form in several spots like this throughout the Hawkesbury sandstone region.

## 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 ([Brisbane Water 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:**91304N COWAN, 91301N BROKEN BAY

**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>	18.1 km Return
<b>Time</b>	8 hrs
<b>Quality of track</b>	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Minimal directional signs (4/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Forecast, unforecast storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)



### 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** You can get to Brooklyn Ferry Terminal (gps: -33.5465, 151.2272) by car or train. Car: There is free parking available.

This is a return, 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.tl/rpflw>

### 0 | Permit Required

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[More info.](#)

### 0 | Brooklyn Ferry Terminal

*(3.1 km 20 mins)* From the wharf near Hawkesbury River Station (Brooklyn), this walk takes a ferry ride. The ferry leaves Monday to Friday at 6:25am, 7:25am, 9:30am, 10:55am, 2pm, 3:15pm, 4:05pm, 4:45pm, 5:45pm, 6:45pm, 7:15pm. On weekends and public holidays, the ferry leaves at 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am, 1:15pm, 2:15pm, 3:15pm, 4:15pm and 6:15pm (and 7:10 DST) . The ferry costs about \$6 one-way and running times are affected by weather. Phone: 0448 101016 Please check their website as the timetable may change. Alternatively, you can catch a water taxi, which generally costs about \$100 per group of 4 and needs to be booked ahead. There are a few options - try Hawkesbury River Water Taxi on 0400 600 111 or Rick on 0448 101 010. [More info.](#)

### 3.08 | Little Wobby

Little Wobby is a boat-access only township on the eastern bank of the Hawkesbury River, opposite Brooklyn and Dangar Island. The houses stretch for 1.3km along the river and are backed by a long cliffline know as tumblecowII. South of the houses (and much of the point) is home to the Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. North of the headland is Brisbane Water National Park. Little Wobby has a public wharf and phone box, about 350m north of the southernmost house, and a Sport and Recreation Centre wharf about 80m south of this last house. The town was established during WW2 to support artillery batteries, to prevent the Japanese entering Broken Bay.

### 3.08 | Little Wobby Beach Wharf

*(400 m 9 mins)* Veer right: From the public wharf and phone box, this walk heads along the grassy edge (keeping the water to the right). The walk then heads up some stairs and under some houses and generally makes its way along the footpath. Once in front of the houses again, the grassy path heads along the edge of the water then passes a large clearing (under the power lines) to come to the Little Wobby Sport and Recreation Centre wharf.

### 3.48 | Little Wobby Sport and Rec Wharf

*(870 m 19 mins)* Continue straight: From the sport and rec wharf, this walk heads uphill along the management trail, past the boat ramp and brown 'Authorised Entry Only' sign (keeping the water on the right). After about

350m of climbing up the hill, the trail flattens as it comes to a large concrete 'Tee Low Tanks' water tank on Croppy Point. From the tank, the walk continues along the trail still heading uphill (but more gently), passing many great water views (on the right). As the trail approaches Spring Beach, it bends left fairly sharply. After passing an access track to the beach (on the right), the trail comes to an intersection on the left with a track heading steeply up the hill (to two obvious sandstone caves - this is the bottom of 'The Defile' Track).

### 4.35 | Spring Beach

Spring Beach is a 60m wide, south-west facing, yellow sand beach on the Hawkesbury River. The sandy section is about 20m deep and extends another 30m across a grassy section into the steep gully (and small lagoon). There is a large yellow Telstra sign showing that a underwater cable crosses the Hawkesbury River. Behind the beach on the Pacific Trail (the main management trail), is a sandstone dam and an old pit toilet. The beach is a great spot to stop and rest, enjoying the water view into Porto Bay and Cowan Creek.

### 4.35 | Alternate Route Int of Pacific Trail and Defile Tr

*(740 m 18 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads up the track (away from the beach) and through the two caves. On the other side of the caves, the faint track heads left up the side of the gully (keeping the gully on the right) and passes around the roots of a large fallen tree. About 80m past the fallen tree, the walk tends left up through the rocky gully (keeping the rock wall and overhang on the right). From here, the track winds up the ridge, tending right onto the main ridge, where the way becomes flatter. Near the top, the track passes some faint false tracks on the left to come to a clear three-way intersection (with the Midway Trail) in front of a large scribbly gum. Now Turn left to rejoin the main walk .

### 4.35 | Int of Pacific Trail and Defile Track

*(1.6 km 35 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the management trail away from the water, keeping the beach below on the right. As the trail bends right, it passes an interesting sandstone dam and, about 60m later, passes a smaller spring-fed dam. A short distance after the smaller dam, the trail comes to an intersection with a track (on the right) leading down to Spring Beach.

Continue straight: From the intersection, keeping the water views to the right, this walk heads gently up hill along the management trail, soon passing an old toilet. The trail winds along the hill for a while (passing an old trail on the left just after the white posts), soon coming to and passing a green concrete pumping station (Forty Year Spring). About 650m past the spring, the trail passes the signposted 'Rock Climbing' track and then comes to an intersection just above the signposted 'Juno Head Campsite'.

### 5.93 | Juno Head Intersection

*(270 m 7 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the power lines along the management trail (keeping the water views to the right). The trail rounds the side on the gully then, just before passing under the power lines, the trail comes to a signposted intersection with the 'Midway Trail'.

### 6.2 | Int of Midway and Pacific Trails

*(1.4 km 32 mins)* Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Midway Trail' and red post up the hill along the narrow track. The track soon climbs up through a rocky outcrop, leading to a clearing and campsite. From this clearing, the trail follows the red post up the hill for another 350m, coming to another clearing and campsite at the unsignposted intersection with the Magpie Trail.

Veer left: From the intersection and campsite, this walk follows the red and

yellow marker north-west along the track. The track follows the ridge top, with the occasional clearing giving great views of the Hawkesbury River on the left. The red and yellow markers lead through a cleft in the rocks then up through a small gully in a rocky outcrop, then the walk comes to a fairly large tessellated rock platform (surround by heath, this is also the intersection with the unsignposted, yellow marker, Horseshoe trail).

### 7.59 | Tessellated Pavement

Tessellated Pavement is a sandstone platform formation. Tessellated refers to 'having a checkered or mottled appearance' and in this case, the platform is made up of square and kidney patterns. The tessellations are created through a process of erosion (weathering) and do not extend far beneath the surface. This is an interesting spot to scratch your head and try to work out how these patterns form in several spots like this throughout the Hawkesbury sandstone region.

### 7.59 | Tessellated Pavement

*(450 m 10 mins)* Continue straight: From the tessellated rock platform, this walk follows the red painted marker north along the ridge (keeping the filtered water views to the left). The track follows a narrow rock platform for about 180m and then, just past the good views of the river, the walk steps off the rock and follows a rocky track. The track passes some rocky outcrops and more filtered views and, about 130m past the small rock wall (on the left), the track comes to a three way intersection with The Defile track on the left (and a large scribbly gum on the right).

### 8.04 | Int of Midway trail and The Defile

*(1.2 km 28 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the main track north, keeping the large squiggly gum behind and to the right. The track soon comes to another, more obvious three-way intersection.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk heads north, passing under the power lines and past the telegraph poles. The track heads through the scrub for a while before passing a few nice vantage points with great views over Brooklyn, then coming to a view with two TV antennas mounted on small masts. The track continues along the top of the ridge for another 350m, passing some more great views and coming to two more TV antennas on another rocky outcrop. About 70m past these antennas, the track comes to a large flat rock platform with two more TV antennas and great views over Brooklyn and the Hawkesbury River.

### 9.19 | Tumblecow 2 flat rock

The Tumblecow 2 flat rock is an informal, unnamed and unfenced lookout on the Highway Ridge track above Little Wobby. The rock provides great views across the Hawkesbury River over Brooklyn, Dangar Island and the Hawkesbury River Railway Bridges. There are two TV antennas on the north side of the rock platform (form the houses far below). The name Tumblecow 2 flat rock is derived from the name of the cliff line Tumblecow2, an informal name used by locals. The large clearing is a great spot to rest and enjoy the view.

### 9.19 | Tumblecow 2 flat rock

*(2.6 km 57 mins)* Continue straight: From Tumblecow 2 flat rock view, this walk follows the track north past the two TV antennas (keeping the water views to the left). The track heads into the bush and passes a few more great views over the Hawkesbury River and, about 800m after flat rock, the track leaves the Tumblecow2 cliff top to round Big Ben (a 185m hill). The track then winds through the bush for some time, passing a view to Patonga Creek (on the right) and climbing down some rocks and following the track until it opens up on a large rock platform. The track crosses the first creek (Tank Creek) to come to an intersection with a track on the right, at the top of the rock platform.

### 11.79 | Rocky Ponds

Rocky Ponds is a series of cascades, waterholes and falls at the lower end of Tank Creek, near the junction with Gordon Creek. Tank Creek flows over a wide, solid rock bed, the rock having a reddish colour. There are several small overhangs and ponds carved into the rock. This area is a fantastic spot to rest, cool down and enjoy the water and view. From the lower end of the creek, there are fantastic views over the Hawkesbury River.

### 11.79 | Optional sidetrip to Tank Creek Campsite

*(90 m 2 mins)* Veer right: From the Tank Creek crossing, this walk heads up the main creek (Tank Creek) for a few meters (keeping the creek on the right). The walk soon finds and follows the clear track through the heath, heading north. The track soon steps into a small gully, coming to a tree with exposed roots on the other side.

Continue straight: From the gully, this walk steps up, passing the tree with exposed roots. The track leads north through the scrub to an open clearing, then turns right to head another 30m to a larger clearing and campsite. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

### 11.79 | Tank Creek Campsite

Tank Creek Campsite is just north-east of the junction of Tank Creek and Gordon Gully. The fairly large camping area has no facilities, but there is an established fire circle and natural shade. There are a number of small, more secluded, camping areas radiating out from the main central area. Several tracks lead to the two nearby creeks (treat water before drinking). There is a fair bit of rubbish left behind from other campers, please carry your own out, plus a little extra.

### 11.79 | Tank Creek Crossing

*(220 m 4 mins)* Veer left: From the rock platform on Tank Creek (just upstream from the junction with Gordon Creek), this walk heads downstream across the rocks (keeping the main creek to the left). After crossing the smaller Gordon Creek, the walk leaves the rock and follows the dirt track downstream (keeping Tank Creek on the left). About 100m after Gordon Creek, there is a short track, on the left (which leads to Tanks Creek, with views down onto Jeannie's Pool). The walk continues along the main track, past a sandstone boulder (and ignoring a track on the left) then down some stone steps to come to the Jeannie's Pool intersection.

### 12.01 | Optional sidetrip to Jeannie's Pool

*(10 m )* Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk follows the track down towards the creek, keeping the rock wall to the left. The track leads down to Jeannie's Pool (left through the cave or straight to the bottom of the pool). At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer left.

### 12.01 | Jeannie's Pool

Jeannie's Pool is the centrepiece of a series of cascades and pools known as Rocky Ponds, at the lower end of Tank Creek. The pool is half-surrounded by a cliff, with the creek flowing over this cliff to fill the pool below. The northern side of the pool has an overhang nurturing a mossy environment. This is a nice and cool spot to rest and enjoy the creek.

### 12.01 | Rocky Ponds Pool intersection

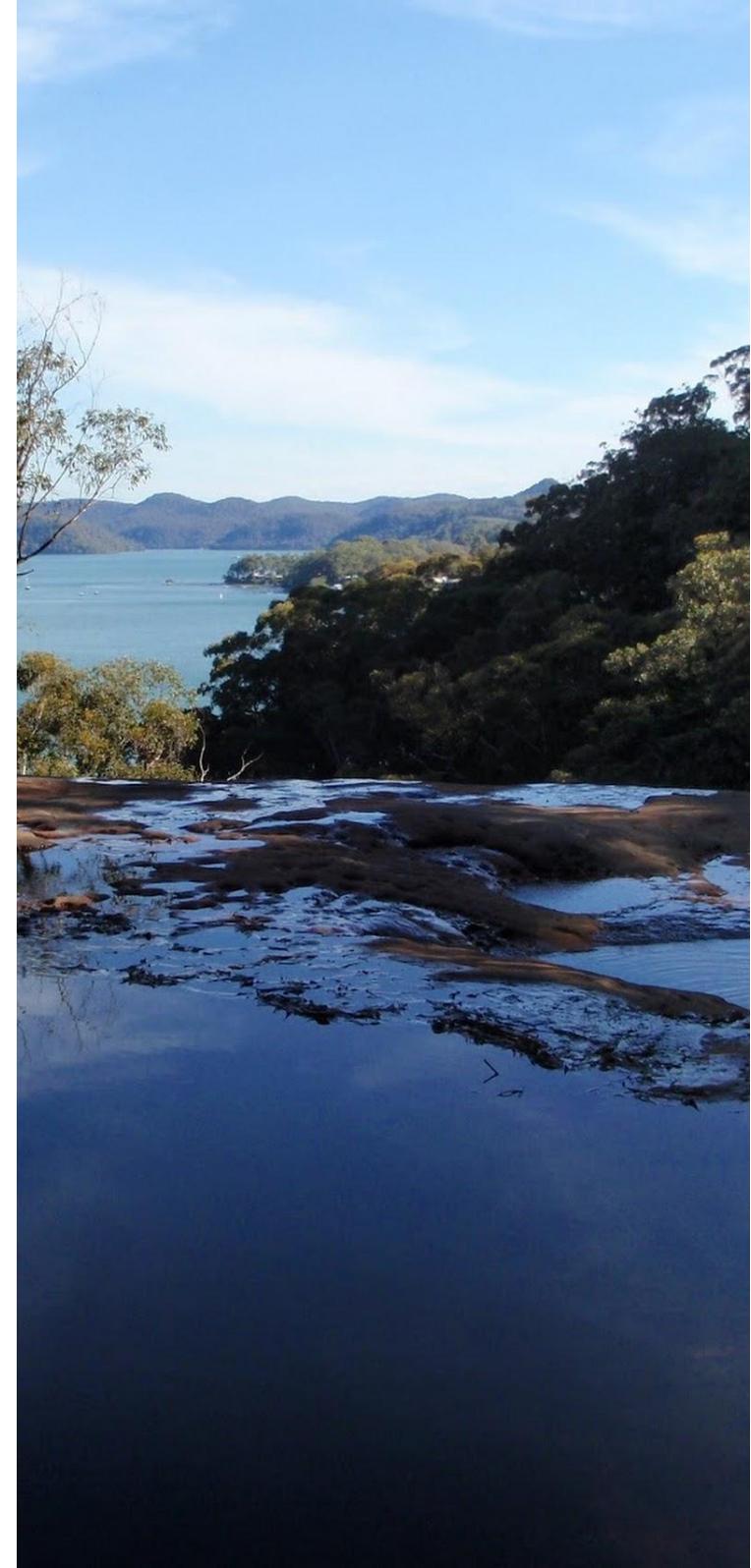
*(140 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads south-west, away from the main rock wall, and follows the track through the grass trees (keeping the valley to the left). The track passes another short track (on the left, leading to a rock pool) and a short distance later the track comes next to the creek edge and a large sandstone platform. This is the top of the last waterfall on Tank Creek, with great views up the Hawkesbury River (it is unfenced - care is needed).

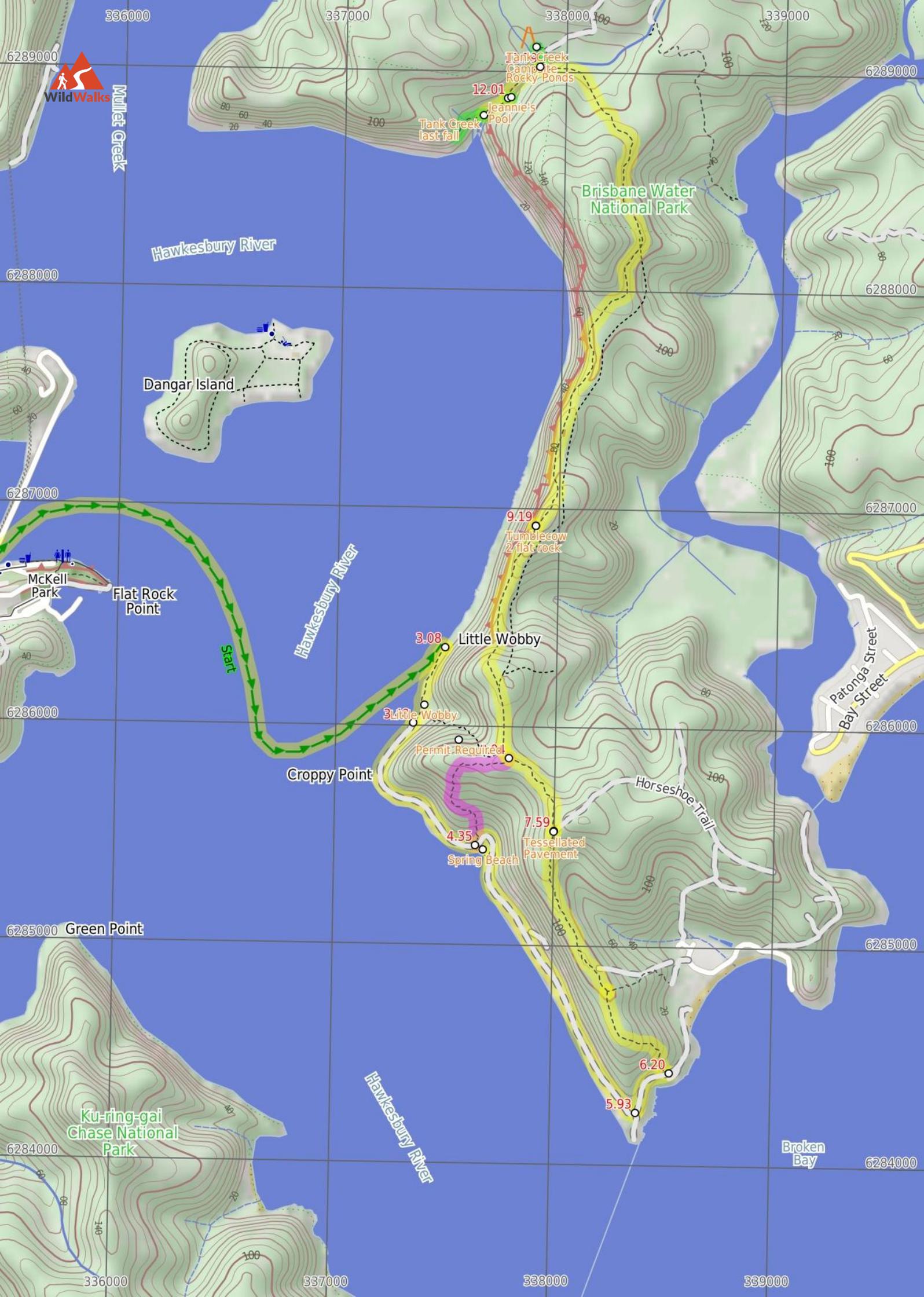
### 12.15 | Tank Creek last fall

Tank Creek's last fall is the last significant, unnamed waterfall on Tank Creek before the water flows into Tank Cove on the Hawkesbury River. This vantage point is at the top of the (unfenced) cliff, with a series of waterholes upstream. There are fantastic views up the Hawkesbury River, past Dangar Island into Porto Bay. The rock forms a wide smooth creek bed, making this a special place to stop and enjoy. There is a lovely series of cascades just upstream, known as Allison's cascade.

### 12.15 | Optional sidetrip to The Icicles

*(180 m 5 mins)* Veer right: From the rock platform, this walk re-joins the track to the west (keeping the view to the left). The walk follows this track just back from the cliff top (on the left) for about 100m before crossing an obvious gully. On the other side of the gully, the walk soon comes to a large rocky outcrop (on the right), and the track continues down the rocks a short way to come to a shallow but tall overhang. This rocky outcrop is known as 'The Icicles'. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.





## Summary navigation sheet for the Little Wobby to Rocky Ponds



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Brooklyn Ferry Terminal -33.5465,151.2272 (GR Cowan, 354867)	8 -4	3.1 km 20 mins	From the wharf near Hawkesbury River Station (Brooklyn), this walk takes a ferry ride.
3.08	Little Wobby Beach Wharf -33.5501,151.2495 (GR Cowan, 375864)	20 -22	400 m 9 mins	Veer right: From the public wharf and phone box, this walk heads along the grassy edge (keeping the water to the right).
3.48	Little Wobby Sport and Rec Wharf -33.5532,151.248 (GR Cowan, 374860)	43 -38	870 m 19 mins	Continue straight: From the sport and rec wharf, this walk heads uphill along the management trail, past the boat ramp and brown 'Authorised Entry Only' sign (keeping the water on the right).
4.35	Int of Pacific Trail and Defile Track -33.5582,151.251 (GR Broken Bay, 376855)	131 -6	740 m 18 mins	Alternate Route Int of Pacific Trail and Defile Track. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads up the track (away from the beach) and through the two caves.
4.35	Int of Pacific Trail and Defile Track -33.5582,151.251 (GR Broken Bay, 376855)	76 -62	1.6 km 35 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the management trail away from the water, keeping the beach below on the right.
5.93	Juno Head Intersection -33.5693,151.2588 (GR Broken Bay, 384842)	17 -20	270 m 7 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the power lines along the management trail (keeping the water views to the right).
6.20	Int of Midway and Pacific Trails -33.5676,151.2605 (GR Broken Bay, 385844)	144 -12	1.4 km 32 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Midway Trail' and red post up the hill along the narrow track.
7.59	Tessellated Pavement -33.5576,151.2549 (GR Broken Bay, 380855)	13 -33	450 m 10 mins	Continue straight: From the tessellated rock platform, this walk follows the red painted marker north along the ridge (keeping the filtered water views to the left).
8.04	Int of Midway trail and The Defile -33.5546,151.2527 (GR Broken Bay, 378859)	64 -78	1.2 km 28 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the main track north, keeping the large squiggly gum behind and to the right.
9.19	Tumblecow 2 flat rock -33.545,151.254 (GR Broken Bay, 379869)	99 -154	2.6 km 57 mins	Continue straight: From Tumblecow 2 flat rock view, this walk follows the track north past the two TV antennas (keeping the water views to the left).
11.79	Tank Creek Crossing -33.5261,151.2542 (GR Broken Bay, 379890)	8 0	90 m 2 mins	Optional sidetrip to Tank Creek Campsite. Veer right: From the Tank Creek crossing, this walk heads up the main creek (Tank Creek) for a few meters (keeping the creek on the right).
11.79	Tank Creek Crossing -33.5261,151.2542 (GR Broken Bay, 379890)	1 -12	220 m 4 mins	Veer left: From the rock platform on Tank Creek (just upstream from the junction with Gordon Creek), this walk heads downstream across the rocks (keeping the main creek to the left).
12.01	Jeannie's Pool intersection -33.5274,151.2526 (GR Broken Bay, 377889)	0 0	10 m	Optional sidetrip to Jeannie's Pool. Turn sharp left: From the intersection, this walk follows the track down towards the creek, keeping the rock wall to the left.
12.01	Rocky Ponds Pool intersection -33.5274,151.2526 (GR Broken Bay, 377889)	0 -15	140 m 3 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads south-west, away from the main rock wall, and follows the track through the grass trees (keeping the valley to the left).
12.15	Tank Creek last fall -33.5281,151.2514 (GR Broken Bay, 376888)	20 -14	180 m 5 mins	Optional sidetrip to The Icicles. Veer right: From the rock platform, this walk re-joins the track to the west (keeping the view to the left).