

## Watagan Headquarters to Heaton Lookout



4 hrs

Hard track

8.1 km One way

▲ 571m

4

This scenic walk includes dramatic lookouts and time spent in moist cool forest. The walk initially travels on dirt road past Hunter and MacLean's Lookout, before descending into the Wallis Creek catchment. Here the walk traverses underneath many cliffs before crossing Wallis Creek and arriving at Heaton Lookout. A recommended walk with car access either end.

463m

292m

Heaton State Forest

### 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's 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 Forestry H.Q. campsite (gps: -32.9756, 151.4117). Car: There is free parking available. Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Int of GNW track and Heaton Lookout (gps: -32.9837, 151.4548). 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/whthl>

### 0 | Watagan Headquarters

Watagan Headquarters campsite (aka Forestry HQ) is located in the Heaton State Forest, beside Bakers Rd, near Heaton Rd. This campsite has wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a garbage bin. The large, flat, cleared area allows plenty of room to pitch a tent. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so there is no longer water available.

### 0 | Forestry H.Q. campsite

*(1.6 km 27 mins)* From the intersection (Forestry H.Q. campsite), this walk follows Bakers Road gently downhill, while keeping the GNW arrow marker on your right and the large 'Great North Walk' sign on your left. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 900m until coming to a three-way intersection with Rocky Creek Road (on the right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road north and gently uphill, while keeping Rocky Creek Road (no signpost) on your right. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 400m until coming to a three-way intersection with Glen Road (on the right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road gently uphill, while keeping Glen Road on your right. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 250m until coming to Hunter Lookout picnic area (on the left).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads off the road and up the hill following the Hunter Lookout picnic area sign, past the wooden gate and the public toilet, to the picnic area area and the lookout.

### 1.62 | Hunter Lookout

Hunter Lookout can be found on Bakers Road, along the Great North Walk. This fenced lookout has everything you will need snack-stop, including toilets, picnic tables, chairs and wood-fired barbecues. This lookout has fantastic views over much of the Hunter region. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so water is no longer available at Hunter Lookout.

### 1.62 | Hunter Lookout picnic area

*(670 m 15 mins)* Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk heads north, past the metal gate to the intersection of Bakers Road.

Veer left: From the Hunter Lookout picnic area (on Bakers Road), this walk follows Bakers Road north and gently downhill, while keeping Hunter Lookout on your left. The walk continues for about 400m until coming to a Y-intersection (Bakers Road loop).

Veer right: From the intersection (Bakers Road loop), this walk follows the Bakers Road loop gently downhill, while keeping the gently uphill Bakers Road loop on your left. The walk continues through forest for about 210m

until coming to a three-way intersection with a wide track and 'The Great North Walk/Maclean Lookout' sign on the right.

### 2.29 | Optional sidetrip to Maclean Lookout

*(100 m 2 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road gently uphill, while keeping the GNW arrow marker and views on your right. The walk continues for about 80m until coming to McLeans Lookout (on the right). At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

### 2.29 | McLeans Lookout

McLeans Lookout offers magnificent views of the valleys in Heaton State Forest. Located on Bakers Road, this fenced lookout also has picnic facilities including tables with seats and open grassy areas.

### 2.29 | Int of GNW track & Bakers Road

*(570 m 15 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the 'Heaton Lookout' sign on your right. The walk continues (becoming moderately steep downhill) for about 280m until coming to a three-way intersection with a track on the left.

Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track moderately steeply downhill, while keeping the GNW arrow marker on your left. The walk continues (descending moderately steeply into and out of a gully) for about 150m, until coming to a three-way intersection, Glen Road.

### 2.85 | Int of GNW track & Glen Road

*(860 m 25 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill, while keeping the 'Glenn Rd' sign on your right. The walk continues through forest for about 120m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a track and GNW arrow marker (on the left).

Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker moderately steeply down along the track. The walk continues for about 100m, to find a forested mossy creek where the track bend right and continues close to the creek for about 70m to then bend left and crossing the creek. The walk now follows the track undulating gently for about 280m before finding a large rock overhang. The walk then continues moderately steeply uphill for about 200m until coming to a T-intersection with a wide trail and GNW arrow marker.

### 3.71 | Int of GNW track & a wide track

*(770 m 24 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Watagan Forest Road' sign uphill along the trail for about 200m to a three-way intersection, with another 'Watagan Forest Road' sign (on your left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide track gently downhill, while keeping the 'Macleans Lookout 2km' sign on your right. The walk continues for about 140m to a three-way intersection, with Fosters Road on your right and 'Fosters Road' sign on your left.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down along the wide old trail, passing the 'Fosters Road' sign on your left. The walk continues for about 100m, where the wide track then leads moderately steeply downhill for about 150m more. The walk then crosses a gully and heads up over another rise for about 70m to where the track narrows then bends left at a GNW arrow post. About 180m past the post, the walk crosses a gully then heads up the other side, past a termite mound to an unfenced cliff with distance valley views. Here the track bends right and leads up a short distance to a dirt road. The walk turns left and follows the road down for just a few metres to the 'Hammonds Road' sign, where the 'MacLean Lookout' arrow points back along the road.

### 4.48 | Int of GNW track and Hammonds Road

*(1.4 km 44 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows

the 'Heaton Lookout' sign downhill along the road a few metres, then veers left to follow the GNW arrow down the old trail. The walk leads fairly steeply down for about 180m then passes around a timber barrier. Here the track narrows and continues more steeply downhill through forest for about 250m to a gully and creek crossing (with many fallen dead trees).

Continue straight: This walk crosses the creek and follows the track, while keeping the valley on your left. The walk follows the track steeply up for a short distance, then follows along the base of a cliff for about 120m to pass through a long sandstone cave. The rocky track leads steeply down through the dense rainforest for 700m, following a series of GNW arrow posts to the bottom of the gully beside Wallis Creek.

### 5.93 | Int of GNW track and Wallis Creek

*(1 km 30 mins)* Continue straight: From here, the walk crosses Wallis Creek, and follows the GNW arrows south gently uphill along the track. The walk continues (crossing over a tree trunk with carved steps) and after about 500m, comes to a creek and a tree trunk with a directional arrow carving. Then the walk follows the track for about 130m (crossing the creek a number of times) to find the track leaving the creek. The track is followed moderately steeply uphill through forest for about 400m, until coming to a level four-way intersection with a 'Barniers Road/Mt Faulk Road' sign on your right.

### 6.95 | Int of GNW track and Barniers Road

*(1.2 km 29 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow east, directly away from the face of the 'Barniers Road' sign. The walk continues along the old trail for about 450m to find an intersection with a track (on the right). Here the walk turns right, following the 'The Great North Walk' sign moderately steeply down the narrow track for about 220m and then crosses a creek. The walk continues moderately steeply uphill around another gully and after about 500m, comes to a T-intersection with Heaton trail and Heaton Lookout directly ahead.

### 8.14 | Heaton Lookout

Heaton Lookout is one of the larger lookouts located on Heaton Road. This fenced lookout faces south-east. There are wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a pit toilet. Heaton Lookout is a great place to stop for a snack, and the amazing view feels like a bonus. This lookout was named after Richard Heaton, a timber cutter who came to Australia as a convict. There is a water tank here, due to vandalism in the area this is not a reliable water source.