Mooney Mooney Creek
Trackhead to Somersby

6 hrs
16.1 km One way
Hard track
680m

This enjoyable walk starts from where the old Pacific Hwy where you walk along dirt roads and trails for while alongside the wide Mooney Mooney Creek, and under the huge F3 Mooney Mooney bridge. The wide track continues upstream, passing a few campsites before crossing the wide creek at a pleasant large rock platform. Not too long after crossing the creek you will pass the lower Mooney Mooney Dam where the old trail leads you uphill past another campsite, a quarry to the Somersby Reservoir. The track then leads past some rural properties and across the delightful Robinson Creek among the Gymea Lilies before finishing with a section of road walking to the Somersby Store.
The Sydney-Hawkesbury stretch of the Pacific Highway was built in the 1920s, replacing a route that had existed since the 1830s. The original Peats Ferry Road was cut by a settler named George Peat, making a track to his property on the banks of the Hawkesbury River. This road became the 'Old Pacific Highway' upon the opening of the F3, or Sydney-Newcastle Freeway, in the 1980s. This bridge is the smaller of two crossing Mooney Mooney Creek - the other, Mooney Mooney Bridge, is part of the F3 freeway and is the highest road bridge in Australia.

Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (south)

This is clearing is beside the wide Mooney Mooney Creek and provides a large flat area to pitch a few tents. There are some high tension power lines nearby and you can hear the hum of the F3 from here, so it is not the most remote campsite. There are no facilities or water (the creek is salty). All that said it is still a pleasant spot beside the wide creek to rest for a while or for the night.

Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (north)

This signposted campsite is sits among the tall eucalypt and bracken fern forest beside the Mooney Mooney Creek. This is a very pleasant flat clearing to spend a night, there is a small metal fireplace hotplate and room for a small number of tents. There is No drinking water or other facilities at this campsite (Mooney Mooney Creek is salty at this point, treatable water may be found about 2km north).

Lower Mooney Dam

Lower Mooney Dam is located on the Mooney Mooney Creek, about 21 km upstream from the Hawkesbury River. In March 1938 the Gosford Mayor turned the tap to add the water from this dam into the small town water supply of the time. It is a concrete arch dam, with a capacity of 1,000 megalitres, and was superseded by the more than 4 times larger 'Upper Mooney Dam' in 1982. There is a set of timber steps and a faint track that leads down to the waters edge on the uphill side of the dam wall, the dam wall is fenced and is clearly out of bounds. A sign reminds visitors that swimming is not allowed.

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 Hunter 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: 91313S GUNDERMAN, 91312S GOSFORD, 91312N WYONG
1:100 000 Map Series: 9131 GOSFORD

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
16.1 km One way

Time
6 hrs

Quality of track
Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)

Signs
Directional signs along the way (3/6)

Experience Required
Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)

Weather
Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)

Infrastructure
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 hazas and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted here 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!

Getting there: You can get to Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead (gps: 33.438, 151.2519) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available. Bus: A bus service runs along Wisemans Ferry Rd passing Somersby store. The service runs between Gosford and Spencer only a few times a day. Please check timetable for more info or Phone Busway on (02) 4368 2277. The bus only picks passengers up from Somersby to head to Gosford on the morning runs. Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Somersby Store (gps: -33.3581, 151.2903). 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.tl/mmctts

0 | Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead
(320 m 7 mins)
From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign along the narrowing gravel verge, keeping the Old Pacific Hwy just to your right. After about 200m, this walk comes to then cross the concrete road bridge over Mooney Mooney Creek, enjoying the view of the water below. Once on the other side, this walk heads past a detailed 'Risk Warning' sign suggesting you be sensible as you cross the bridge (hope it is not too late) to then come to an intersection with Karool Rd just on the other side of the highway (on your right).

0.32 | Old Pacific Highway Mooney Mooney Creek Bridge
The Sydney-Hawkesbury stretch of the Pacific Highway was built in the 1920s, running through the existing Peats Ferry Road. The original Peats Ferry Road was cut by a settler named George Peat, making a track to his property on the banks of the Hawkesbury River. This road became the 'Old Pacific Highway' upon the opening of the F3, or Sydney-Newcastle Freeway, in the 1980s. This bridge is the smaller of two crossing Mooney Mooney Creek - the other, Mooney Mooney Bridge, is part of the F3 freeway and is the highest road bridge in Australia.

0.32 | Int of Karool Rd and Old Pacific Highway
(1.2 km 20 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the gravel 'Karool Road' gently downhill, keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your right. This road leads past a few homes for about 600m to then pass a notable houseboat house. About 250m past this house, this walk comes to a Y-intersection, marked with a 'The Great North Walk' sign, just before the tall concrete Mooney Mooney Bridge. Veer left: From the Y intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign along the upper dirt road to pass under the Mooney Mooney (F3 freeway) bridge. About 250m after passing under the tall bridge, this walk leads up to a large turning area just before the locked gate, marked with a 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign.

1.5 | National Park Gate
(600 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the end of the dirt road (that branches of Karool Rd, just north of the Mooney Mooney Bridge), this walk heads uphill along the trail and around the locked gate next to the timber 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign. The trail leads uphill for about 200m to where the trail bends left to pass over the crest of the hill (passing a faint track on your left). Here the trail leads down the other side, still keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your right for another 400m to come to an intersection marked with a GNW arrow post, beside a large grassy clearing and campsite (on your right).

2.1 | Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (south)
This is clearly beside the wide Mooney Mooney Creek and provides a large flat area to pitch a few tents. There are some high tension power lines nearby and you can hear the hum of the F3 from here, so it is not the most remote campsite. There are no facilities or water (the creek is salty). All that said it is still a pleasant spot beside the wide creek to rest for a while or for the night.

2.1 | Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (south)
(1.3 km 24 mins) Veer right: From the intersection just above the campsite, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down along the track, keeping the clearing and campsite to the right. The track soon leads over a small flat timber bridge and then continues along the narrow embankment of Mooney Mooney Creek, enjoying the occasional glimpse of water (on your right). After about 150m this walk comes to then cross a small rocky tidal creek. The track then continues through the tall forest beside Mooney Mooney Creek for about 600m, passing a couple of she-oak stands before the track then bends left and comes to an indistinct intersection beside a timber and metal footbridge. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk cross the timber and metal footbridge over a tidal, unnamed creek to then turn right and follow the track which then bends left. Keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to the right, this track passes a small cliff then follows the mostly flat track through the tall forest for about 170m to come to a large clearing with tall blue gums and a metal fireplace (on your left), signposted as a 'Camping area'.

3.42 | Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (north)
This signposted campsite sits among the eucalypt and bracken fern forest beside the Mooney Mooney Creek. This is a very pleasant flat clearing to spend a night, there is a small metal fireplace hotplate and room for a small tent. No drinking water or other facilities at this campsite (Mooney Mooney Creek is salty at this point, treatable water may be found about 2km north). This campsite is situated beside a large clearing with tall blue gums and a metal fireplace (on your left), signposted as a 'Camping area'.

3.42 | Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (north)
(2.1 km 44 mins) Continue straight: From the campsite, this walk follows the clear, wide and mostly flat track leading up. After about 1km this walk passes a small creek (on your right). The track then continues alongside a small creek to then cross over a small stream before coming to then cross a small creek (on your right). The track then continues up along a small ridge, keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your right. The track then continues along the narrow rock platform and creek, then follows the track fairly steeply uphill for about 200m. At the top of this climb, the track slowly undulates alongside Mooney Mooney Creek for about 700m before coming to a larger clearing on the right. Here, this walk veers right to continue uphill along the farm trail through the rock cutting. About 150m later this walk comes to a small parking area beside 'Somersby Gardens'. Please respectful all guests privacy. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then turn right.

5.49 | Mooney Mooney Creek crossing
(1.2 km 28 mins) Continue straight: From the bank of Mooney Mooney Creek, this walk crosses the wide rock platform and creek to find the track again on the other side. This creek may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain. Here the walk turns left and follows the rocky track that leads gently up alongside the creek through the pleasant forest. After a little over 1km, the walk comes into view of the tailwater of the dam and then past a fenced cutting (on your right), the site of an old pump house. About 60m past this fenced area, the walk leads uphill along the now widening track to find the edge of the fenced lower Mooney Mooney Dam wall.

6.71 | Lower Mooney Dam
Lower Mooney Dam is located on the Mooney Mooney Creek, about 21 km upstream from the Hawkesbury River. In March 1938 the Gosford Mayor turned the tap to add the water from this dam into the small town water supply supplying the town with the now completed arch dam, with a capacity of 1,000 megalitres, and was superseded by the more than 4 times larger 'Upper Mooney Dam' in 1982. There is a set of timber steps and a faint track that leads down to the waters edge on the uphill side of the dam wall, the dam wall is fenced and is clearly out of bounds. A sign reminds visitors that swimming is not allowed.

6.71 | Lower Mooney Dam
(1.7 km 40 mins) Continue straight: From the lower Mooney Dam, this walk follows the narrow, old track, kept mostly flat for about 50m to pass kiosks on your right. After about 180m, this walk comes to a faint intersection marked with a 'Mooney Creek' sign pointing back downhill.

8.37 | Int of the dam trail and the old Somersby Falls tr
(180 m 4 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Reserve Road' sign uphill along the old trail, initially keeping the valley to your left. After about 180m, this walk comes to a faint intersection marked with a 'The Great North Walk' sign.

8.55 | Optional sidetrip to Somersby Gardens
(660 m 15 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the faint track that leads behind the 'The Great North Walk' sign. This walk follows the narrow, old track, kept mostly flat for about 50m to pass kiosks on your right. After about 180m, this walk comes to a faint intersection marked with a 'The Great North Walk' sign.

8.55 | Optional sidetrip to Somersby Gardens
(Somersby Gardens is set on a 50 acre property and is home to a luxurious fully self contained 3 bedroom apartment. The gardens are very well maintained and often used for wedding and other special events. As the accommodation has its own private access to the main spine of the Great North Walk it makes an idea place for bushwalkers to stay the night. The accommodation has all you need plus more; full kitchen, Air conditioning, TV, bathrooms, swimming pool and lovely sitting area. Mid weeks prices are from $215 per bedroom per night. Ask about meal packs and lighten your load even further. Bookings must be made in advance, please respect the privacy of guests. More info.)

8.55 | Int GNW and Somersby Gardens private track
(350 m 9 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the ‘The Great North Walk’ sign downhill along the track for about 50m, to cross a small pleasant gully with an ephemerical creek. After this, the track starts to wind moderately steeply uphill then, soon after flattening out, it comes to a signposted ‘Camping Area’ with a metal fireplace.

**8.9 | Quarry Camping Area**

This is a small signposted campsite set among heath, grass tress, scribbly gums and another eucalypts. The clearing is flat and sandy and provides room to set up a few tents with and a small metal fireplace with hotplate. There is no water or other facilities here.

**8.9 | Quarry Camping Area**

(1.1 km 20 mins) Continue straight: From in front of the ‘camping area’, this walk heads gently uphill along the sandy track, initially keeping the camping area to your right. After about 220m of walking through this scrubbly gum forest and passing a small informal campsite on the way, this walk comes to the quarry boundary fence and turns left. Following the fence for about 70m, the track leads to a section of wooden boardwalk with a view (right) over parts of the quarry. The walk continues along the fence for just over 250m, crossing a small flat timber bridge to come into an intersection with a dirt road (just past the locked gate).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows GNW arrow marker gently downhill along the dirt road. This walk follows the road for about 400m to come to a large clearing with two large water reservoirs tanks. This walk continues past the two reservoirs (and past the treatment plant building, on your left) to come to a ‘The Great North Walk’ sign just in front of a small brick building.

**10.01 | Somersby Reservoir**

(1.2 km 25 mins) Continue straight: From the brick building, this walk follows the ‘The Great North Walk’ sign gently downhill along the gravel trail (away from the water tanks) for a few metres before turning right onto a track, following a GNW arrow post. This track leads through the banksia and she-oak forest for just over 100m to pass a ‘The Great North Walk’ sign and then cross Reservoir Rd. On the other side of the road, this track continues gently downhill through the she-oak (Casuarina glauca) forest for about 150m before crossing a metal footbridge. On the other side of the bridge, this walk turns left and follows the track as it winds down through the heathy bushland alive with wildflowers in spring, for about 400m and crosses a small ephemeral creek. The track then leads under a set of high tension power lines and then bends right and leads gently up for about 200m, coming to an intersection with a power line management trail.

Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail uphill, keeping the power lines just to your right. After about 40m, this walk follows the GNW arrow post left (ignoring the ‘Private Property’ trail ahead) as the track winds gently uphill for about 250m before veering left, ignoring another ‘Private Property’ track (on your right). The mostly flat track now leads down along the hillside for about 100m before passing down another set of power lines and heading right, steeply up the short rocky hill. At the top of this hill, the track leads to the end of a trail, but immediately veers right to follow a trail along a fence for about 60m before rejoining the same power line management trail.

**11.21 | South end of Robinson Crk Track**

(2.2 km 48 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the wide management trail, following the power lines for about 100m before veering left to follow another GNW arrow post along a narrow track. The track leads into the bush among gymea lilies (Doryanthes excelsa) and eucalypts for almost 300m, crossing a couple of short flat timber bridges to then head along a few sections of timber board walk through a weedy section of bush. The track then continues gently downhill for another 150m to cross over a trail. Following the GNW arrow post, this track now begins to lead more steeply down for about 250m, passing through another large grove of gymea lilies, a small cave (on your left). The walk continues down the timber then stone steps to head into the dense moist forest and across a flat timber bridge, coming into view of the creek. Here the walk bends right and leads beside the creek for a short time before bending left, following the GNW arrow post across the creek flowing over the mossy rock bed. Just downstream is a small pool and cascade. Here the walk starts to climb the other side of the valley, soon crossing a small flat timber bridge.

The track then winds steeply out of the ferny and densely forested valley, up a series of timber and stone steps for about 130m where another GNW arrow post marks the end of this section of steep climbing. This track now leads gently up among some tall eucalypts and past a large grove of gymea lily for about 230m to come to a T-intersection with a wide management trail.

**13.4 | End of Robinson Road**

(2.7 km 50 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the gravel Robinson Rd for about 300m, then continue straight ahead along the sealed Silvester Rd. This walk heads along the sealed road for another 500m to pass an intersection with ‘Anembo Rd’, then continues along Silvester Rd. Over the next 1km or so, the walk travels through the rural properties, passing some distant views of the peaks in Brisbane Water NP (to your right), before turning left onto Wisemans Ferry Rd at the T-intersection. From this intersection, the walk leads up along the narrow grassy verge beside the road for about 500m before heading over a short section of gravel roadwalk. A short distance later, this walk crosses a green timber footbridge and comes to an intersection at the end of the dirt Robinson Road.

**16.14 | Somersby Store**

Somersby Store offers a good place to have lunch or pick up the basic food supplies. The store serves hot food including burgers, chips, pies etc and cold drinks. Opening hours are 6am - 6pm Monday to Friday and 6.30am to 4pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays). There is a pay fridge and a bus stop however services are limited to two buses a day. Contact details are (02) 4372 1269, at 841 Wisemans Ferry Rd, Somersby South, NSW 2250. The store owners are happy for you to phone ahead. If you are a large group you can order ahead to save the stress. I always encourage people to use local stores like this on track, but since it is a small store it is worth phoning ahead to see what they have what you want in stock.
## Summary navigation sheet for the Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead to Somersby

<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>Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead -33.438,151.2519 (GR Gosford, 375988)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>320 m</td>
<td>From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign along the narrowing gravel verge, keeping the Old Pacific Hwy just to your right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>Int of Karool Rd and Old Pacific Highway -33.4392,151.2488 (GR Gunderman, 372987)</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>7 mins</td>
<td>Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the gravel 'Karool Road' gently downhill, keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>National Park Gate -33.4299,151.254 (GR Gosford, 377997)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.2 km</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the end of the dirt road (that branches of Karool Rd, just north of the Mooney Mooney Bridge), this walk heads uphill along the trail and around the locked gate next to the timber 'Brisbane W...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (south) -33.4284,151.2499 (GR Gunderman, 373998)</td>
<td>-28</td>
<td>1.3 km</td>
<td>Veer right: From the intersection just above the campsite, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down along the track, keeping the clearing and campsite to the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>Mooney Mooney Creek Campsite (north) -33.419,151.2452 (GR Gunderman, 368009)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>2.1 km</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the campsite, this walk follows the clear track north, keeping the wide Mooney Mooney Creek to your right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>Mooney Mooney Creek crossing -33.4042,151.2422 (GR Gunderman, 365025)</td>
<td>-72</td>
<td>1.2 km</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the bank of Mooney Mooney Creek, this walk crosses the wide rock platform and creek to find the track again on the other side.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.71</td>
<td>Lower Mooney Mooney Dam -33.3949,151.2426 (GR Gunderman, 366036)</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>1.7 km</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the lower Mooney Mooney Dam, this walk heads uphill along the old trail, initially keeping the water on your left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.37</td>
<td>Int of the dam trail and the old Somersby Falls track -33.3936,151.2558 (GR Gosford, 378037)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>180 m</td>
<td>Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Reserve Road' sign uphill along the old trail, initially keeping the valley to your left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.55</td>
<td>Great North walk sign -33.3926,151.2574 (GR Gosford, 379038)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>660 m</td>
<td>Optional sidetrip to Somersby Gardens. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the faint track that leads behind the 'The Great North Walk' sign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.55</td>
<td>Int GNW and Somersby Gardens private track -33.3926,151.2574 (GR Gosford, 379038)</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
<td>Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign downhill along the track for about 50m, to crosses a small pleasant gully with an ephemeral creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.90</td>
<td>Quarry Camping Area -33.3903,151.2582 (GR Gosford, 380041)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>350 m</td>
<td>Continue straight: From in front of the 'camping area', this walk heads gently uphill along the sandy track, initially keeping the camping area to your right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.01</td>
<td>Somersby Reservoir -33.3824,151.2613 (GR Gosford, 383050)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1.1 km</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the brick building, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign gently downhill along the gravel trail (away from the water tanks) for a few metres before turning right onto a track, fo...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.21</td>
<td>South end of Robinson Crk Track -33.3758,151.2666 (GR Gosford, 388057)</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2.2 km</td>
<td>Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the wide management trail, following the power lines for about 100m before veering left to follow another GNW arrow post along a n...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.40</td>
<td>End of Robinson Road -33.3624,151.2702 (GR Wyong, 391072)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>2.7 km</td>
<td>Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the gravel Robinson Rd for about 300m to then continue straight ahead along the sealed Silvester Rd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>